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# YEMEN TIMES

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## Yemeni hospitals wait to receive patients from Gaza

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Jan. 11 — While hospitals in Sana'a are on stand-by to receive wounded Palestinians from Gaza, Egypt has refused to allow Yemeni airplanes in charge of transporting the wounded to Yemen to land at Al-Arish airport in Egypt.  
Speaking to the Yemen Times, Dr. Faisal Al-Quhali, Director of the Minister of Health's Office, said that concerned bodies in the Yemeni government are exerting efforts to convince the Egyptian government to allow them to move the wounded to Yemen as soon as possible as the humanitarian situation in Gaza is seriously deteriorating as a consequence of

the ongoing Israeli aggression on its inhabitants.  
Egypt has also refused to allow the much-needed medical aid sent from Yemen to enter the devastated Gaza Strip, according to Al-Quhali.  
A meeting chaired by Ministry of Public Health and Population was held last week to discuss preparations to carry out the directives of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to receive 500 wounded Palestinians in Yemen.  
Al-Quhali and Ali Sariah, who is in charge of receiving the Palestinians patients, said that the ministry had directed public hospitals to receive the patients according to their capacity.  
They said that the directives stated that the Sana'a General Military, Al-

Thawra, Al-Jamhori Hospitals would receive 100 patients each whereas the Police Hospital would receive only 50. Al-Sabeen Obstetric and Gynecologic Hospital was directed to receive 35 and the Al-Kuwait Teaching Hospital 30. In the event that public hospitals cannot admit all the patients, 25 to 50 Palestinian patients will be transferred to private hospitals.  
The Azaal Private Hospital announced its readiness to receive 50 Palestinians wounded during the aggression "as a human and professional duty".  
The Sana'a General Military Hospital has completed all preparations to receive over 400 Palestinians wounded in Gaza. Ali Mohammed

Naji, director of the hospital, told the Yemen Times that doctors from different specializations are now ready to treat the Palestinian patients at any time.  
"In addition to the Palestinians, the hospital is ready to receive Yemeni military officials and citizens without any difficulties," said Naji. "The new wing of the hospital contains hundreds of beds and has been equipped with modern equipment."  
A government source has already stated to media outlets that "Yemen will send airplanes to move the wounded through Jordanian airports if Egypt refuses to allow them land in Al-Arish or Cairo."  
The source appealed to all the Arab

governments to take the same initiative and receive the Palestinian patients to treat them in their hospitals in order to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people and collaborate with them as they are subjected to a barbaric aggression by the Israel.  
On the level of public advocacy to

the Palestinian people, parties, syndicates and human rights organizations continue their activities nationwide to protest against the Israeli aggression on Gaza and support the Palestinian resistance that struggles to repel the Israeli forces and protect the Palestinian people.

## A call to establish a third political congregation

By: Aqeel Al-Halali  
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Jan. 11 — Well-known Yemeni journalist Nabil Al-Soufi has called for the establishment of a new political congregation as an alternative to the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), currently the two most prominent political currents in Yemen.  
Al-Soufi, who was the media leader of the Islah party, a major member of the JMP, and also head of the Yemeni Media Group, said that Yemen needs "a more comprehensive political address that focuses on more than just central initiatives." He pointed out that this approach should differ ideologically from the current address in the country. "The new discourse should include the ideological and social roots of both the ruling and opposition parties," he said.  
The new political congregation will defend the demands of the new generation which "the generation controlling



A new strong political party would mean Yemenis have an alternative choice when deciding to whom their votes go during elections.

government decisions and the opposition do not understand," stated Al-Soufi.  
He said that he discussed the idea of establishing this congregation with a limited group of activists including members of the media, politicians, and economists. He called for discussing this political project more widely so that it can run for the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for next April. He said that "the congregation will participate in the elections in preparation for attaining a Yemeni political block to work for the issues of the country, either through the parliament or by forming a new party." The new congregation will work through different means and with strong participation from women and other minorities.  
Al-Soufi's call aroused controversy, particularly through the reactions sent to his web site. Some people supported his idea and considered it an agent for change, especially since it addresses educated people and aims to enhance the role of women. However, others viewed that the new project aims to

"cover the corruption of the current Yemeni regime." They pointed out that they expect that the congregation, if established, may be chaired by Ahmed Ali Abdullah, the president's son.  
Al-Soufi confirmed in a statement to the Yemen Times that his call aims to "accomplish a civil alliance based on citizenship" to work according to its special agenda.  
Observers considered that timing of this call, just four months before holding elections, aims to undermine the stand of the JMP which decided to boycott coming elections while simultaneously aiming to enhance the role of the

ruling party.  
"Why not say that we will enhance the role of the opposition parties if we agree with them?" wondered Al-Soufi in response to the observers. He considered that political work in Yemen "needs more knowledge instead of focusing on preoccupation with others."  
Regarding whether this new congregation will contest the ruling GPC or the opposition, particularly the Islah and Socialist parties, Al-Soufi said, "We believe that the three parties work in the same way and their ideas are similar to each other. Some of this country's issues and needs are not paid any attention to by either party."  
"When we analyze the political speeches of the political parties, we find that the disagreement is not objective. All of them have the same attitude toward women, development, dialogue, and openness. We only aim to serve the country, and nothing is impossible," he pointed out.  
He said that he hopes to be supported from internal and external bodies "as supporting democracy in this country." He confirmed that after the project is discussed, particularly with "public opinion as a first partner," organized meetings will be held.  
Al-Soufi is a member of the non-governmental committee that follows up the accomplishment of the president's electoral program. He has strong relationships with some leaders of the ruling GPC as well as with some foreign embassies in Yemen.

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## Security measures tightened around embassies

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, Jan. 11 – The Ministry of Interior has imposed stricter security measures around some embassies in case demonstrations held in solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza turn violent.

Streets leading to the embassies of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have been closed, causing heavy traffic in the streets of Hadda and Al-Sabaeen.

An Egyptian national has reported being verbally assaulted by Yemenis condemning his government's stance towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Security also closed Jamal Abdul-Nasser Street where the Egyptian Embassy is located.

These measures follow the demonstrators failed attempt to reach the Egyptian Embassy in protest against the Egyptian government's attitude towards the ongoing Israeli massacre committed by Israel against the people of Gaza.

The Ministry of Interior said that the reason behind intensifying security on these embassies is "ordinary precautionary security measures".

The US Embassy has also tightened security measures around its building. A source close to the embassy said that such measures are normal and result in fear of being attacked by angry demonstrators because of its support to Israel.

The embassy raised the color alert to orange, said the source. He further said that the embassy employees are prohibited from having their mobile phones with them while they are at work.

These measures come after demonstrators broke into the Egyptian consulate in Aden, where they tore down the Egyptian flag and raised the Palestinian one. A number of analysts and observers say that the Arab rulers' attitudes towards the Israeli massacre of Palestinians are negative. They do not reflect the opinion of their people nor do they respond to their demands regarding the Palestinian issue. Taking such security measures also reflect the fear of governments from angry demonstrations. Responding to mosque preachers' calls during last Friday's sermons, hun-



Unusual security measures surround the Egyptian embassy in Sana'a which is located on Jamal Abdulnasser street, a popular market area.

reds of thousands of people filled the streets of Al-Sabaeen and Al-Tahrir in the capital as well as in other governorates in protest of the ongoing Israeli bombing of innocent Palestinians and the passive stand of almost all Arab leaders.

Most mosque preachers also praised attitudes and efforts of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. They also strongly criticized weak attitudes and responses of Arab leaders towards the ongoing Israeli massacres committed in Gaza.

In the Al-Tahrir demonstration, organized by the Popular Society for Supporting Palestine and the Joint Meeting Parties, Sheikh Abdul-Majeed Al-Zindani renewed his call to Arab governments to open training camps for volunteers to defend Palestine.

Sheikh Abdul-Majeed Al-Zindani, who called for continuous moral and financial support via popular activities, demanded Arabs to bring cooperators with the "Zionist enemy" to justice. He also called for freezing relations with countries supporting the Zionist entity.

In the Al-Sabaeen demonstration, organized by General People's Congress, Sheikh Hassan Al-Sheikh, deputy minister of endowment and religious affairs read the demonstration

communiqué.

The communiqué demanded the United Nations and all the international organizations to take courageous resolutions to stop the war against Palestinian people. It also called for the withdrawal of the Israeli army from Gaza and the opening of all border crossings.

The communiqué renewed the GPC's call to the international community to assume its responsibility and demanded international law be respected to bring a halt to the Zionist enemy.

In Aden, security forces deterred thousands of demonstrators who marched in the consulate's area in Khour Maktar after the Friday prayer. The demonstrators protested against Israeli brutal killing of the Gazan people.

The demonstrators demanded Arab leaders to open the doors of Jihad to them, urged Arab leaders to follow the example of Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez by severing relations with Israel and expelling Israeli ambassadors from their countries.

The Ministry of Interior's reported earlier this month that the Yemeni security apparatuses put in place a plan to secure foreign embassies and corporations. It said the plan includes tightening security measures around the embassies and residences of foreigners as well as hotels that host foreigners.

## Life Makers launch project to alleviate poverty and empower youth

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Jan 11 — One hundred poor families will benefit from the first stage of the Insaan [human] project launched yesterday by the International Life Makers Union in Yemen. The families will receive a grant of around USD 2000, to help them start a small business and generate income for the family.

In return, the families promise to continue the education of their children, or to enroll those who had dropped out or were not registered in the first place. Youth from the Yemeni Life Makers Foundation will help the families with their business and ensure the education of the children.

"The project is three-fold: to improve the economic conditions of poor families, to boost enrolment in schools especially for girls, and to build youth's capacity and give them a purpose in life," said Nabil Al-Sa'adi, director of the Life Makers Union.

The Insaan project was first implemented in Egypt and Sudan, and after Yemen the project will be launched in Algeria and Jordan. Life Makers in these five countries aim to provide help to 7,000 families by the end of year 2009.

The difference between this project and previous ones created by the Life Makers Foundation and championed by renowned scholar Amr Khaled - currently in Yemen for the project's launch- is that this is a development-oriented project as opposed to mere charity.

