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As the US Offers its Willingness to Resolve the Yemeni-Saudi Border Conflict

CAN THE DEADLOCK BE BROKEN?

In statements he made as he wrapped up a one day visit to Yemen, Mr Edward S. Walker, U.S. assistant secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs described the results of his visit as "very profitable." He also said that the talks he had with President Ali Abdullah Saleh and other officials were very successful and that he will take the results of talks "back and they will be taken very seriously as we develop our policies in the future."

At a February 14 press conference in Sana'a Mr Walker expressed appreciation of the democratic process in Yemen describing it as "encouraging", while noting that "There are always complications and difficulties. I think it exhibits a great deal of courage and strength that the Government of Yemen is moving in this direction."

Mr. Walker has also expressed pleasure over the continuation of economic growth and the economic reform process in Yemen, hoping that his country will be able to help in this process.

In response to a question on the reason behind the slow flow of American assistance to Yemen, ambassador Walker said "We value very greatly the support Yemen has given us in the region", expressing hope that they will be successful this year in moving a resumption of the aid program through the congress and be able to move forward with additional assistance in the future. Ambassador Walker added that there were additional funds available to help in the process of developing democracy.

On the relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, Mr Walker expressed the hope that both countries would reach an agreement on their border issues and that America was in favor of that for many years. "But this is something that will have to be decided by the two sides amongst themselves," he added. In reply to a question on the bilateral resolution between Yemen and Saudi Arabia regarding the border issue, Mr Walker said there are a number of mechanisms for solving this problem, there is bilateral nego-

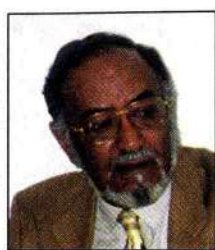
tiation and there is arbitration. He added that it was up to the parties themselves to decide what is the best mechanism for them and the important thing was that the discussions should continue.

On the pressures the Yemeni government is saying are being exerted on it to normalize relations with Israel, Mr Walker said there was no pressure on anyone to do anything that would be against their own interests or their own desires. He added that in the course of events it would be the natural thing for the countries in the region to normalize their relations over time and it would be a natural outgrowth of a successful peace process.



"Violence, in our opinion, is more of an 'animal' rather than a 'human' attribute"

In a recent extensive interview with the Yemen Times the Yemeni prominent opposition leader Abdul Rahman Al-Jifri has denied having any recent contacts with the President, saying, "If they have ever occurred, I would not cover them up because they are legitimate, even desirable. I lead a solemn opposition and offer thoughtful views and I certainly chart a peaceful course of action, consequently I harbour no personal enmity against any person."



On his understanding of the democratic atmosphere in Yemen, Mr Al-Jifri said "What has been going on in our country falls somewhat short of the true democratic path. In fact, it takes on the form but removes the essence of democracy, and there are really no grounds to regard our experience as worthy exemplary status in democratic practice."

Mr Al-Jifri confirms that contacts

with leading figures from the PGC, the Islah, the Opposition and the other national independent leaders, have never been interrupted, adding that they were held in public without secrets. He has asserted that they have not been official meetings for dialogue, although dialogue is the very thing we have been calling for. On the return to Yemen from exile, Mr Al-Jifri has said it is conditional on the realization of favourable atmosphere to play an active role in nation-building. He insists that the return should have political rather than humanitarian character.

As for the recently endorsed Local Administration Law, Mr Al-Jifri commented by saying "Regrettably, the government persisted on endorsing a Local government law, which envisages no authority to the administrators themselves or the local communities."

Text of the interview on page 7

Businessmen Are Also Not Immune to Violence

Businessman Tawfeeq Al-Khamiry was the victim of a violent assault last Saturday at around 9:30 pm in Al-Zubeiry Street, near the Chinese embassy. He was followed by a car carrying a group of men from Murad tribe, from the Governorate of Marib, who opened fire on his car and the cars of accompanying bodyguards. They were said to be at least 6 men fully armed with automatic rifles. He was hit his right thigh while at the same time four of his bodyguards were seriously injured. In the exchange of fire that ensued, one of the attackers was seriously injured and was taken to Al-Thawrah Hospital, another was arrested and the rest

fled, and the the place. Soon later, not about to ignore their captured friend, another group from, who it is said, come from the same tribe assaulted the Criminal Investigations Jail seeking to release their captive accomplice. But his attempt was futile free the captive but failed. Al-Khamiry was soon taken to hospital, and is not in serious condition. It is worth noting that Mr. Tawfik Al-Khamiry is a son in law of the Speaker of Parliament, Mr. Abdulla Hussein A-Ahmar. The incident may have been an attempt to seek blood revenge. Mr Al-Khamiry's brother Nabilo was once kidnapped and released after payment of a large ransom said to be in the tune of US \$ 500,000.



Al-Dhali'a Residents call for the Demilitarization of their Province

In a statement issued by the Coordination Council of the Opposition Parties in Al-Dhali'a, on the 19th of February, it stated that the Governorate is exposed to security measures that are too excessive and that the local residents of the Governorate are finding it extremely difficult to live normal lives, not to mention the fear of seeing a lot of military hardware, and repression from the various enforcement agencies of the government. It is worth noting that the Governor of Al-Dhali'a Mr. Saleh Al-Juneid denied that he was subjected to an assassination attempt. Security and military officials refuted all charges and claims that there is not too much of a security presence in the area,

claiming these to be the efforts of those who exaggerate normal security operations that all the governorates of the republic are subjected to. Many of the residents claim that the Dhali'a Governor is liked by the people and that there are security and military interests that wish to create tensions there because they do not want him there because he responds favorably with the people's needs. Some sources claim that there are around 160 arrests due to confrontations between the security forces and the residents and all due to roundup of who security officials presume to be suspects. They claim that such arrests occur without due process of law.

US Embassy Refutes Local Press Assertion of Appointed New Ambassador

The US Embassy in Sana'a confirmed in a press release that the Government of Yemen has granted "no objection" for the nomination of Ms. Marjorie Ransom as the next Ambassador to Yemen. The Embassy clarified that Ms. Ransom must still be formally nominated by President Clinton and, more importantly, must under their Constitution, receive the consent of the U.S. Senate. The release indicated that there was no way to predict how long this process may take and it was inappropriate for them to speculate and that US ambassadors were the representatives of the US President; the senate's role was that of confirmation only.