Five "life maker" volunteers will first provide the feasibility study of a family's business idea and ensure continuous follow-up with the families once the business is set up to ensure its sustainability and successful running for one year. The volunteers will gain experience in managing small-scale businesses, as well as being productive members of the community.

According to Amr Khaled, the main aspect of this project is to enable youth



Amr Khaled in Yemen launching 'Insaan' [human] 'every human deserves to live' project to alleviate poverty, improve education and empower youth.

to be creative and productive. Before starting the follow-up with the families, the volunteers will receive training on project management and small business skills such as in planning, accountancy, monitoring and evaluation. Then for each family, five young boys and girls will apply the skills they learnt in the training throughout one year as they follow the business creation with the poor families.

"Not only will the youth benefit professionally, and gain satisfaction from being able to help others, good deeds will also be written up for them and they will be rewarded in heaven for the noble work they do in God's name," he said. Funding for the first 100 families has come from the Awn Foundation and the ambition is to start income-generating projects for 1,500 families by the end of this year.

The Ministries of Education, Social Affairs and Youth and Sports as well as members of the private sector such as the Hail Saeed Group have lent their support to the project. Many private and public companies sponsored the launch of this initiative and promised to help with the fundraising for the

remaining poor families.

"I believe that if Arab youth are empowered and given the opportunity, they can drag the Arab nations out of the misery we are in," said Khaled.

He narrated an example of the family of Um Mahmoud, who is one of the 200 families benefiting from the Insaan project in Egypt so far. Um Mahmoud expressed her delight at the project and explained that, for the first time in her life, she was able to give money to the poor instead of always being on the receiving side. Her children are back in school and two of the life makers in Egypt monitor their studies regularly.

Dr. Abdussalam Al-Jawfi, Minister of Education, expressed his hopes for what he called a progressive development project combining all of economics, education and youth empowerment.

Khaled called on all Arabs and Muslims to make a difference by becoming a part of the project. He also called on people to send messages and emails through the internet to the world and let them know about Gaza and inform the world about the atrocities happening there.

## Water experts improve evaluation and monitoring techniques

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Jan 10 - Technicians and administrators working in the water sector recently devised new programs for monitoring water projects. These programs are oriented around the impact of projects rather than the achievement of objectives.

A 'Performance Indicator Information System' was developed on both local and national levels in order to improve continuity of monitoring. Data from monitoring is gathered in a common information bank concerning all the agencies working in the water sector in Yemen so that information can easily be shared. These are just some of the new programs to be used to develop the water sector further.

Other new programs include using a logic frame matrix when planning projects. New types of indicators and efficiency measurements for the organizational units and governing body of the water establishment have also been implemented.

This change came as a result of an intensive five-day training course for twenty five water engineers and administrators from government water establishments around the country. The training, which was carried out last month by the GTZ and Inwent, aimed at motivating the participants to change their approach to water projects, especially concerning the evaluation of such projects.

The participants called for the creation of an information system for monitoring and evaluation so that they can more easily implement the knowledge gained during the training.

One of the participants, engineer and General Manager of Hajja Water Local Corporation Mohamed Al-Duais, said that the participants need this kind of training to help them restructure their



Engineers at a water network expansion project site.

approach to water projects. This is especially true considering that water is one of the most critical resources in Yemen.

"Moving from mere financial auditing of the projects to impacting evaluations is a huge benefit of the training," stated Al-Duais. "We will be able to use this feedback in order to enhance performance in all water sector activities. Also, the use of standard terminology and measurements will be of critical assistance for us when evaluating water projects."

According to World Bank reports, Yemen's water problem is reaching a critical point given that water resources are distributed unevenly and that 90 percent of the population has less than 90 cubic meters of water annually for domestic use. This statistic is 10 percent below the worldwide norm. Reports estimate that only 44 percent of the population has access to main water supplies, and only 12 percent have access to safe sanitation.

In general, all surface water resources - 60 percent of Yemen's renewable

water resources - are already being exploited beyond the level of renewal. This very rapid development has brought major problems along with it. Groundwater is being mined at such a rate that parts of the rural economy could dry up. Areas under greatest pressure are the central highlands, the western escarpment, and coastal plains.

Although Yemen has many authorities specialized in dealing with water issues, such as the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and the National Water Resource Authority (Nwra), these authorities face many difficulties in activating rules and policies. Such authorities have lacked the technical means, legal instruments, and political will to regulate the sinking of wells and groundwater extraction.

The above training helped officials in the sector come to terms with their tasks and enabled them to perform better. This is according to the participants themselves who expressed their interest in more future training and capacity building of the sort.

## Physicians suspend their strike

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, Jan 11 —The Yemeni Physicians and Pharmacists Syndicate has urged its members to suspend their strike after learning of the arrest of the brother and cousin of the man who stabbed Dr. Al-Qadasi late last December.

After a partial strike for three days, doctors had been on full strike since Tuesday in Sana'a private and public hospitals in protest at the attack on Dr. Derhem Al-Qadasi last month. The physicians held a sit-in in front of prime minister's office on Tuesday to condemn the incident and demand the perpetrators be brought to justice.

Dr. Al-Qadasi, specialist in anaesthesia and intensive care in the Science and Technology University private hospital, is unconscious in intensive care after he was stabbed by an armed group who stormed the hospital at the end of December.

Although many doctors were on strike, some of them still couldn't ignore patients' pains. During the strike, they provided patients with urgent and serious treatment.

"Such incidents are harmful to the future of medical practice in Yemen, especially in the private sector," said Dr. Yahya Al-Thawr, manager of Modern German Hospital and head of the committee of doctors campaigning for Al-Qadasi's attackers to be brought to justice.

"This also has negative effects on patients themselves, because it makes doctors worry about their lives and avoid medical cases that they think may create problems for themselves and for the hospital they work for," he added.

Al-Thawr believes that Yemeni officials and media have created a lack of trust in national doctors and national hospitals.

"Most officials travel abroad Yemen for treatment of simple illnesses. When covering medical malpractices, the media generalizes and even doesn't differentiate between kinds of malprac-



Doctors operating on Dr. Derhem Al-Qadasi on Dec. 24 after he was stabbed by relatives of a deceased patient. Al-Qadasi was announced as clinically dead and may not survive the attack.

tices," he said.

"We have to restore confidence in Yemeni medical staff and healthcare institutions. Officials can set a good example by trusting and going to the hospitals inside their county then the public will follow," Al-Thawr added.

"In the Quran, 'killing a person unjustly is the same as killing all humanity, and saving a person is the same as saving all humanity'. The attackers must be brought to justice because we need to feel secure to give the best for patients," said Dr. Huda Hawash, a gynecologist and obstetrician in Sana'a.

"Physicians don't harm their patients to whom they give treatment," said Dr. Abdulrab Al-Mashriqi from Dar Al-Rahamah private hospital. "If these people didn't receive punishment for what they committed, it would be a habit to attack doctors everywhere"

The doctor's follow-up committee has received response from officials like the prime minister, the minister of health, and the interior minister who have given orders to security to find the rest of attackers, according to Dr. Redha Al-Aghbari, its information officer.

"We call the president Ali Abdullah Saleh to order the authorities to work seriously and bring the attacker to justice," she said.

"It is against Islam to stab a doctor in this monstrous manner. If a patient dies, that's his destiny. When there is suspicion of malpractice, there are other means of dialogue," Yahya Sabtan, hospital companion for a patient at the Yemen German Hospital, said.

"We have noticed an increase in aggressive treatment by patients' companions against doctors and medical staff since the beginning of the Al-Qadasi case," said Dr. Mohammed Al-Surmi, Chairman of Yemeni Doctors Syndicate for Sana'a.

"Last week a doctor at Al-Thawrah Public Hospital was subjected to insults from a patient's relative. The security arrested him but he was released after a while," he said.

The Yemeni Physicians and Pharmacists Syndicate has declared the 24 Jan. as the deadline for security authorities to arrest Al-Qadasi's main attacker, otherwise they will revert to a full strike all over the country and including private clinics.



In Brief

**HODEIDAH**

**Free eye camp to be launch in Hodeidah**

Hodeidah province will launch on 27th of January 37 free eye camp of Charity World Sight Foundation organized by Noon Dubai Project.

In a statement to Saba, regional director of World Sight Foundation Ibrahim Tahsein said that the camp will start its activities in Salakhan hospital and will continue until 11 February to do more than one thousand surgical operations.

More than 22 specialist doctors from Pakistan, Sudan and Saudi Arabia will be participating in the camp.

He praised efforts of local authority to the success of the camp activities which is the first of its kind in Yemen, pointing out the organization of camp comes within the framework of medical charity campaign to combat blindness.

**ADEN**

**Workshop on safety, health methods to be held in Aden**

A 5-day workshop on preparing the method of specialization diploma program in health and safety started on Saturday in Aden province.

The workshop, organized by Dr. Ameen Nashir's High Institute for Health Sciences in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), is participated by 13 cadres of teaching staff in the institute and consultants in field of health and safety.

During the workshop, the participants will deal with job description philosophy, and educational goals of methods as well as reviewing and revising the ratified courses in fields of occupational diseases, edification, information, first aids in industry, analytical statistics and health searching method.

They also dealt with the occupational health services, fire, explosions, disasters management, occupational safety epidemics and its risks, job ethics and time distributing schedule.

**YCA inaugurates 2009 training program in Aden**

The Training Institute of Yemeni Coastguard Authority (YCA) inaugurated on Saturday in Aden the training program for 2009.

The program includes holding three qualitative courses for 110 of YCA's officers and individuals in fields of ports security and maritime navigation for 9 months in addition to a two-month English

language course.

The institute's Director Captain Faisal al-Haj told Saba that the courses aim to promote the YCA members' competences and capabilities in fields of technical sciences to enable them carrying out their everyday tasks for serving the country.

**901 tons of leather, soap exported via Aden seaport**

About 901 tons of leather and soap exported on Saturday via Aden seaport to a number of countries.

According to sources at the port, soap shipment of 880 tons has exported to Ethiopia, while the leather shipment 21 tons have exported to Djibouti.

From the other hand, Aden port received 115 goods containers for local consumption.

**YR 15 bln to prepare Aden hospitals for Gulf 20th**

The budget allocated for making Aden governorates' hospitals ready for Gulf Football Cup 20th is estimated to be YR 15 billion, official in the Ministry of Public Health and Population said Friday.

Regional Director of the National Program for medicine supply in Aden affiliated to the Health Ministry Ali al-

Marfadi made clear that the amount appropriate for preparing the emergency departments and enhancing the health services in Aden hospitals.

He cited that the committee formed for Gulf Cup 20th health sector has conducted a study on the needs of the health sector in the governorate, adding that a new hospital would be established near the football stadium.

The ministry, to update the governorate's health sector, will carry out a training program for emergency cases and provide 50 ambulances in addition to prepare 10 health portable centers, al-Marfadi said.

**SNA A Training course for youth houses' directors starts in Sana'a**

The first training course for Youth Houses' Directors in the governorates in administration field started on Saturday in the Olympic Center in Sana'a and will last for ten days.

The course, which is organized by the Public Administration of Camps and Boy Scouts and Girl Guides in the Ministry of Youth and Sports in cooperation with the French embassy in Sana'a and attended by 27 participants of youth houses' officials in the gover-

norates, aims to develop the participants' skills in administration, leadership, making decision and evaluating performance as well as introducing them to some necessary accounting bases in this field. The General Director of Camps for Boy Scouts and Girls Guides Khaled al-Akwa told Saba that the program, in which experts from the Youth Leadership Development Foundation will lecture, includes two parts; theoretical part and practical applications in strategic planning, goals pinpointing, and organizing principals, reporting, and organizing frameworks.

**Traffic accidents claim 47 lives in week**

About 47 people from different age groups were killed due to traffic accidents last week throughout the country. A report of the Traffic General Administration showed that About 260 traffic accidents took place last week.

The accident also injured 341 persons, 184 of which are seriously injured.

According to the reports the traffic accidents included crashes, overturning accidents causing losses of over YR 46.5 million.

The main reasons behind the acci-

dents were drivers' negligence, excessive speed and car technical faults.

**52 Somali refugees arrive in Yemen**

Some 52 Somalis refugees including 26 women arrived on Friday to Dhabab district of Taiz governorate, according to the Media Center of Interior Ministry.

The security authorities in the district gathered the refugees and handed over them over to the key refugees' camp in Kharaz district of Lahj governorate.

Meanwhile, the authorities arrested 17 Ethiopians illegal migrants in the Dhabab district.

**Police chase two suspects in bombing oil pipeline**

The interior ministry published names of two suspects in charge of bombing oil pipeline in Khawlan district of Sana'a governorate, the media center of interior ministry reported on Friday.

The minister sent names of the two suspects to all security bodies across the country to arrest them. Recently the pipeline was damaged due to bombing attack which resulted in stopping works in the pipeline for two days.

Their News

**Arab Journalism Awards invites submissions in 12 categories**

The General Secretariat of the Arab Journalism Awards announced it is accepting entries in 12 categories for the eighth edition of the annual event.

The deadline for submission to the Awards has been set to 15 January, 2009.

The region's most coveted recognition for journalistic excellence will give away cash prizes totaling Dhs863,000 (\$235,000) for best works in politics, business, investigative journalism, IT, columnist, culture, sports, environment, photo-journalism, caricature, interview and children's journalism.

Maryam Bin Fahad, Executive Director, Arab Journalism Awards, said the recognition aims to acknowledge journalists who take the responsibility of portraying an accurate image of the Arab world in the region and beyond.

She added through the past seven editions, the Arab Journalism Awards have consistently endeavoured to contribute to the progress of journalism in the Arab world, while motivating media persons in the region to excel by honouring the most outstanding achievers among them.

The 8th Arab Journalism Awards will be held on 15 April, 2009 as a fitting finale to the two day annual Arab Media Forum that serves as a key platform for constructive dialogue among Arab and international media experts.

In 2007, the Awards attracted 2,609 participations from 18 Arab countries. Egypt proved to be the most prolific participant, followed by the UAE and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

**Samir Kassir Award for Freedom of the press**

The contest is open to all print journalists (daily, weekly, monthly and online press), regardless of age, who are citizens of the following countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Applicants must submit an opinion article or an investigative article related to the Rule of Law or human rights (good governance, fight against corruption, freedom of expression, etc.), published in the media of one of the countries listed above or one of the European Union member states.

Candidates can only apply for one category and on an individual basis (jointly-produced work will not be accepted). The submitted articles should not exceed 25,000 signs and must have been published between 15 March 2008 and 15 March 2009.

The winner of each of the two categories will be awarded 12 500 euros.

The European Commission may reproduce and publish the prize-winning article in its own publications (which are non-commercial) and in promotional material relating to the Samir Kassir Award for Freedom of the press.

The jury members, members of the European Commission and members of MEDIAN are excluded from the contest.

**AMDEC North Meeting 2009**

AMDEC-North (African and Middle

East Development Council's) Meeting 2009 will take place in Aleppo-Syria on March 5-8 2009. AMDEC holds a yearly Meeting for the AMDEC NORTH national JCI organizations in one of the member countries. The AMDEC Meeting spans 3 days where-by JCI professional trainings are offered and workshops are conducted to tackle the challenges facing the region.

The AMDEC purpose is to co-ordinate the activities of its members to reach JCI purposes and to promote the specific interests of the area for the benefit of its members.

The members of AMDEC-North are: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, UAE, Morocco and Tunisia.

AMDEC objectives are to coordinate the activities of these countries to achieve specific targets (growth and development) while exchanging information, skills and experience between them. Participants are young entrepreneurs and business owners or senior executives between the ages of 18 and 40. The trainers are renowned consultants in the fields of training and coaching

Contact: AMDEC-North 2009 Conference. Aleppo, Syria Ms. Hana Hallaj, Director. Mobile: +963-933-359433.

**Youth producing change Call for youth media submissions on human rights**

The Human Rights Watch International Film Festival in partnership with Adobe Youth Voices seeks youth-produced media works on human rights

issues\* for its second annual YOUTH PRODUCING CHANGE program to screen in our New York, London, Boston and San Francisco film festivals in 2009-10. YOUTH PRODUCING CHANGE provides a platform for youth to share their perspectives with audiences worldwide. We want media works on human rights issues created by youth ages 19 and younger!!! \*Deadline for submissions: EXTENDED TO JANUARY 16, 2009

To submit projects, all you have to do is email the following information to lead@hrw.org:

- Director (or production group/com-

munity organization) name

- Names and ages of all filmmakers at the time of production
- Film Title
- Film synopsis (a paragraph summary describing the subject matter of the film).
- Filmmaker bio (or a brief description of the producing organization).
- Genre: Tell us if the film is a documentary, PSA, animation, experimental film, fiction or narrative.
- Country where the film was produced
- Year of production
- Film's running time

- Complete contact information for the person(s) who is (are) submitting, and is (are) ultimately responsible for the film (name, website, email address, mailing address and phone number).

After reviewing submitted info, we will contact you for screener(s). Additionally, please read through our submission guidelines for detailed information on how we review submissions and make selections: <http://www.hrwgraphics.com/filmfestival/download/CallForSubmissions2008.pdf> (5 page PDF guideline/ submission instructions)

**Invitation for Bids**

**Tender Advertisement no. ( 2 ) 2009 for 1st Time (One Envelope System - Technical + Financial)**

The **Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation — Port of Aden** here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender no. (2) for supplying **One No. Twin Screw Fast Pilot boat for Port of Aden** which will be financed from: **Government sources.**

Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to [Tender committee Secretary] to receive Bidding Documents for an amount **150 USD** non-refundable. Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at **Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation — Port of Aden- Tawahi**  
Tel : 00 967 02 200168  
Fax: 00 967 02 201541  
YGAPCplanning@y.net.ye

- 3- Valid Insurance Certificate. (Insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefits from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen)
- 4- Valid registration and classification certificate. (In the event of an award of contract if the successful firm is not already registered it will be required to evidence registration with the concerned Entity in Yemen as a requirement for contract effectiveness.)

The deadline for selling BDs will be on **18th February 2009**

A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2, 3 and 4 from its country of registration as appropriate. The Dead line for submission and bids opening will be ( Sunday ) at **[11:00 Am] on 22 February 2009**. Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened. Bid Opening will take place at [the Office Chairman Executive — Headquarters] and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives. Potential bidders may inspect BDs before purchasing during working hours for a period **27 days** starting from advertisement.

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the **Chairman of the Board Executive Charirman**. The following documents must be contained in the bid:

- 1- A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (**60,000 USD for one pilot boat**) (Sixty Thousand American Dollars.) Bank guarantee has to be valid for not less than **150 days** from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable cheque.
- 2- Valid tax certificate (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT

**Position Opening: EL Program Assistant**

The EL Assistant supports AMIDEAST's Sanaa's English Language Program.

- Duties include, but are not limited to, the following:
- ▶ Handling client relations and conducting registrations;
  - ▶ Follow daily duties as assigned by supervisor in support of the EL program; and
  - ▶ Maintain and track EL resources, including books, supplies, and equipment.

- Application Requirements:**
- ▶ Bachelor's degree in any field of study;
  - ▶ Strong Arabic and English skills (over 550 on ITP TOEFL);
  - ▶ Proficiency with Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office applications;
  - ▶ Strong written and oral communications and customer service skills;
  - ▶ Ability to work a split shift (8 AM–12 PM and 4 PM–8 PM); and
  - ▶ Interested in gaining new skills in a professional environment.

- To apply, submit the following documents by January 23, 2009:**
- ✓ Resume;
  - ✓ Letter of interest and capability;
  - ✓ ITP or iBT TOEFL scores (no more than two years' old);
  - ✓ Two written references; and
  - ✓ Copy of diplomas and transcripts.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted to participate in an interview.



AMIDEAST Sanaa, Off Algiers Street, Box 15508; Telephone: (01) 400-279/80/81; and E-mail: [sanaa@amideast.org](mailto:sanaa@amideast.org).

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## Zaidi Scholar Al-Mahatwari to Yemen Times:

# “We must enlighten the nation and strengthen our unity.”

As Israeli attacks continue in Gaza, killing almost 900 people and wounding over 3,000 in what the International Committee of the Red Cross has described as a “full-blown” humanitarian crisis, preachers in the Arab world react to this ongoing offensive in many ways. Dr. Al-Mortada Bin Zaid Al-Mahatwari, founder and chairman of the Badr Centre for Islamic Studies, professor of law at Sana'a University and the preacher of the Badr Mosque, speaks to Ola Al-Shami of the Yemen Times on the recent assault on the Gaza Strip.