Barbara Bodine



Marjorie Ransom

If she is confirmed by the Senate, Ms. Ransom will be expected to arrive sometimes the coming summer to replace Ambassador Barbara Bodine

whose normal tour of duty is tentatively scheduled to end this summer. The release confirmed that that was normal and expected and that all career diplomats serving as ambassadors around the world who arrived at their posts anytime in 1997 were scheduled to be transferred this summer. The release came in response to a 26th September Newspaper article which had announced the Yemeni Government approval of the new Ambassador before, in fact, the formalities had even been finalized in the USA.

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Editorial

Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
Chief Editor

Describing some Teachers at Sana'a University: ACADEMIC DICTATORS

As a newspaper widely read by the student community, we have been receiving several complaints about the current conditions of Sana'a University. Some of them are so extreme that I felt that the least I should do is launch a survey to identify the problems and seek for solutions.

One of the most frequently received complaints is the treatment of some instructors to their students. The most horrifying story we have heard in some time is what a female student said,

"15 minutes before the start of the exam, a girl next to me was reviewing her notes as a final preparation for the exam, which would start at 9:00 in the morning. Then just as we were about to remove the books and notes off the table, the instructor came into the room. In a loud voice he said, 'come on, prepare yourselves for the exam, I said take away these books' as the students started removing their books off the tables, he noticed that the girl was not as fast as she should, perhaps as she knew that there was more than 10 minutes left. Suddenly, and with an intimidating action, he threw the girls books on the floor near the room's door. The girl then stood up and gathered her books and politely asked the instructor 'Professor, why did you do this? Why did you throw my books?' then he said, 'So, you didn't like it, heh?' and he demanded her to go out of the room. She refused his orders. Then in an unexpected reaction, he grabbed her from her arms and pushed her out of the class. This dramatic scene left the other girl who told us the story astonished, angry, frustrated, and sympathetic, all at once. The humiliation that the girl went through in being kicked out of the room for no obvious reason, and in front of all the students is surely a serious matter that could affect her life forever.

What is even more frustrating is the reaction of the other students, who stayed in their chairs as if nothing happened. They all might have thought of their own interest, and their interest to pass the exam requires that they all obey blindly what their master (instructor here) says, and they should always try to satisfy him in every way they can. Otherwise, they may have to suffer of the consequences: academic failure.

This incident is probably one of so many that happen simultaneously in many Sana'a University departments and colleges. The mentality of an instructor in having the power to humiliate, insult, or by dismissing a student from entering an exam, and hence depriving his/her from a student's basic academic rights, is surely not a good point in favor of the university.

What is happening?

Why are instructors turning vicious these days?

Is it their low salaries that they often complain about?

Is it that there are no monitoring procedures to see how these instructors are treating their students?

Is it because students' rights are not respected by the administration of the university?

All these questions will be asked several academic professors and administrators in Sana'a University, and we expect an answer to them all. Yet anything they say will never justify what is being done to the poor students. Are these monster instructors who we are submitting our students to? Are these teachers who we have trusted to take care of and teach our children?

Don't these teachers know that their profession is an extremely noble responsibility that contains within it a huge burden of being compassionate and friendly to their students? Have they forgotten that these students should be as close to them as their own children? Don't they understand that teaching them with respect and dignity, making them loves their academic studies more and more, and being their idols, are in fact, vital for their academic success?

To all these dictators who call themselves teachers, I would like to say, "Yemen Times is coming to get you." We are about to launch a huge campaign against the ones who abuse their academic position, and think they are untouchable. Once we understand who they are by students' testimonies (without revealing the student names), we plan to submit a report to the administration, and expect speedy and tough action. On the other hand, not all instructors are of this type. I cannot deny that there are noble and honorable instructors, and I expect these to side by the students for their rights.

I know the President of the University, and know that he will stand by the students in their rightful fight against the dictators disguised as normal university instructors. We will track them down, and that's a promise we are proud to give to our readers, especially our student readers! But please note that we are not out on a witch hunt. We will do everything possible to verify complaints before taking action.

In Brief

Refugees Camps On Fire
Fires erupted on Wednesday 16.2.2000 in three Somalians refugee camps in Abian in south Yemen. Security sources in the camps told Yemen Times that the fire was caused by leakage of gas while one of the refugees was making wine and that a number of suspected had been arrested for investigation.

At another level, some newspapers have recently reported the spread of AIDS and other kinds of diseases among the refugees.

American Delegation Arrives in Yemen

A high-ranking official delegation representing the American Congress and the National Council for Arab-American Relations, headed by Mr. John Abi Nader, member of the Council, arrived in Sana'a Saturday 19.2. 2000 on a week-long visit to Yemen. In a statement to Saba, Abi Nader said that he would meet Yemeni officials to discuss bilateral relations between the two countries as well as means to enhance them. He also said that the delegation would get acquainted with the democratic experiment in Yemen and visit some historical sites.

Legislation, From Bad to Worse

Mr. Alaa Qaoud from the Human Rights Watch(HRW), New York, visited Yemen last week. During the visit, he met a number of journalists, lawyers, intellectuals, politicians and social figures in Aden, Taiz and Sana'a. In his visit to Yemen Times' offices in Sana'a at the end of last week he expressed his gladness with the paper, its focus on human rights as well as the its publication of human rights reports, "that would raise the people's awareness about journalism, women and children rights and torture issues," he said. Speaking about legislation, he said that they were moving from bad to worse and that Yemen needed a work team that believed in human rights.

Mr. Qaoud left for USA Friday 18 after promising of another visit to enhance the role of HRW in Yemen.

Trial of Abass Qalib, Chief Editor of Al-Methaq Continues

Eastern, Sana'a court, chaired by Judge Hamoud Qaith took up on Sunday the case of Mr. Abass Qalib, Editor-in Chief of Al-Methaq newspaper organ of the ruling party. He is accused by misbehavior against Arab and foreign newspapers and news agencies correspondents. The court session listened to decisions of the prosecution at the presence of advocates Yaseen Abdulrazaq and Ali

Mohammed Al-Masmari, representatives of the the correspondents. The session was postponed till Tuesday February 29, 2000. Al-Methaq newspaper and its Chief Editor had published an article late last year full abuses against correspondents of Arab and foreign newspapers and news agencies accusing them of telling lies and forgery, a matter made them sue the newspaper and its chief editor.

Strike up in Taiz

On Saturday, February 19, 2000, Taiz witnessed a strike up in schools due to the negligence of the education office in Taiz. Teachers have not received their salaries of January yet.