### What are your roles as preachers with regard to this situation?

We have to urge the public to respond actively in facing this tyrannical attack. Strictly speaking, the most dangerous issues we are facing are the calls for separation and division between the Sunni and Shiite parties. Anyone who propagates this, especially during this critical time, is – in my opinion – an agent for Israel. There is no way to negotiate with Israel as they massacre the men, women and children of Gaza.

By deviating Arab attention from the crimes in Palestine, the agents of America and Israel play their game dividing us and spread propaganda in the name of Islam. They now blame the people of Gaza for the crimes committed against them. May Allah save Islam from those rumors. Our role is to enlighten the nation and strengthen our unity so that Israel's lies cannot divide the Muslims.

### What is the public supposed to do?

They should take to the streets in organized strikes, and they should be careful of Israel's propaganda and rumors and strongly oppose them. Also, they should urge their rulers to oppose the crimes committed in Gaza. It is

because of the public's carelessness that Arab rulers make no effort. Israel wouldn't dare to perpetuate its crimes if it faced strong and united opposition from the Arab rulers.

### What – in your opinion – is the best thing to be done during this crucial period?

Right now Arabs must believe that fighting is the best way to defend freedom and humanity. If we can't, we must support our brothers financially, with weapons, protests and with prayer. The media plays a vital role in spreading our protest and objections to what is happening in Palestine.

### These protests are severely curtailed in some Arab countries. Why?

Although, we should insist on raising our voice, these strikes should also be logical. That is don't break the cars or attack the buildings to show your anger. It's the wrong way to express your anger.

### Islamic resistance movement Hamas is categorized by many governments as a terrorist organization. Do you agree?

Israeli agents want to enjoy their



Dr. Al-Mortada Bin Zaid Al-Mahatwari

vacations on the beaches of Tel Aviv and Hamas and Hezbollah are an annoyance in this matter. In this context, they are terrorists because they scare these agents and they scare Israel. Moreover, these confronting attacks make America angry, and if America is angry it is a big problem for most of its agents. To seek the truth, can a person who fights the

occupation who took his land and made him homeless accused as a terrorist? On the contrary, this person should be honored for his natural reaction. It's illogical to call the movement that resists occupation and fights for freedom a terrorist one.

### Can Arab-Israeli negotiations play an active role in this issue?

No. These negotiations are like child's play. They have been negotiating since the first Israeli attack on Palestine with no outcomes. What have the negotiation achieved? There has been no progress since the beginning.

□The situation in Gaza makes the heart bleed and is an embarrassment to Arabs and Muslims. It makes us feel the loss of our humanity and compassion because we are not doing much to support our brothers and sisters in Gaza. □

### You called for people to support the people of Gaza and collect donations for them. To what extent were the people responsive?

It was amazing, even children chose to give what was on their pocket to support their brothers in Gaza. We will try to hand over this money or this support to honest people to deliver it to our brothers and families in Gaza.

### What is the relationship between the party struggles in Arab countries and the recent situation in Gaza in your opinion?

Activating quarrels and conflicts among

Muslims in the Arab world is an Israeli project since historical times. We must therefore be careful, and we should not stimulate any struggles at this critical time. This is the time to be united to fight those who kill our children and women.

### To whom would you address a final word?

I demand that Israeli agents in Arab countries be aware of that the Arab nation will be united again and sooner or later Arab civilization will come back. Also, I pray against those who sow the seeds of conflict among the Arabs.

Dr. Al-Mortada Bin Zaid Al-Mahatwari is a renowned Yemeni reformist of the Zaydi sect. From a family of religious and language scholars, Al-Mahatwari studied jurisprudence and Arabic in Sana'a. He later received a masters and a Ph.D. degree with distinction from Cairo University. For his Ph.D., he conducted research on the subject of slander and defamation in Islam.

Al-Mahatwari's opinions and calls for reform are regarded by many as unorthodox and quite controversial, bringing upon him the wrath of both the establishment and other rival Islamic groups.

After founding Al-Badr Center, he opened its doors to all students who wish to study and reside in it. He aspires to establish an institution capable of creating great scholars and interpreters of Islamic Sharia, who are able to move on with the times and not overlook the rapid scientific and social developments in our society and the world at large.

Al-Badr Center, established in 1988, includes a computer center, a library, a small farm and a mosque with a capacity of 15,000 people. The center also has a special interest in women's issues. It is funded by Al-Mahatwari and other philanthropists and Al-Mahatwari insists that the center does not receive any assistance from any foreign sources.

Al-Badr center adheres to the Zaydi sect yet teaches the Sharia interpretations of Imam Al-Shafi'i more than those of Imam Zayd, the founder of the Shiite Zaydi sect.

The word “Shiite” is used to describe those who declared their allegiance to the Imam Ali, the Prophet Mohammed's son-in-law and 7th century martyr, in his conflict with Mo'awiya, then contender to the Caliphate.

According to Al-Mahatwari, some Shiite ideas are extremist and must be rejected. But the Shiite Muslims in Iran and other countries, for example, represent an added credit to the Islamic nation.

## Family, first line of defense against drugs

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

Of all the means of stopping drug abuse in society, planting the seeds of prevention in children is the most effective in the long term, according to education experts.

"Some of the best things that work to strengthen young people and have them make smarter decisions when it comes to drugs are empowerment and respect," says Abdullah Al-Munai Counselor in Psychiatry from Saudi Arabia. This empowerment and respect should begin within the family.

Studies have shown that the failure of the family in maintaining communication with their children makes children susceptible to drug addiction. "Parents must improve their relationships with their children and should provide them with psychological and emotional as well as material needs, not letting them look outside the family for compensation. Parents should enhance their children's opportunities to participate and positively contribute towards helping themselves, their families, and their communities," said Al-Munai.

"Children who grow up in families where a parent is using drugs are at a higher risk for developing an addiction later in life," he added.

Almost all social and psychological studies conducted on the causes of drug abuse indicate that the reasons are curiosity and peer pressure, particularly for first time users, according to Dhey'a Dafr, the director of the Yemeni National Program of Psychological Health at the Ministry of Health.

"Parents should avoid spoiling their teenage children, pressuring them to excel at school, or using excessive violence toward them, because this may push them to think of drugs as a refuge," she added.

Dr. Saleh Al-Hammad an educational advisor from Saudi Arabia urged parents to follow up and monitor their sons and daughters indirectly to prevent them from falling into the problem of drug abuse. Parents should clarify the



seriousness of abuse and warn them of the consequences of using drugs.

Long unexplained periods away from home, distinct changes in behavior, stealing, and lying are some indicators that children are starting to abuse drugs.

Researchers have found that social settings are where most teenagers first start drug abuse. However, many Yemeni parents believe that their sons are safe from drugs in qat sessions. They believe that those who chew qat never think of drugs. Dr. Mosab Al-Sofi, Deputy Director of the Antinarcotics General Directory at the Ministry of Interior, said that "the idea that qat prevents people from drug abuse is an illusion. We found that people arrested for drug abuse were using drugs before, during, and after chewing qat."

"Drugs are constraints on human development. They are killers of youth,

the most important element of society," said Professor Mohammed Al-Turaiki, director of Middle East Research Center for Human development and rights (MERCH).

The figures of seized drugs have increased significantly this year in Yemen in comparison to previous years. Since the beginning of 2008, over 29 tons of hashish and 14 million pills were seized by the Antinarcotics Directory at the Ministry of Interior, and 250 people were arrested for drug trafficking, 88 percent of them Yemenis.

The Antinarcotics General Directory of the Ministry of Interior and MERCH held a Conference on "the disability of drug abuse" at the Saudi German Hospital in Sana'a last week. Local academics and organizations participated with research papers and discussed the issue of drugs from different angles and perspectives.

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## Words of Wisdom

Gentlemen, Yemen does not need more money! It needs a system. Yemen needs accountable officials, and it needs people with some decency in the way they work. If the IMP, World Bank and other organizations pump loans into Yemen, where will it go? More importantly, how will it be paid?



Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,  
(1951 - 1999)  
Founder of Yemen Times

OUR  
OPINIONFighting the  
wrong battle

There is a small Jewish minority in Yemen consisting of less than 400 families, living mainly in the Amran governorate in the north of Yemen. The Jewish community was living peacefully with their Muslim neighbors for quite some time until some extremists threatened their peace and killed one of their prominent figures.

Today with the Israeli aggression against Palestinians in Gaza, some uneducated Yemenis have poured their anger and frustration on the Yemeni Jews. The mix up between Israelis and Jews is very common in many Muslim countries. They fail to understand that Judaism is a religion and Israeli is a political affiliation to a country.

Many consider all Jews as oppressors and Zionists, although there are many Jewish movements and individuals around the world that don't approve of the Israeli policy or the Zionist regime.

Attacking the local Jews – even though some have never even been outside their hometown in Yemen – is a severe misjudgment and a wrong equal to what the Israelis are doing in Gaza. Threatening the peace and livelihood of our country's people just because they share the same religion as the oppressors is not right and not even Islamic.

In fact, there are many Muslim leaders who are equally guilty of what is happening in Palestine today. Does that mean all Muslims are bad and should be attacked?

What is even worse is that the Yemeni government is not taking any significant stand to protect the minority and educate the surrounding villagers. When asked for protection, the President suggested to the Jewish leaders in Yemen that they should leave their homes and come live in Sana'a so that he can protect them.

What kind of suggestion is this? And what does it imply? It is as if he said, "Sorry I have no power to protect you in your town, but leave everything that means anything to you and come live in Sana'a near me so that I can watch over your safety."

Not only is this ridiculous, it is even sad to feel that our state can not protect us. It is sad that minorities such as Jews, African Yemenis, women, and so forth cannot look up to the state as a system that can govern and protect them. They are left to defend themselves in any way possible.

And so, you will find Yemenis seeking justice by themselves and not paying any attention to the law. This is what happened when the man killed the Jewish figure last month. We are starting to take matters into our own hands and doing what we see fit because the state is not powerful or interested enough to govern.