EC Increases Aids to Yemen

The Brussels-based European Commission has decided to increase financial aid to Yemen. With this regard, 50 million has been allocated for supporting development and public services projects and the economic program for 2000 marking an increase of 26 millions compared to 1999. This was preceded by the allocation of 137 million for the same purpose. The increase is said to be one of the fruits of the visit President Ali Abdullah Saleh paid to Belgium and the European Commission. At another level, a delegation from the EC is expected to visit Yemen to meet with Yemeni officials and talk about further projects that the European Commission will be support.

Workshop on Food Security

The Society for International Development (SID / Rome-Italy) in cooperation with the Scientific Council for Systems and Applied Sciences (SCSAS / Sana'a-Yemen) held the First National Workshop on Food Security, Social Mobilization and Community Empowerment in Yemen on 20-21 of February at SCSAS' hall. Discussions centered on the impact of financial and structural adjustment on Food Security Programs, natural resources and food production and cost-effectiveness in the Agricultural process. Participants from the government, local NGOs, International Donors, Local Society and others attended the event.

Supporting The Yemeni Demining Program

UNDP represented by Mr. James Rawley signed an agreement February 19 with the Yemeni Demining Program represented by Mr. Mutahar Al-Saeedi, Minister of State for the Cabinet Affairs, head of the National Committee for Demining to support the Yemeni Demining Program. The total cost of

the program reached \$ 1,555,459, donated by UNDP, US government, Japan, Norway and Yemen.

390 Members At The Journalists Syndicate

The Membership Confirmation Committee at the Journalists Syndicate reported that 390 journalists were enrolled as active members at the Syndicate; 151 in the Capital Secretariat, 170 in Aden, 21 in Hadramout, 18 in Taiz, 13 in Lahj, 7 in Abian and 10 in Hodeidah, 17 non-active members, 212 associate members and 24 in probationary period. The Syndicate rejected 178 requests to join it and was still looking into more requests. The Committee requested Chairman of the Syndicate, Mr. Mahboob Ali, to make a decision with regard to memberships confirmation and the date of distributing the new IDs.

Crime's Ratio Decreases In 1999

An official source in the Interior Ministry stated that crime's ratio in 1999 decreased sharply in comparison with 1998. The ratio of discovered crimes in 1999 is 93.6% "The Interior Ministry has future prospects for the year 2000 in terms of expanding Central Prisons in some governorates and establishing Central Prisons in Al-Dala'a and Imran governorates. We'll also make available all the equipment and tools necessary for training and qualifying prisoners", he said in an interview to Al-Wahdah newspaper.

However, he did not elaborate on whether the new prisons will be provided by the iron shackles existing in Yemeni prisons since the Imam's rule.

American Ambassador Visits Al-Ghayda to Donate Medical Supplies

American Ambassador Barbara K. Bodine visited Al-Ghayda on the 16th of February to deliver medical supplies donated by the United States government to the people of Yemen. The shipment has an approximate value of \$ 5000. It includes a number of different medical items including orthopedic bandages and surgical instruments, sterile blood-drawing supplies, antibiotics and oxygen equipment. The donation reflects the American government's long-standing commitment to assist with improving health care and medical services in Yemen.

Ambassador Bodine toured the local medical facility in Al-Ghayda and met with the governor and other local officials. She was accompanied by Dr. Abdulkarim Shaiban, Deputy Minister of Health and several U.S. Embassy officials.

At another level Ambassador Bodine will present to Dr. Abdulla Abdulwali Nasher, Minister of Public Health a donation of medical supplies worth close to \$500,000. The donation includes surgical instruments, sterile bandages, intravenous infusion devices, microscopes, laboratory equipment and a wide assortment of other essential health care supplies provided to the Yemeni people as part of

U.S. government involvement in the Yemeni Humanitarian Program. The ceremony is taking place today at the American Embassy at 10:00 am.

Canadian Donates Iron-Folate Tablets to Yemen

A 12 tone shipment containing 4 million tablets has arrived in Hodeidah port as a donation from the Government of Canada made through UNICEF to reduce the prevalence of iron deficiency anemia (IDA) The donation is estimated to be \$ 80,000 and it will assist the Ministry of Health to provide all pregnant women visiting the Mother and Child Centers throughout the country with the iron-folate tablets.

Al-Shoura Refuses to Pay Its Dues to Noman

Ashoura newspaper board of directors is still refusing to pay its arrears to the former Editor-in-Chief Noman Qaeid who has been discharged from his post before the end of his contract with the paper despite the judgment passed by Sana'a court in his favor.

A signature-collecting campaign is being launched by colleagues of the profession, men of law and non-governmental organizations in solidarity with Mr. Noman especially after the Popular Forces Federation refused to pay him the arrears.

Attagammu (Yemeni Unitary Congregation) and Al-Usbooa (Independent) newspapers publish lists of names of those supporting Mr Noman. The report of Human Rights Committee issued two weeks ago pointed out several breaches the journalists in Yemen are subject to and Mr. Noman is one of them, in spite of the court decision in his favor.

Yemenia Auto Test Speed Course 2000

Organized by Mr. Saeed Al-Saud, founder of Yemeni competitor establishment which is specialized in all kinds of motor-sports such as auto test, desert challenging, rallies and hill climbing. The test is sponsored directly by the Yemenia Airways and indirectly by Yemecin Technology and Al-Thawrah Industrial Complex. The test will take place in the Seventeen Stadium on February 25, 2000 from 8 a.m. The invitation is open for interested men and women as there will be two categories. This is third of its kind to happen in Yemen.

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Indian Association - Hodeidah

The Indian Association, Hodeidah celebrated the Eid-Christmas- New Year-Pongal- Republic Day Festival on 28 January 2000 in Lailat Omer Hall, Hodeidah. Mr. Yousef Abdulghani Wadood, Chairman, Salahudin Industries, Hodeidah was the chief guest at the Festival. He inaugurated the Festival and gave the Eid message. In his address, he also announced a contribution of 10000 years to the Association. There were cultural programmes by children and members of the Indian community. About 150 members of the Indian community attended the Festival.

Technology of the Age at

APOLLO Sana'a EXPO CENTRE

Sponsored by the biggest commercial companies in Yemen Al-Jazeera Information Technology and Communication Show is held in APOLLO hall, Sana'a Expo Center 20-25 February, 2000.

The show was inaugurated by the minister of communications, the chairman of the board of directors of the state establishment of cable and wireless communications, Engineer Ahmed Mohammed Al-Ansi.

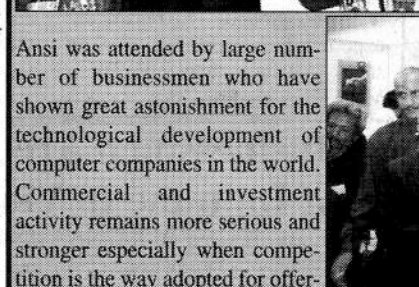
Mr Al-Ansi expressed satisfaction for holding the show and his thanks that the ministry of communications to sponsor it. The show is considered a developed technology added to the information asset so that Yemen could keep pace with the best countries in this field.

More than 30 business companies specialized in the field of computer are taking part in the show among them NIIT, Yemen Computer Company Limited, Tihama Computer and Peripherals LTD, Yemen Soft for Programs and Consultations, Smartech Trading Company LTD, Yemen



Technology and other trade investment companies that introduced computer and information technology to the Yemen market.

The show opened at 9:30 a.m. Monday 20.2. 2000 by the minister of communications engineer Ahmed Al-



Ansi was attended by large number of businessmen who have shown great astonishment for the technological development of computer companies in the world.

Commercial and investment activity remains more serious and stronger especially when competition is the way adopted for offering services.



A great variety of computer monitor screens of different world trade marks are today displayed before the businessmen, these that have changed the world into a small village. Any visitor who intends to get acquainted with the latest in the world of computer can visit APOLLO, Sana'a Expo Centre to obtain what he likes of information technology.

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Independent

Maalla and Tawahi Residents Felt Quakes:

Maalla and Tawahi residents, Aden governorate were awakened by two quakes Thursday morning. A number of them called Al-Ayyam on the same day and reported to have felt two quakes at 4:35 a.m. and 5:05 a.m. Al-Ayyam contacted the Djibouti Airport Earthquake Observation Center, which confirmed that two quakes were observed by the Center, but it couldn't confirm whether they were natural quakes or resulted from some action.

Call for Gathering at British Ministry:

A leaflet was distributed yesterday in London calling on those who residing in the United Kingdom and belong to the southern and eastern governorates of the Republic of Yemen to gather and attend a mass demonstration opposite the British Ministry of Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs. A movement calling itself the Movement for Self-Determination for the South Arabian State distributed the leaflet. Al-Ayyam received a copy of the leaflet.

Child Transported by Helicopter:

The 8 year-old child Musa'ed Saleh bin Gahraz was transported by a helicopter of the armed forces last Tuesday because of his critical health condition which needed prompt movement to hospital. Musa'ed, from Rakhiyyah Province, Hadhramout Governorate, was unintentionally hit by a bullet while a brother of his was playing with a pistol. He was hit under his right eye. At Al-Qatn hospital to which he was first brought, doctors ordered his prompt movement to Sana'a, but not over land. His family approached the Armed Forces asking for his movement to Sana'a by helicopter which was agreed to.

AL-SHUMOA'
Independent

Cautions Against Dealings with 239 Businessmen:

Banks active in Yemen are the victims of the most serious assassination actions through unpayment of bank loans. Despite the alarms raised by the Central Bank of Yemen to these banks against providing any facilities or loans to indebted businessmen, who didn't settle their loans some banks

just found it useless to stop doing so especially when such indebted businessmen are share holders of the same banks.

In such circumstances economists have noticed severe and fast retreat of investment in development and banks are reluctant to finance such projects. Many rumors on hot commission making and fraud cases in which bank officials colluded with businessmen whose names were included in the list distributed by the Central Bank of Yemen are heard. Deals are made through moving these loans to the list of dead and uncollectable debts.



RA'Y
Sons of Yemen
League

Hadhramout Nasserite Leader Defects to League:

Mr. Abdurrahim Ba Wazir, Democratic Nasserite Party Politburo member and Chairman of its Hadhramout branch announced that he is resigning from the party and joining the Sons of Yemen League. During an interview with Ra'y he indicated that he has concluded his League accession procedures and expressed his happiness to be awarded the honor of joining the established and pioneer League.

American Officials Hold Important Talks in Sana'a:

Ambassador Edward Walker, the American Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East and North Africa Affairs held undisclosed important talks yesterday with high Yemeni officials, while Admiral Moore, leader of the 5th. American Navy, which belongs to the Central Command, attended the inauguration party of the premises of the National Demining Committee. Mr. Walker, accompanied by his deputy Mr. Newman, met yesterday President Saleh, The Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The talks were dedicated to the bilateral relations and the developments of the Middle East Peace Process.

Student Shoots Headmaster:

The attack by a Hayel School student on its Headmaster and the break into another school and forcing its teachers and students out have raised a high wave of anger and dismay among education workers and laborers that might develop into a partial strike.

Mr. Issam Al-A'abed was admitted into the intensive care unit at Al-Thawra Hospital after he was shot by a student at school. In another incident

an armed gang broke into Martyr Mohammed Ismail School claiming to be looking for a student causing a lot of fear among the students and teachers and forcing them to leave the school. The Syndicate of Educational Professions called for a partial strike in the western area of Sana'a in protest and threatened to further expand the strike if demands to penalize the culprits were not met.



AL-WAHDAWI
Popular Nasserite
Organization

An Attempt to Assassinate Dr. Hamidi Fails:

An attempt on the life of Dr. Abdulla Al-Hamidi, the General Director of the Republican Hospital failed last Tuesday. An unidentified person brought an advertisement bag containing a hand grenade to Dr. Hamidi's home, delivered it to one of those at home and asked that it be given to Dr. Hamidi personally when he is back. He gave a false name and left. Dr. Hamidi was back at home by 9 a.m. and was given the bag that he found very heavy. He couldn't remember anybody in the name given by the unidentified person. When the doctor opened the bag he found the grenade and promptly summoned the police.

Undeclared American Mediation Between Yemen and Saudi Arabia:

The Joint Yemeni Saudi Arabian Military Committee continues meets today to examine the border land marks that were renewed according to Al-Taif Agreement amid reports on an American mediation to solve the border issue.

The Yemeni side of the Committee had withdrawn from its last meeting because the Saudi side insisted to limit the work to maps only without any field activities.