Yemenis who harm the Jews in Yemen are fighting the wrong battle. They should look within and see what is wrong with the whole system and demand change rather than waste their time and energy picking on the weaker entities.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

## The official destruction of democracy

By: Raddad Al-Salami

Last week, I went to cover a symposium entitled "Electoral Process Management and Future of Yemen's Democracy", which was moderated by a center, supposed to be neutral while recording transformations and assessing Yemen's democratic experience, aside from employing that to hinder democracy and spark controversy about its deterioration.

I saw that the symposium is unable to identify the real reasons behind recession of Yemen's democracy, which has been employed in favor of the ruling party. Even worse, this party puts the blame on opposition parties for any notable democratic recession and attributes any positive aspects of the democratic progress to

its efforts.

The paper, submitted by former President of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate Abdulbari Taher and his remarks were, in my opinion, the most constructive and tangible ever seen throughout the event. Unlike the symposium moderators, who tend to justify the official destruction of democracy, Taher's paper and remarks really identify the real causes that made Yemen's democracy progress backward.

Many participants didn't even consider the assessment of democracy made by the center staff, and therefore labeled the symposium as merely demonstrating visions of political elites with the aim of identifying the ongoing assessment. Identifying the accurate visions of those political elites may help create a tangible assessment for the decision maker on

the elite's understanding of what happens on the ground.

The symposium seemed to be like a closed dialogue, as no even a single satellite channel came to cover the event in order to convey facts to people, who should know that the symposium was held for reasons related with democracy recession.

In fact, it is the current regime in Yemen that destroyed all the necessary components for democratic development and prosperity. The phenomenon of democratic recession over the past few years is the direct result of formal culture's dominance over the culture of essence and content.

## Democracy as an indispensable reference

Certainly, real democracy is a good solution to any pressing problems,

and without democracy such problems will remain unsolved. Violence will never build a good nation while chaos may spare nothing for us. Intentional democracy is that one, which is currently used by the entire world as an indispensable reference for tackling issues and problems.

Democracy is not merely allegations, baseless speeches or lies. Democracy is comprised of good intents that are translated by moderate behaviors and embodied by real facts on the ground. The talk about democracy for the sake of talk is no longer feasible.

Therefore, we turned to see democracy as a kind of illusion and baseless lies practiced by decision makers in an attempt to convince us that we are liberals. What we see is different from what we hear, and what is applied on the ground is different from what is

written in plans. Through a faked democracy, the regime attempts to mislead us that we are leading a joyful and democratic life, which had never been seen by our forefathers, with the intention to make us accept what is available before our eyes and be submissive to it.

What we have been seeking was never achieved while what our forefathers sought was already achieved, and the clearest evidence in support of this is that they resisted tyranny and occupation and organized two revolutions in order to get rid of tyranny and occupation. Our forefathers also set certain objectives for us to achieve. Regrettably, we found ourselves living under dominance and oppression supported by decorative democracy and faked progress.

Source: Al-Ahalee

## People pay the price for GPC-JMP conflict

By: Nadeem Al-Aswadi

The one who contemplates on negative events hindering Yemen's democratic course since the 1994 Civil War, is bound to realize a fundamental fact that made the authority admits that the ruling party cheats democracy and violates foundations and terms the democratic system is based on.

The ruling party controlled the entire government and dominated public funds, official media, military and security forces and the judiciary system while its government turned to practice oppression against citizens, thus changing the system of governance in Yemen into totalitarian, tribal and individual regime under the guise of democracy.

The regime reproduces itself again and again during each elec-

toral process through fraudulent ballot boxes due to its absolute control of the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER). The regime spends public funds and government jobs in favor of the ruling party during any general election. Such a phenomenon was more salient through the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) transactions with Joint Meeting Parties (JMP). The former once threatens the latter's fans but intimidates them at another time.

The ruling party wants to fragment JMP member parties like it did when splitting parties of the National Opposition Council (NOC) and made them loyal with it. Both GPC and NOC parties turned to be faces of the same coin, most notably as the latter demonstrates faked opposition to deceive people.

Amid prevalence of some fake concepts of democracy, the ruling

party thinks that it managed to deceive the outside world including the European Union and other international organizations concerned with democracy. It attempts to deceive them by pretending to be infallible, which is impossible to be one of its qualities forever.

It is good for the authority and its ruling party to understand what a democratic action means in other states that selected the democratic system of governance including Yemen. The authority didn't utilize experiences of other democratic states, nor does it care about how those states practice the democratic action. It is not shameful for somebody to benefit from others' experiences in enforcing equal citizenship in terms of rights and duties.

## "Illusive democracy"

Democracy must be pondered upon as an indispensable manual for gov-

ernment, popular and media careers while all the state's authorities must abide by the democratic system. This point helps diagnose the real relationship between social and political freedoms and the media career, which functions as the basic criterion for assessing whether a particular authority is democratic or dictatorial.

A democracy mixed with dictatorship is called "illusive democracy" like what we are currently experiencing in Yemen where the government cracks down on opposition activists and journalists and practice against them different forms of harassment and violence. It drags defendants into moody courts to stand politicized trials that contradict the Constitution and laws put into practice.

Ruling party leaders are supposed to benefit from others' lessons and experiences, particularly after

Yemeni society underwent different forms of conflicts and tasted their bitterness. Those parties conflicting over power and rule are impossible to offer something useful for their homeland. They turned out to be a destructive tool, hindering social prosperity and development. The may cause split of the nation into smaller states.

Those parties conflicting over power and rule will understand that they have been really involved in an unprecedented sedition and a conspiracy project that may lead Yemen to collapse. Such problems are created by unpatriotic parties that don't want Yemen to enjoy bless and stability. Both ruling and opposition parties proved to be only conflicting over power while the ordinary citizens turned to be pay the price for their conflict.

Source: Al-Balagh weekly

## The regime's journey in search for alternatives

By: Dr. Nasser Mohammed Nasser

Undoubtedly, the regime in its current state may not survive. This is a real fact evidently understood by the regime and the opposition as well with a minor difference that the opposition and other effective groups in society see that change is the only workable solution to help the regime get rid of its current dilemma.

The regime, on the other hand, sees that deliverance lies in other alternatives, some of which are external experiences that can be applied on the ground in Yemen. What are these experiences and is it possible for them to be transferred into Yemen?

Over the past few weeks, the regime sent some of its senior officials to North Korea and Syria and talked about effectiveness of the Chinese standing experience, based on the single-party system, which protected China from fragmentation. This experience helped China escape a destiny similar to that of Russia.

Unlike the opposition and the educated elite, the regime in Yemen doesn't see that the solution lies in the maximum margin of freedoms that may help fight corruption and drives the wheels of development forward. The regime holds the view that the solution lies in applying the

single-party system. As a result, it attempts to utilize the just said three experiences, however, I am personally convinced that it is impossible for the regime to benefit from any of them.

As for North Korea, the regime failed to bring about good development, but it managed to build a central state and military institutions armed with nuclear weapons. It is a glorious achievement the Korean regime must be proud of.

When it comes to the Syrian experience, this kind of experience is impossible to be applied here in Yemen. In Syria, there is neither democracy nor political freedoms, but there is good living stability, and the price of a Syrian Lira against one US dollar remained stable for almost three decades.

## Peoples' versus elites' demands

Three decades ago, the US dollar's price was nine Yemeni Riyals. In Syria there is surplus food production while Yemen imports for its citizens grains given to animals elsewhere. Therefore, democracy in Syria is a demand for the elite rather than the people. Is it possible for Yemen's regime to make surplus food production in order convert demands for change from the level of ordinary citizens to the level of elites? The latter's demands may be ignored while the former's not.

The regime is failed and cannot reached similar achievements to

those made by Syria. Therefore, the Syrian experience is inapplicable in Yemen.

With regard to the Chinese experience, it is absurd for the regime to think that it is able to apply such a unique experience in Yemen. China's economy grows by 10 percent a year, and neither the United States of America nor any of the European Union States could score such an economic growth rate.

In addition, Chinas has competent and prudent regime with effective tools for managing the great nation's

affairs. In China, the death sentence is the punishment for anybody found guilty of embezzling public funds, while in Yemen, punishment is rewarding the embezzler with a ministerial position.

Does the regime imagine that by applying the single-party system, it will make Yemen a copy of the Chinese experience? The Chinese experience is also inapplicable here in Yemen.

Additionally, I would like to state that all the three experiences are suffering a dilemma. The regimes in

both North Korea and Syria live in a state of international isolation. Despite the local achievements both regimes made, they lack comfort and are susceptible to targeting and change. China, on the other hand, understands that the single-party system is temporary irrespective of its long stay. It understands that its economic development will eventually lead to social development, which may overthrow the single-party system.

Source: Al-Wasat Weekly



By: Samer

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# Yemen Press Review



Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah party  
Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009

## Top Stories

- JMP urges people nationwide to continue their peaceful struggle for the sake of free and fair elections
- Yemen Human Rights Observatory holds government accountable for protecting Yemeni Jews
- Prominent opposition MPs accuses government of attempting to politicize UAE wheat donation

Opposition Parliament members demanded that a special committee be formed to oversee potential distribution of 500,000 tons of wheat donated by United Arab Emirates to Yemeni citizens, the website reported, adding that the donation is due to be distributed within the next couple of days.

During comments to Al-Sahwa.net, the MPs said there are bad experiences practiced by the ruling party's government, the last of which is that of manipulating and politicizing humanitarian assistance given to people affected by floods that swept Yemen's eastern governorates.

Expressing his deep gratitude to brothers in the UAE for donating wheat

to Yemenis, MP Abdurrazzaq Al-Hejri, from the Islah Party, called for composing popular committees to oversee the wheat distribution process. He stressed the necessity of involving citizens and civil society organizations in overseeing the process of wheat distribution, accusing the consecutive General People's Congress (GPC) governments of manipulating donations and humanitarian aids of this kind.

"For such a big donation, responsible committees from the government and people should have been formed to distribute those 500,000 tons of wheat to citizens fairly," Al-Hejri said. "The government's decision to have the donation exclusively distributed to those registered in social welfare offices, who number one million and fifty thousand souls, compared to the donation numbering 10 million sacks (of 50kg each sack), raises numerous questions."

He questioned whether ten sacks will be given to each citizen registered in the social welfare or only a small portion of the quantity will be distributed to "throw ashes on eyes" and then waste the remaining quantity of the donation.

According to the opposition MP, the wheat donation arrived at a sensitive time while some government officials are planning to politicize the donation and manipulate it to buy citizens' votes in favor of the ruling party ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections.

"By the donation, the government plans to extort the poor, change their persuasion and wills, and most probably to coerce them to participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections in event the opposition continues boycotting the electoral process, Al-Hejri commented. "After the elections, citizens will suffer the most like what usually happens after each electoral process."

For his part, opposition Parliament member Sadeq Al-Baadani said the government's decision to distribute the UAE-donated wheat to those registered in social welfare offices only implies the government's attempt to politicize the donation in favor of the ruling party. "We don't know why the distribution of the wheat donation was delayed to time with the upcoming parliamentary elections although the UAE government approved the donation in May 2008."

According to Al-Baadani, social welfare-registered cases due to receive wheat from the donation were selected based on their political party affiliations to ensure they vote in favor of the ruling party in the upcoming elections. "Other social welfare cases were excluded from the donation for being affiliated with opposition parties," he went on to say. "Even worse, the social welfare cases selected for the donation are either influential persons, Aqils and opportunistic pro-government people, who were registered in such offices illegally at the expense of other poor

citizens really deserving social welfare funds and assistance.

The UAE-donated wheat arrived in Yemen on Monday, local sources said, adding that the wheat assistance would be distributed under supervision of local committees.

According to the website, A ministerial committee had held a meeting to discuss preparation procedures to distribute UAE assistance for those poor people who really deserve it via the Social Fund for Development.

For their part, Yemeni lawmakers thanked UAE, calling on to form a special committee which includes NGOs and civil society groups to observe the process of distributing the donated wheat.

They said that the donation arrived during a critical stage of time, expressing their fears that the ruling party may exploit the assistance for party purposes or to draw votes in its favor in the upcoming parliamentary elections.



Al-Motamar.net, affiliated with General People's Congress (ruling party)  
Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009

## Top Stories

- Relevant court settle 60% of voter

registration appeals

- Two people arrested over promoting forged currencies
- GPC Spokesman reminds whom he called "Muslim Brothers" of once illegally selling wheat in Ministry of Supply and Trade

General People's Congress (GPC) Spokesman Tareq Al-Shami, who is also Head of the party's Media Sector, said that he doesn't blame Parliament members from the Islah party, known as "Muslim Brothers in Yemen" for their furious positions about the UAE wheat donation. "Those Muslim Brothers are not also blamed for adding the wheat donation to the ongoing political conflict between the ruling and opposition parties because they were accustomed to trading on foodstuffs and politicizing their distribution while they were once in charge of the Ministry of Supply and Trade," Al-Shami reacted. "Yemeni people still remember how the Islah Party politicized and manipulated food stuff distribution at that time in favor of people loyal with the party."

"I would like to assure Islah Party leaders that the idea of politicizing foodstuff distribution to citizens to serve party purposes has been overcome and has no place in the current government's performance and dealing with citizens," he commented. "Such a negative idea still exists only in the minds of Islah Party leaders."

According to Al-Shami, cases registered in social welfare offices are Yemeni citizens from the poorest groups that deserve this kind of assistance.

He expressed his sorrow over the Islah Party leaders' attempts to deprive poor families of getting 50kg of wheat for free.

Al-Shami concludes, "All Yemenis know who exploit charities and donations for political purposes. All of them know who distributed government jobs in light of political party affiliations. All of them know who monopolized facts and pursued the policy of eliminating others."

According to the ruling party-affiliated website, the government is due to inaugurate distribution of the first batch of wheat from UAE on Tuesday in the area of Al-Salif of Hodeida governorate at an official ceremony to be attended by UAE Ambassador to Yemen.

The Ministerial Committee, authorized to distribute the donation, held its first meeting chaired by Minister of Finance Numan Al-Suhaibi. During the meeting, the committee discussed ongoing arrangements to distribute the donated wheat to a total number of one million and fifty thousand poor cases registered in social welfare offices, who really deserve such assistance. A certain portion of the donation is going to be distributed to those people affected by the most recent flooding in the governorates of Hadramout and Mahrah.

## Israel has no intention of granting a Palestinian State If Hamas did not exist

By: Jennifer Loewenstein  
Special to the Yemen Times

Let us get one thing perfectly straight. If the wholesale mutilation and degradation of the Gaza Strip is going to continue; if Israel's will is at one with that of the United States; if the European Union, Russia, the United Nations and all the international legal agencies and organizations spread across the globe are going to continue to sit by like hollow mannequins doing nothing but making repeated "calls" for a "ceasefire" on "both sides"; if the cowardly, obsequious and supine Arab States are going to stand by watching their brethren get slaughtered by the hour while the world's bullying Superpower eyes them threateningly from Washington lest they say something a little to their disliking; then let us at least tell the truth why this hell on earth is taking place.

The state terror unleashed from the skies and on the ground against the Gaza Strip as we speak has nothing to do with Hamas. It has nothing to do with "Terror". It has nothing to do with the long-term "security" of the Jewish State or with Hizbullah or Syria or Iran except insofar as it is aggravating the conditions that have led up to this crisis today. It has nothing to do with some conjured-up "war" - a cynical and overused euphemism that amounts to little more than the wholesale enslavement of any nation that dares claim its sovereign rights; that dares assert that its resources are its own; that doesn't want one of the Empire's obscene military bases sitting on its cherished land.

This crisis has nothing to do with freedom, democracy, justice or peace. It is not about Mahmoud Zahhar or Khalid Mash'al or Ismail Haniyeh. It is not about Hassan Nasrallah or Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. These are all circumstantial players who have gained a role in the current tempest only now that the situation has been allowed for 61 years to develop into the catastrophe that it is today. The Islam factor has colored and will continue to color the atmosphere of the crisis; it has enlisted the current leaders and mobilized wide sectors of the world's population. The primary symbols today are Islamic - the mosques, the Qur'an, the references to the Prophet Muhammad and to Jihad.



An Israeli soldier near an unfinished section of the Barrier in the West Bank. Picture taken by Justin McIntosh, August 2004. Despite the huge wall separating Israelis and Palestinians, the people of two worlds share common fears and common aspirations.

But these symbols could disappear and the impasse would continue.

There was a time when Fatah and the PFLP held the day; when few Palestinians wanted anything to do with Islamist policies and politics. Such politics have nothing to do with primitive rockets being fired over the border, or smuggling tunnels and black-market weapons; just as Arafat's Fatah had little to do with stones and suicide bombings. The associations are coincidental; the creations of a given political environment. They are the result of something entirely different than what the lying politicians and their analysts are telling you. They have become part of the landscape of human events in the modern Middle East today; but incidentals wholly as lethal, or as recalcitrant, deadly, angry or incorrigible could just as soon have been in their places.

Strip away the clichés and the vacuous newspeak blaring out across the servile media and its pathetic corps of voluntary state servants in the Western world and what you will find is the naked desire for hegemony; for power over the weak and dominion over the

world's wealth. Worse yet you will find that the selfishness, the hatred and indifference, the racism and bigotry, the egotism and hedonism that we try so hard to cover up with our sophisticated jargon, our refined academic theories and models actually help to guide our basest and ugliest desires. The callousness with which we indulge in them all are endemic to our very culture; thriving here like flies on a corpse.

Strip away the current symbols and language of the victims of our selfish and devastating whims and you will find the simple, impassioned and unaffected cries of the downtrodden; of the 'wretched of the earth' begging you to cease your cold aggression against their children and their homes; their families and their villages; begging you to leave them alone to have their fish and their bread, their oranges, their olives and their thyme; asking you first politely and then with increasing disbelief why you cannot let them live undisturbed on the land of their ancestors; unexploited, free of the fear of expulsion; of ravishment and devastation; free of permits and roadblocks and checkpoints and crossings; of monstrous concrete walls,

guard towers, concrete bunkers, and barbed wire; of tanks and prisons and torture and death. Why is life without these policies and instruments of hell impossible?

The answer is because Israel has no intention of allowing a viable, sovereign Palestinian state on its borders. It had no intention of allowing it in 1948 when it grabbed 24 per cent more land than what it was allotted legally, if unfairly, by UN Resolution 181. It had no intention of allowing it throughout the massacres and ploys of the 1950s. It had no intention of allowing two states when it conquered the remaining 22 per cent of historic Palestine in 1967 and reinterpreted UN Security Council Resolution 248 to its own liking despite the overwhelming international consensus stating that Israel would receive full international recognition within secure and recognized borders if it withdrew from the lands it had only recently occupied.

It had no intention of acknowledging Palestinian national rights at the United Nations in 1974, when -alone with the United States-it voted against a two-state solution. It had no intention of allowing a comprehensive peace

settlement when Egypt stood ready to deliver but received, and obediently accepted, a separate peace exclusive of the rights of Palestinians and the remaining peoples of the region. It had no intention of working toward a just two-state solution in 1978 or 1982 when it invaded, fire-bombed, blasted and bulldozed Beirut so that it might annex the West Bank without hassle. It had no intention of granting a Palestinian state in 1987 when the first Intifada spread across occupied Palestine, into the Diaspora and into the spirits of the global dispossessed, or when Israel deliberately aided the newly formed Hamas movement so that it might undermine the strength of the more secular-nationalist factions.

Israel had no intention of granting a Palestinian state at Madrid or at Oslo where the PLO was superseded by the quivering, quiescent Palestinian Authority, too many of whose cronies grasped at the wealth and prestige it gave them at the expense of their own kin. As Israel beamed into the world's satellites and microphones its desire for peace and a two-state solution, it more than doubled the number of illegal Jewish settlements on the ground in the West Bank and around East Jerusalem, annexing them as it built and continues to build a superstructure of bypass roads and highways over the remaining, severed cities and villages of earthly Palestine. It has annexed the Jordan valley, the international border of Jordan, expelling any 'locals' inhabiting that land. It speaks with a viper's tongue over the multiple amputee of Palestine whose head shall soon be severed from its body in the name of justice, peace and security.