These developments coincided with a statement by the American Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs in which he said that he heard from the Yemeni side its understanding of the border issue and that he will convey to the Saudi side. When asked whether that was some kind of mediation he declined to consider it in such a way, but he added that his country would like to see this dispute soled through negotiations, the sooner the better.

What is Behind Visits of Jewish Delegations?

The Yemeni authorities didn't limit [contacts] to the cultural exchanges

within art activities or to the 'seeds of peace' program at the United States attended by the Zionist entity, nor to the secret meetings held to exchange poems of 'Shabazi' or to consider these visits as aiming to discuss the conditions in which the Jews of Sa'dah live.

May the Yemeni authorities revise their wrong calculations? Do Yemeni officials know that entering the quagmire of normalizing relations [with Israel] and diving in its mud compromises the cause of a people and a nation?

Lastly. Shall the Government of Yemen and its officials unveil the causes behind these repeated suspicious visits? Or may be these official mouthpieces are over whelmed by sleep on a Jewish carpet



AL-BALAGH
Independent

Details of White's Kidnapping:

Search for the American had continued for several days until it was determined that he was kept at a village in Al-Jawf. The security forces surrounded the village and demanded the prompt release of Mr. White and cautioned against inflicting any harm upon him. At this point mediators hurried in order to accomplish the release of the kidnapped. A report said that the kidnapping costed 6 million Yemeni Rials.

On the other hand, Sheikh Hamood Adharihi, agent of the Al-Munqidh Company denied that the company played any role in the kidnapping or had any information about it. He said, "It is a single-handed act by some share holders and neither the Company nor the Islah party had any thing to do with it."

He added that negotiations for the release of Mr. White were held directly between Government and the shareholders who kidnapped him and not between Government and the Company or him as its agent.

He denied having any details about any payments made for the release of Mr. White. He added that the amount of money due to Al-Munqidh Company is 67 billion Y. Rials. It shrunk to 36 billions after many attachments were deducted. He said that the company was ready to accept even a _ of this amount but Government continued to refuse, and we don't know about any promises that were reached between Government and the kidnappers.



AL-SAHWAH
Yemeni Islah Party

Ruling Party's Media Hysteria Increases

The ruling Party's media organs continue to suffer from a hysteria of spreading its accusations and play the role of courts in one party ruled systems.

Political and media sources explained this condition of confusion that some forces are trying to escalate conflict between the Islah Party and the People's General Congress in order to fulfil their own personal interests in power conflict by taking the most inflexible positions.

Sources pinpointed the serious contradiction between this hysterical campaign led against the Islah from within the PGC, by accusing the Islah of being behind troubles and disorders while the plain facts show clearly that a number of kidnappers were appointed to high civil and military posts and received millions of Rials from Government.

The Fruits of an Old Plan:

At the beginning of the 20th. Century a conference was held in Cairo by preachers of Christianity who were complaining to each other because Muslims were found very difficult to be converted to Christianity. They declared that they were hopeless of their mission. But Zuwaimer - a Jew who claimed to be a Christian to be

able to deceive other people more easily- said: We don't need to bring Muslims into the Church, we need only to bring them out of Mosques, and suffice!

He also said that the education of women is the guarantee that their plan shall succeed, because he knew that if women are corrupted they move corruption into newer generations. Some people when they read this may understand that we are against the education of women. We don't object the education of women because we know that ignorant women were the cause of our backwardness. We are keener on educating women. But what should women learn? Licentiousness and corruption. Shall the secular West be our teacher?



AL-OSBOA
Independent

A Call for the Expulsion of a Lawyer Lawyer Yassin Aburrazzaq demanded in a letter to other lawyers attending the currently held 3rd. Conference of the Yemeni Lawyers Syndicate and to the representatives of the Arab Lawyers Union that lawyer Hafedh Abdulla Fadhel to the Disciplining Council and expulsion from the list of participants in the Conference because of his visit to Israel at the end of 1996. He demanded also that Mr. Fadhel be compelled to surrender his passport on which he got a visa from the Cairo Embassy of the Zionist entity.

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Seminar on "Insurance for Industrial Plant" Arranged by United Insurance Co., For Aden Refinery

In consistent with its believe in dedication for a quality insurance services to its clients, United Insurance, the leading Yemeni Insurance Co., has invited Mr. George Kabban a Director of United Insurance Brokers U.I.B. the International Reinsurance Broker based in London and Mr. Gordan Faultless from Associated Risk Management to address a seminar on the subject 'Insurance for Industrial Plant' at the Aden Refinery Company (ARC) on 14th Feb. 2000 and also a two days survey of the risk in order to update the Refinery management with the standard and quality of the risk.

The opening ceremony of the seminar was attended by the Deputy Executive Manager of the Refinery Mr. Yousef Quliqel and the General Manager of United Insurance Company Mr. Tarek A Hayel Saeed.

The seminar aimed to inform the

senior managers of the refinery on the importance of the risk management & insurance for their Industrial Plant.

At the beginning of the seminar, Mr. Yousef Quliqel, Vice Executive Manager of Aden Oil Refinery gave an address, expressing his happiness for holding the training course by United Insurance Company. He gave a speech on behalf of the Executive Manager, "I would like to welcome Mr. George and Gordan and all the members of United Insurance Company visiting Aden Oil Refinery."

He said that it was a good opportunity to express his gratitude and regards to the members of United Insurance. He added that the seminar was a good indication of coordination and at the same time it is an extended initiative for benefiting from this type of insurance. As a matter of fact, having an insurance company holding such a

scientific seminar on ways for protection against the dangers of fires is quite a unique and appreciable effort.

"There is no awareness of the insurance against fire in our country. However, we particularly urge the employees to benefit from this seminar as much as they can because insurance is quite a huge field that covers various areas including pertaining to fire, maintenance, properties, incidents, etc.. We also urge the staff of the United Insurance Company to clarify to the audience the insurance aspects upon which we would no longer discourage the insurance policy. We want them to tell us about the benefits that we may get from insurance just as insurance companies benefit from us. Without awareness about insurance, we would not be able to do much. Hence, we must exchange information and benefit from each others experience. We would like to come out with good resolutions from this seminar," he added.

The first part of the seminar covered the way the international insurance industry operates and some of the types of insurance available for major companies like ARC.

The second part of the presentation explained how insurance compa-



Lecturers at the "Insurance for Industrial Plant"

nies assess the risks which they are being asked to accept, principally by having a risk survey carried out by approved, qualified engineer.