Through the home demolitions, the assaults on civil society that attempted to cast Palestinian history and culture into a chasm of oblivion; through the unspeakable destruction of the refugee camp sieges and infrastructure bombardments of the second Intifada, through assassinations and summary executions, past the grandiose farce of disengagement and up to the nullification of free, fair and democratic Palestinian elections Israel has made its view known again and again in the strongest possible language, the language of military might, of threats, intimidation, harassment, defamation and degradation.

Israel, with the unconditional and approving support of the United States, has made it dramatically clear to the entire world over and over and over again, repeating in action after action that it will accept no viable Palestinian state next to its borders. What will it take for the rest of us to hear? What will it take to end the criminal silence of the 'international community'? What will it take to see past the lies and indoctrination to what is taking place before us day after day in full view of the eyes of the world? The more horrific the actions on the ground, the more insistent are the words of peace. To listen and watch without hearing or seeing allows the indifference, the ignorance and complicity to continue and deepens with each grave our collective shame.

The destruction of Gaza has nothing to do with Hamas. Israel will accept no authority in the Palestinian territories that it does not ultimately control. Any individual, leader, faction or movement that fails to accede to Israel's demands or that seeks genuine sovereignty and the equality of all nations in the region; any government or popular movement that demands the applicability of international humanitarian law and of the universal declaration of human rights for its own people will be unacceptable for the Jewish State. Those dreaming of one state must be forced to ask themselves what Israel would do to a population of 4 million Palestinians within its borders when it commits on a daily, if not hourly basis, crimes against their collective humanity while they live alongside its borders? What will suddenly make the *raison d'être*, the self-proclaimed purpose of Israel's reason for being change if the Palestinian territories are annexed to it outright?

The lifeblood of the Palestinian National Movement flows through the streets of Gaza today. Every drop that falls waters the soil of vengeance, bitterness and hatred not only in Palestine but across the Middle East and much of the world. We do have a choice over whether or not this should continue. Now is the time to make it.

Jennifer Loewenstein is the Associate Director of the Middle East Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She can be reached at amadea311@earthlink.net



# Koryo Traditional Medicine: an oriental solution for Yemeni patients

As the world is turning more and more to traditional medicine, North Korea has already mastered it and is now exporting this science to the rest of the world. The first Koryo Traditional Medical Center in Yemen was established more than nine months ago to provide Yemenis with an oriental solution to their health problems.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

**K**orean medicine has been steadily developing over the years since ancient times, and perhaps because of the current financial sanctions, North Koreans have developed traditional medicine into a form that can be used to cure many modern day diseases.

The Koryo Center for Traditional and Eastern Medicine is a private medical institution set up as a joint venture between Dr. Ayed Al-Sorihhi who runs the center and the North Korean Government who supplies the center with qualified staff. Currently there are four doctors (three men and one woman) carrying degrees in general medicine and surgery as well as masters degrees in Koryo Traditional Medicine. The doctors are assisted by two nurses specialized in Koryo Traditional Medicine.

"The idea started when I met a few North Korean engineers who had participated in the construction projects during the Yemeni Unity anniversary in 2007 celebrated in Ibb," explained Al-Sorihhi about the center. "I was discussing the lack of traditional medical centers and they recommended a joint venture through the Korean Economic Bureau in Sana'a."

The medical team currently working at the center had worked in other Arab countries such as Libya and Jordan. They know sufficient Arabic to communicate with the patients and the adminis-

tration. One of the male doctors is based in Taiz where he provides various treatments including treatment for impotency.

"Having a female doctor is quite convenient for the conservative Yemeni culture that prefers female patients to be seen by a women doctor," explained Zakiya Ahmad Al-Haddad, receptionist and administrator at the center, who also facilitates communication between the patients and the doctors.

So far, the center has received over 600 cases since its establishment. Most of the patients were either referred by a doctor after being treated for heart or nerve diseases or by former patients whose health improved because of the treatment they received at the Center.

According to the center's records, most of the patients are females and the majority of the patients suffer from back and joints disorders, or are recovering from an accident or a stroke. Many patients usually come to the center to obtain Korean physiotherapy to help them recover some functionality in their bodies. Some patients come from other governorates such as Aden, Amran and Dhamar after they have given up on conventional medicine.

A diagnosis check up costs 1000 Yemeni Riyals (five US dollars) and the cost of a single medical session ranges from 3500 to 5000 Yemeni Riyals (USD 17.5 - 25) and lasts for at least one hour. Some treatments could take up to 30 sessions and some disorders can be cured in less than ten depending on the case.



Dr. Ayed Al-Sorihhi GM of the Koryo Center for Traditional and Eastern Medicine

Treatment includes needle reflexotherapy and acupuncture, therapeutic massage, therapeutic laser and exercises, electrotherapy and electro massage, functional therapy, rehabilitation or recovery therapy, kinestherapy (treatment of disease by movements or exercise), and Moxibustion.

Moxibustion is a form of fire heat treatment that stimulates specific acupuncture points of the body. The term is derived from the Japanese "mogusa" meaning herb (mugwort) and the Latin "bustion" meaning burning.

The American Journal of Chinese Medicine reports that Moxibustion therapy in conjunction with acupuncture can be very effective for many diseases and conditions including back pain, muscle stiffness, headaches, migraines, tendonitis, arthritis, digestive disorders, anxiety, and female health problems such as menstrual cramps, irregular periods, and infertility.

## Yemeni health endangering habits

According to Dr. Al-Sorihhi, around 90 percent of the handicaps caused by injuries, strokes, or post surgeries could have been cured if treated immediately. However, the lack of health awareness and adequate medical facilities prolong the suffering of such disabilities that some become handicapped for life.

Recently, strokes have become more common among Yemenis and even among the younger generations. Constant consumption of food stuff that contains hydrogenated fats creates many health hazards, and increases the cholesterol rates in the blood stream which increases the chances of having a stroke.

"The quality of canned food in Yemen is quite bad and could cause various health problems, especially since there isn't much accountability of manufacturers or importers of food stuffs. This is why the health problems are increasing, even among youth and children, not just the elderly," said Al-Sorihhi.

During his previous work as director of the Medical Establishments Department at the Ministry of Health, Al-Sorihhi had come to recognize the need for a Korean or Chinese medical center that provides traditional medicine instead of the conventional medical service centers and hospitals. Such kinds of medical services could help many Yemenis who are suffering from illnesses that modern science has failed or takes longer to cure.

"I realized that we need East Asian traditional medicine that would help Yemenis overcome temporary functional disabilities without needing to travel outside the country or spending much on treatment," said Al-Sorihhi.

Khaled Mohammed is a 56 year-old man from Taiz who had been suffering from a disorder in the seventh nerve of the mouth that caused his mouth to twist

permanently to one side; he had been going to the Physiotherapy Center afflicted to the Ministry of Health for months without much improvement.

"The treatment at the government center was cheaper but it was taking so long and I had not improved much. After thirty sessions with Dr. Jo Jong Gill I have recovered partial control of my mouth," he said. Dr. Gill instructed Mohammed to rest for a couple of weeks before starting phase two of the treatment.

"In Khaled Mohammed's case, he had suffered from a stroke that affected his smile nerves and whenever the weather became cold he would suffer from severe pain. Now his smile has almost returned to normal and he does not suffer so much pain," explained Dr. Gill.

Mohammed's treatment was a mixture between Korean acupuncture, triple vitamin Bs injection, and electric and heat therapy. No surgery or oral medication was required.

Doctors warn of several habits among the Yemeni people that affect their body negatively. One is when Yemenis remain in one posture for hours on daily basis during the Qat chewing sessions. During these sessions, Qat chewers sit for over five hours while bending their body towards one direction.

Muhanad Dawod is a 20 year-old student from Hudeidah who came to the center because of back pain. After the preliminary diagnosis, the doctors explained that he has developed muscle irritation between the scapula (the shoulder blade) and the back of the thoracic rib cage because of strain or poor posture over time.

This is a familiar complaint from people who work at computers for long hours. The treatment recommended included acupuncture and heat sessions as well as changing his sitting habits.

Another concern Al-Sorihhi explained is in the construction design, especially in Sana'a city where the buildings are close to one another leaving very little room for air and sunlight. There are no balconies or yards and so the homes are not aired properly. Such construction could cause rheumatoid arthritis or rheumatism, especially if the houses are cold or the rooms are damp.

The center has received many rheumatoid patients who were made better considerably after a few sessions. However, as the doctors explain, they have to change their living conditions and habits if they wanted to continue being healthy.

Women in the cities have a greater problem because they are completely covered outdoors, so when they go out they are barely exposed to the sun's healthy rays. Similarly, when at home, women have to stay behind closed doors and protect themselves from being exposed through windows. Women in

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rural areas are luckier this way as they have more freedom and exposure to outdoor life.

Moreover, all Yemenis, men and women, do not have sports or exercise integrated in their life style; this also causes many muscular and health problems in various body systems. Many patients visit the center because of muscle disorders or cramps.

A 35 year-old woman was suffering from a chronic muscle cramp in her right leg which caused her tremendous pain. After a few sessions of electro massage and Moxibustion she said the cramps eased and the pain was reduced remarkably.

Some health problems are caused because of the food habits and not having enough nutrition in meals. Osteoporosis and other bone problems are caused by the lack of certain minerals in the diet and also because of the short spans between frequent pregnancies. Unhealthy diet and emotional stress could also cause an imbalance in the body's system.

Doctor O. Song Suk gave the example of one of her patients who was a thirty-year-old woman suffering from disturbances during her monthly period. After seven sessions of a mixture of localized heat and pressure, massage, and Moxibustion, her periods became regular.



Dr. Jo Jong Gill and Nurse Hwang Un Ha using electrical acupuncture to create localized electrical pulses in the leg muscles to encourage free blood flow to key areas in the body.



Dr. O Song Suk applying pressure on certain points in a patient's foot using an acupuncture wooden stick. Some types of acupuncture do not require skin penetration and thus are safer, as patients do not risk infection.



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# Ruins of ruins

## Where a woman once ruled

By: Salma Ismail

Once the capital of the kingdom of Queen Sheba, also known by her Arabic name Balqis, Mareb is now largely in a state of disrepair. Blocks of stone with Sabean writing bear testament to the rich history of the city. Writing in spray-paint also stands witness to the negligence of authorities to adequately protect this historical site which has been buried in the desert for over a millennium.

Officials are calling for adequate security personnel to protect the sites while no excavation is being carried out. Most security personnel are Bedouins and do not understand the importance or the historical value of the sites.