The final part of the seminar covered ways of managing risk, looking at how the management can work to reduce the risk and when it should transfer the risk to the insurance company. Two case studies were given, illustrated by videos, of major fires in the oil industry, which identified some useful lessons which could be learned by the management of refineries.

The participants in the seminar have also listened to a lecture

given by Mr. Gordan Faultless and Mr. George J. Kabban. Both experts explained the aim behind insuring installations, the types of insurances, the relationship between the insurer and the insured as well as re-insurance that cover machines, equipment, buildings and real estates. There was also an explanation of the types of damage that could be covered by insurance and those that are not covered. He also described the damage expected to affect properties, equipment and buildings, how they are affected and the way of avoiding them.

Geometrical drawings and graphs were also demonstrated to illustrate these dangers, the measures

to prevent them, reduction of damage and the ways to offer these potentials and advice to the workers of the refinery company. Live pictures of fires in oil storage were shown as an example accompanied with explanation on how such incidents usually happen.

The seminar was concluded by long discussions between the participants especially the workers of Aden Oil Refinery and of the members of the United Insurance Company. The workers and technicians of Aden Oil Refinery expressed satisfaction over organising the seminar from which they have benefited much in this particular field of insurance in industrial plants.



Yemen Times Participates in the International Seminar: The Right to Know: human rights, censorship and access to Information

During 6-11 February, a Seminar co-organized by the British Council and the Article 19 Organization was held in Oxford, UK with the title of "The Right to Know: human rights, censorship and access to information." Yemen was represented in the seminar by the Chief Editor of Yemen Times, Walid Al-Saqqaf who brought several important issues and concerns about the freedom of expression and access to information in Yemen.

The British Council through the International Networking Events is among the most active establishments in the UK in organizing seminars about various issues that are of great importance, especially to developing countries. It has been quite clear from the messages and invitations we get to attend seminars all over the world from the British Council in Yemen that it is indeed among the most active British Council Branches in the world. The seminar was organized and administered by several qualified and prominent figures in the field of freedom of expression and information. Several rep-

resentatives (University of Oxford, Stephens Innocent Solicitors, Consumers' Association, Friends of the Earth) journalists from the Guardian newspaper, and other intellectuals, advisors, and professors.

The seminar discussed several issues, among them were extremely important issues and sample cases that could be of great importance, especially to countries with transitional democracies like Yemen. These topics were:

- The right to know under international law
- Legislating for Freedom of Information
- Principles regarding freedom of information legislation including access to information in situations of armed conflict
- The environment and access to information
- Freedom of information and the media as a public watchdog
- Insult and defamation laws and international standards on the protection of sources
- National security, access to information and protection of sources from journalists' viewpoint



transition. We have undergone a lot of difficulties in implementing more open environments for the press and the public to speak its mind. After the Unity of Southern and Northern Yemen in 1990, the leadership adopted a multi-party democratic system. The system enabled parties to ground their own mouthpiece newspapers, and in a record time resulted in the birth. The right to know is a vital right for every human being. It should be thought as a right that should not be requested, it is something that comes automatically in any democratic system. After the free press phenomenon began spreading among people, several strong critical issues were brought in the press in a blunt and strong matter. This is what we should expect in such conditions. Everyone has the right to speak, and the public has the right to be adequately informed and know what is going on.

However, sadly speaking, the government was not so flexible recently as it used to be before the 1994 civil war. There are several newspapers that have been closed because of the war, and there were several newspapers that stood trial. One of these newspapers is Yemen Times. However, in time, the government realized that in fact free speech is in its favor and not against it. It shows it how to operate, it explains to it its points of weakness in order to correct them, and it also operates as a public watchdog that plays a major role in identifying corrupt people and pinpoints the mistakes the government makes."

Legislating for Freedom of Information

Al-Saqqaf's point of view focused on legislative problems related to freedom of expression. He asserted the fact that legislating concerning access to information if needed, must be implemented in a way that secures a independent, just, and relatively flexible legislation that while granting the public access to information, should not interfere in private issues of citizens. "Freedom of expres-

sion should not be thought of as an extra privilege, it is a right of every Yemeni citizen. Over the years, we realized that the government does not always say the truth. Hence, without freedom of expression, no one would be able to convey the facts to the public in the appropriate manner. Our role as Yemen Times should be a public watchdog, which must always deliver the facts as they are whether for or against the government. The freedom of expression cannot be obtained unless the government realizes that having it is a vital step towards a truly democratic system," he added.

Media Monopoly and Globalization

He also commented on the monopoly that still exists over the electronic media, including TV and radio broadcasting, and the Internet. Al-Saqqaf explained that media monopoly is a method used in some dictatorships to control the flow and type of information that reaches most of the population. He said, "In the case of Yemen, where most of the people are illiterate, the main source of information is usually TV and radio. Hence, when controlling and filtering the information broadcasted in these two quite influential instruments, the state has in fact controlled access to information in general. Nowadays, we are living in a world which is going through extreme globalization which is slowly degrading the importance of geographical borders between nations. The technology of satellite TV transmission for instance, has enabled the people even in the rural areas to know what is happening in their country from a TV channel located outside the country before getting the information from the national TV itself. This has caused a lot of humiliation to national TV channels which makes it clear the uselessness of hiding very important information from the public while this information has become available all over the world, and has been accessed by most of the population."

Continue on page 7



Yemen Times Chief Editor, Walid Al-Saqqaf Commenting

representatives and key figures in the Article 19 Organization gave speeches and commented on the seminar issues. Among these were:

- Andrew Puddephat, Executive Director, Article 19 (See interview in this issue)
- Toby Mendel, Head of the Law Program, Article 19
- Katherine Huxtable, Press Officer, Article 19
- Fiona Harrison, Head of Europe Program, Article 19
- Dr. John Lunn, Africa Program, Article 19

There was also a wide range of intellectuals from international organizations (Amnesty International, Commonwealth Press Union) media organs such as the famous Guardian, academic and local

- The legal framework, role and function of public service broadcasting
- Media monopolies and the public's right to know
- The Internet and freedom of information: Regulation, self-regulation or no regulation?
- Internet service providers: law and practice
- International, regional and domestic Internet regulation: case, contradictions and trends
- The right to truth: Access to information and accounting for past human rights violations

With regards to freedom of expression and the right to know, Yemen's representative, Walid Al-Saqqaf said, "Yemen is a country going through a democratic

SILVER LINING

Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi,
Managing Editor

NGOs, GONGOs or NGIs??!