Mentioned in the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the Qur'an, but only recently excavated, new information grows daily about Sheba and this temple city of the Sabean kingdom, home of the legendary Queen, who was very influential, wealthy and famous during her rein, some 3000 years ago. The Bar'an temple Mahram Bilqis, or Temple of the Moon God, was a sacred site for pilgrims through Arabia from 1200 BC to 550 AD.

Six columns mark the entrance to the "Throne of Balqis", which is 15m (50ft) high and features a podium, a courtyard, a high wall and an irrigation canal. The temple was abandoned after 14 centuries when the kingdom's subjects started to convert to Judaism and Christianity.

Southwest of Mareb is the ancient Mareb Dam, used thousands of years ago to irrigate the surrounding land. The destruction of the Marib Dam around AD 570 sealed the demise of the kingdom after which large numbers of people emigrated northwards. The stonework is still impressive, measuring 600m (1968ft) wide and 18m (60ft) deep.

Mareb, which was named in 1000 B.C., is located 172 km east of Sana'a, is considered to be one of Yemen's richest archaeological sites.

Landmarks of the city include the prime temple located in the southern part of the city; the temple exemplifies the



Throne of Balqis in Mareb. German archaeologists have been conducting excavation and restoration works in Yemen for 30 years now and have helped to preserve some of Yemen's most valuable ancient sites.

Maecian architecture, having 16 vertical and horizontal columns, formulating a grid-shape. Researchers believe that this temple was built for the worship of Athtar, the sun god. There is also another temple in the heart of the city of which four columns can still be seen.

The German Archaeological Institute (DAI) together with the Yemeni General Organization of Antiquities and Museums (GOAM) have been conducting an excavation and restoration of the ancient Sabean town of Sirwah in the Yemeni province of Ma'rib since 2001. In March 2008 their work led to the discovery of an ancient, well-preserved Sabean temple dating back to 7th century BC, according to Dr. Iris Gerlach, Director of the DAI in Sana'a. The discovery was made during excavation works in the ancient Sabean town of Sirwah, at the central province of Marib.

The large town was surrounded by a

fortification wall, and included many monumental buildings, of which the most prominent is the al-Maqah Temple, a sanctuary that dates back to the 7th century BC, and is currently undergoing restoration.

During the restoration work at the al-Maqah Temple, the DAI team discovered "another unique and well preserved Sabean temple as part of the ancient town."

The sacred building has a monumental entrance decorated with pillars and different rooms inside.

The ground plan and the construction features of the temple are singular in Yemen; tower-like projections divide the exterior facade of the sanctuary and the building material consists of a phenomenal wood/stone construction, the DAI said.

German archaeologists have been conducting excavation and restoration works in Yemen for 30 years now and have helped to preserve some of Yemen's most valuable ancient sites. Other countries have also been involved in excavation in this sacred area including, the US, Italy, France and Canada.

A German Archaeological mission undertook excavation work at the temple site with the results indicating that the Temple is a square shaped structure with an open area in front of the six columns, with the center of the area occupied by the Holy well and its accessories. The stone basin is rectangular in shape, which is fed water by means of

the western and northern sides envelop the Holy street. Walls on the southern, western and northern sides envelop the open area. There is a line of fixed marble seats connects this open area and the Quds, where the six columns stand on fixed foundations.

Talks and studies of a museum in Mareb to preserve the ancient are underway and have been for quite sometime. However, until something concrete is done, it will remain talk. It is organized and funded by the Yemeni Social Development Fund, which receives foreign donations.

Dr Iris Gerlach from the German Archaeological Institute said, "Nowhere in the world is an archaeological city totally excavated, there will be something left for the next generation."

Many people have stolen beautiful valuable stones and used it to decorate their houses, which have been documented, in the hope of getting them to return the stones.

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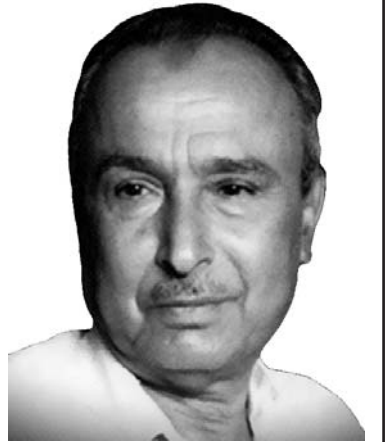
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## A notable Hadrami political and social short story writer

### Bawazir, Abdulla S.

By: Eyad N. Al-Samman  
alsammanworld@yahoo.ca  
For the Yemen Times

Bawazir, Abdulla Salim (1938-2004), Yemeni short-story writer, novelist, playwright, and painter. Bawazir was born in March 30, 1938, in Ghayl Ba-Wazir (Al-Ghayl), city located in Hadramaut governorate. He joined "Al-Hisn Al-Azhar Primary School" in 1945 and then continued his study in "Basharahil Primary School" in Al-Ghayl. In 1949, he moved to "Al-Namothajiya School" of Al-Salihya located out of Al-Ghayl. Concurrently, he started reading different magazines, novels, and children's books in his uncle's library and extremely enjoyed reading "The Thousand and One Nights" book. By mid-1950, Bawazir enrolled at the "Religious Institute" in Al-Ghayl to be graduated eventually in 1954. Due to his father's illness and the poverty-stricken economic circumstances his family was suffering from, he migrated to Aden to work in 1954. Bawazir worked in Aden as a clerk in several commercial stores and also later as a foreman. He stayed in Aden for several years before he moved to Al-Mukalla City in Hadramaut to work in Al-Taliya'a Newspaper's House in early 1962. Bawazir lived in Al-Mukalla for one year and a half and again went back to Aden in the mid-1963 to work as a manager of a famous commercial store for the next 33 years. In another station of his numerous works, Bawazir left Aden to Al-Mukalla in 1997 and opened a commercial store there and after two years he returned for the last time to Aden and settled down there.



Bawazir is considered one of the renowned short-story writers in Yemen with his distinct literary and cultural works. His diverse oeuvre includes collections of short stories, novels, articles, dramas, children's books, and autobiographic books.

In the 1950s, Bawazir started writing a prosaic column entitled "A Message" in "Angham" (Melodies) magazine in which he addressed a social critique for a specific class in the society. His first tries in writing short stories appeared on the pages of the newspaper "Al-Taliya'a" (The Front) issued in Al-Mukalla under the pen name Abdou. His first short story entitled "Hikaya" (A Tale) was published in November 1961. Among his other published short stories in Al-Taliya'a the story entitled "The Devil's Tree" which narrates the suffering of Al-Ghayl's farmers because of planting the tobacco's crops. This short story was shortly included in the curriculum of the preparatory educational stage. Bawazir's last published short story in the same newspaper was entitled "The Sneakers" (1963) in which he derived its events from the 1962 revolution against the Imamate in Yemen. His first penned drama was entitled "Al-Muhakama" (The Trial) and published in Al-Taliya'a newspaper in 1962. This political and sarcastic drama narrated the story of a nationalist youth who was accused of calling for liberty and equality. His other political and social dramas were published on the pages of the same Hadrami newspaper such as "The Victim" and "The Peace's Victory."

Bawazir's first published collection of short stories was published in 1965 and entitled "Al-Rimal Al-Thahabiya" (The Golden Sands). This collection included penned short stories and dramas for the writer published in several local Yemeni newspapers like Al-Taliya'a in Al-Mukalla, "Al-Ghad" (The Tomorrow), and "Al-Amal" (The Hope) in Aden. His second collection of short stories was entitled "Thawrat Al-Burkan" (The Eruption, 1968) which comprised stories drawn from political and social daily life as "Three Days in the Prison" and "Nasser." In the late 1971, Bawazir started publishing serially his collection entitled "Safynat Noah" (Noah's Ark) on the pages of the magazine "Al-Fonoon" (The Arts) which was published by the Ministry of Culture in Aden. In 1981, the "Noah's Ark" was published entirely in one book in which Bawazir derived its stories from the apartment's characters that he lived with at his first arrival to Aden. Other published short stories for Bawazir include "Spare Parts for Ladies" (1972) published in the Egyptian newspaper "Sabah Al-Khair" (Good Morning) and "Al-Kanz" (The Treasure) published in "Al-Hikma Al-Yamaniya" (The Yemeni Wisdom) newspaper in 1979. Among his other collections of short stories is "Al-Hitha'a" (The Shoes, 1987) which consists of short stories such as "Black and White" and "Kids and Mice." The collection entitled "Breakdown of the Wooden Bird" published in 1991 included 16 short stories in which Bawazir predicted of collapsing the totalitarian regime in Yemen. Bawazir last collection of short stories was entitled "A Try for Assassinating a Dream" and was published in 1999.

His novel entitled "Yaa Taliya'a Al-Fadha" (! Ascender to the Space, 1995) tackled politically and ironically several aspects in the Yemeni society. Bawazir's book entitled "Ahwal Al-Nas" (The People's Situations, 2004) comprises many critical articles regarding social and political situations in Yemen published in the newspaper 14th of October during the 1990s. Among Bawazir's other literary books "Days in Mumbai" (1998), "Fools but very funny" (2003), and "Dish with No Launch" (2003) which contains a collection of dramas. His autobiography entitled "Me and The Life" was published posthumously in 2007 and consisted of three parts: "Recalling the Missing Time", "Aden; A Revolution and An Innovation", and "Characters in my Life." In 2004, Bawazir published his last work for children entitled "A Ceremony in the Moon's Light" which comprised several plays performed by animals.

Bawazir passed away on October 7, 2004, at the age of 66 and was buried in Aden. Bawazir, the fictional distinguished writer, became an exemplary model in writing social, political, and romantic short stories with his brilliant literary style. This style was used by the writer for a social tackling of the characters and events of his fictional world full of elaborate and thought-provoking details.



EMBASSY OF INDIA  
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REPUBLIC DAY 2009

The Embassy of India, Sana'a cordially invites all Indian nationals in the Republic of Yemen, along with their families, to join in the celebrations of the 60th Republic Day of India on Monday, the 26th January, 2009 at the Embassy premises (Building No. 12, Djibouti Street, Off-Haddah Street, Sana'a). They are requested to assemble at the Embassy by 0845 hours.

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