There are several yardsticks whereby we can measure the existence and evolution of civil society. One of such yardsticks is NGOs which stand for Non-Governmental Organization. NGOs refer to voluntary non-profit organizations which belong to neither government nor the private for-profit business sector. This is the basis of the NGOs and the main purpose for which they are established is that they can be of a vital role in streamlining a sustainable development process in a society. So far, there are around 2000 NGOs in Yemen. But are they all functioning properly?

Well folks, the problem of NGOs in Yemen lies in the fact that the government is openly trying to mushroom the GONGOs (Government-Organized Non-Governmental Organizations) at the expense of NGOs. The authorities are openly converting any trace of NGOs into GONGOs. In fact, the government tries its best to control NGOs and direct their work. Sometimes, it tries to trouble them and bring them into a halt.

What is funny about it is that if one wants to establish an NGO, s/he has to get it registered at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Right now everything is okay. But the permit will not be given unless one or two of the civil servants of the ministry are included in the Board of Trustees of the wanted-to-be-established NGO. Unless you do that, you are not entitled to establish an NGO. This is why we find the honorary presidents of most of the existing NGOs among the high ranking officials in the society. Therefore, the aim of the government to control NGOs is, in fact, a decision which aims to reduce the pace of evolution and growth of civil society in Yemen. Moreover, it troubles the participation of people in public life for which NGOs have been made.

The other aspect of the problem NGOs are put into is this. To put it straightforward, NGOs in any society can not operate without any financial support. This is normal since they are voluntary and non-profit. The lack of financial sources have made some NGOs come into a halt. However, the main problem facing NGOs process in Yemen is that they have become self-serving. Some people think that the shortest way to self-enrichment is to establish an NGO. Some foreigners have started mocking at NGOs in Yemen. They rather call them NGIs which stand for Non-Governmental Individuals. In addition, some donor countries are thinking to stop dealing with some NGOs in Yemen because they have found them easy sources for self-enrichment for some individuals. That is, instead of using the donations to improve the conditions and prospects of the less advantaged groups in the society, they use them for their own interest.

Last week I was in a qat chatting with some friends. We started discussing several topics among which is the problem of NGOs in Yemen. Some put it like this. They argue that some NGOs do not have visible and substantial programs and mechanisms of how to help guide sustainable development of the society. Others add that people in charge of NGOs limit their work to holding seminars or workshops thinking this is the ultimate goal of the work of NGOs. Yes guys, seminars are important but they should be held to highlight the work which has targeted the disadvantaged.

Mind you, there are some NGOs which are doing well having good programs.

Finally, I think there is a need to educate people about the work of NGOs and their role in development. Furthermore, NGOs should have fully-fledged plans and programs to be achieved in the long run. There must be coordination between the NGOs working in the same field and all NGOs at large. Above all, people should comprehend the fact that NGOs are voluntary and non-profitable. Otherwise, NGOs will turn into NGIs. Have you got the message?!



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How Far Should the Playing Field be Levelled ?!



Tawfiq Abdullah Al-Dubhani,
MSC, International Economics,
SCOTLAND

2nd in a series

Nevertheless, the ideas of free international trade are rooted in the so-called Havana Charter, initiated by the US-Department of State in the 1930s. The main policy adopted by many nations in the 1930s, related to international trade, was characterized by increasing protectionism or what has been termed as (bigger my neighbors), leading to series of adverse effects for many nations and in particular for major exporters such as the USA. As the U.S. exports have declined due to increasing protectionism, the US-Government has approved the act for bilateral trade agreement based on the principle of Reciprocity, i.e. when a country is getting concession on export, it should also allow for a weighted concession on its imports. This principle has been brought forward to be included in the proposed Havana Charter and remained as an essential part of the main principles within the new established WTO. Without extending the explanation in his regard, since the WTO could not be established, it came at the second half of the 1940s to the agreement on an alternative forum under the so-called General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The initial members were mainly those that have signed Reciprocal trade agreements with the USA. Thus the U.S. Government has terminated after 12 years the validity of the bilateral reciprocal trade agreement and started to take over the initiative for a unilateral Trade Negotiations under the auspices of the GATT. The first round of Negotiations has been called for in 1947. According to the basic Rules of GATT, countries can come together to discuss and negotiate problems related to trade and any country can become member of the GATT, given the recognition and reliance on the agreed negotiation outcome. Generally speaking, the aim of the GATT has been to provide a framework for the progressive

elimination of all kind of trade barriers, justified by the new-classical economic theories, i.e. through free trade higher economic efficiency and increasing welfare can be attained including the improvement of equity mechanism. Hence the Ultimate Objective of the GATT has been focused on achieving a global free trade based on rules and regulations. Under the auspices of GATT, during the period between 1947-1993, eight rounds of trade negotiations were held, which have accumulated their outcomes over the last 5 decades. Our intentions here will not be get in a detailed discussion with regard to the held negotiation of each GATT round. More important here is to indicate that, the outcome of each round has represented the basis for the next round. Thus the outcome of the last round (the Uruguay Round) has resulted in the recognition of all previous negotiation outcomes, contained in thousands of pages to be the basis, on which future trade exchange and transactions should take place. Moreover, the Uruguay round has succeeded in establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO). The final agreement under the GATT was signed by more than 177 countries (more than 80 are developing count) in March 1993, in Marrakech, compared to only 23 countries which have signed the first GATT outcome in 1947. An important issue to be mentioned here relates to the question who has formulated the principles and all related rules and regulations of the GATT over the last five decades? It is obvious that there have been main players in this rather very long lasting game affecting and linking the course and the content of the WTO basic principles, reflecting mainly their national interests. The players in this context were mainly the USA, the new established EU, Japan, and China. Only few developing countries were passively represented, although they have, as individual countries, very weak economic bargaining power to affect the final outcome agreed upon by the main players. Due to the latter fact, the developing countries, as a group, were repre-

sented under the so-called United Nation Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) which has been established as an institution under the UN-system in the late 1960s to represent the interests of developing countries. Although an increased number of developing countries were directly represented in the last round of GATT Negotiation, in the Uruguay Round from 1986-1993, they merely did not change anything but signed the final outcome and became member of the new established WTO. All members of the WTO are obliged to adjust their domestic and national economic policies accordingly. This will consequently result in the long term in attaining a homogeneous economic policy related to trade world wide, easing the control and linkage all trade and trade related transactions. It will be obvious that, this linkage will be made in favor of the weighted members of the WTO based on two main facts:

- Weighted members have been involved fully in the formulation of all WTO principles and rules and hence they are aware of all relevant future implications. Moreover, these countries have adjusted most of their national trade policies accordingly and can easily adjust any remaining aspects in this regard that make them better off in using the relevant advantages efficiently.

- Weighted countries have established the required insinuations that can provide decision makers in those countries with the appropriate advice and/or information on any future disputes in this field. Additionally these countries are controlling the major part with trade volume world wide enhancing their bargaining power in any future dispute settlements. In this regard, it would be essential to address some points related to the nature of the WTO, as it is the official replacement body of the former GATT, WTO is a legal institute with its headquarters in Geneva. It is concerned to execute and protect all principles rules and regulations related to international trade contained in the former GATT outcome. As an organization WTO is having the necessary power and rights to impose any decision upon any of its country members in the framework of

its functionality. It, initially, will most likely follow up member countries to insure that they adjust their relevant national economic policies and regulations to be qualified and to be integrated in order to suit with the new unified international trading system in accordance with the given status of each country group. This new System has identified 15 Areas of interest under its coverage. On this basis, WTO will be the most powerful unilateral Institute in the long term managing international trade and settling trade related disputes. All other acquired advantages for developing countries resulting from current or previous trade agreements, such as the LOME convention or other bilateral trade concessions, will most likely be terminated in the long term.

It is also to be indicated that under the WTO many areas of interest to developing countries have been excluded or partly neglected such as labor market ad essential tropical and other primary commodities. Due to relative irrelevance of this discussion for our limited topic here, we will not get in depth in this direction. The main objective here is to focus on the likely implications of the WTO package on the developing countries as a group. In this regard it is important here to outline the most likely impacts and adverse effects of the WTO on the developing world despite its timely bound exceptional status. To concentrate on the most essential information regarding the WTO, it is recommended here to demonstrate the most important issues of interests which are likely to affect the course of development in the developing world. Herewith, it is to be addressed that the WTO represents an international legal institution aiming firmly and mainly to liberalize, manage and lead the international legal institution aiming firmly and mainly to liberalize, manage and lead the international trade and related administrative and technical aspects.

Under its responsibilities it is covering 15 areas of interests to international trade. The most important areas for our topic here are agriculture, Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs), the aspects related to the Sanitary and phytosanitary trade related measures. Generally speaking, developing countries and the least developed group among them were provided with certain commitments and have under the WTO regime special and preferential treatments. However, these countries will be dis-

advantaged indirectly in the short term from the ongoing regime in the short term and more impacts are expected in the long term. For developing countries, as a group, the WTO regime implies that these countries are obliged to execute specific reform to be completed by the year 2004. The outcome of this reform has been identified by the WTO to be directed to mainly market access, domestic support, export subsidies, and to the domestic trade related legislation and regulations. Regarding market access, the reform should result in converting all employed non tariff barriers to trade into equivalent quantified tariffs based on a pre identified process of tariffication. The imposed tariffs, including those obtained through the tariffication process, are to be reduced by a minimum of 21% per tariff item. Concerning the domestic support provided to local producers in many developing countries, the required reform should result in cutting down all rather such supports by a minimum of 13% at the year 2004. The export subsidy should be reduced by 24%. All required reductions are relative to the average prevailed figures during the period 1986-88 and should be realized by the year 2004. The least developed countries are exempted from these obligations at this stage. The developed countries are to meet the same principles, however they are obliged generally, with regard to these particular adjustments, to allow for one third more reductions than developing countries. Regarding the required imposed reform in the legislative part resulting from the obvious necessity to meet other obligations under the WTO related to the TRIPs and other applied principles, rules and regulations. This part of adjustment will eventually affects every society without any exceptions. There are so many other issues to be discussed in this regard, however it may suffice here to having outline some important tasks to be aware of. The likely implications of the WTO on the developing countries will be analyzed partially hereafter within a general qualitative analysis regarding the impacts of the three multilateral institutes, WB, IMF and WTO. Nevertheless, it is very essential to keep in mind that the WTO will surely represent an additional burden leading to more pressures on the developing countries that are laying already under the pressure of the WB and IMF related reforms. So far we indicated some essential aspects regarding the three international bodies under consideration in a

rather descriptive and genway. This tripod of multilateral institutions, WB, IMF and WTO, are argued here to represent the main tools or instruments of the new unified international order. Despite their apparent independence from each other in terms of their internal organizational structures, they are functioning in such away so that they are serving towards the same strategy. In this context and to justify this argument it is appropriate to briefly outline some essential common features that represent the fundamental rules for the operation of all three institutes. Meanwhile the following common elements allow these three bodies to functioning in different fields to fulfill complementary activities serving at the end in the same direction, coming out to a unified strategy.

- From an economic point of view, all executed activities of the three bodies are based on the classical, new classical economic theories and related justified arguments which dominate the socioeconomic culture of all western societies.

- Their separated functioning in different fields was a deliberate and necessary action aiming at performing effectively based on a certain level of specialization and at avoiding competitive environment among them. Therefore, they are operating on a rather supplementary basis and utilizing the comparative advantages resulted over time from specialization.

- To reach and maintain a form of legal recognition by international community, it has been assured for all three institutes to be included under the UN-organizational structure. This particular feature has eased their unilateral involvement in the past despite diverse political interests and avoided the possibility for any arrival competitors.

- With exception of the WTO, the WB and IMF are reflecting officially and mostly the interests of their weighted members. However these members are largely the same states that have laid down most of the fundamental rules and principles of the current WTO and still ruling over the political and the economical bargaining power within the ministerial committee under the WTO - system led by the USA and the new EU-members.

- Although major disagreements occurred to establish the WTO at the Briton wood's conference, this essential complementary part of the new system was not given up. The efforts continued till the entire system has been completed in 1993, containing all three institutes.

ISLAM AND INSURANCE

Nageeb Baggash

Little knowledge about insurance in the Arab countries creates misinterpretation of its meaning. This misinterpretation leads to some misunderstanding of its aims and benefits. Some Islamic religious figures have recently called for the idea of prohibiting the system of insurance.

A number of Islamic conferences were being held in Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries to discuss the issue. Most of these countries supported the idea of prohibition. Insurance system, however, is up till now operative in all Arab countries. The reason behind the rejection of the idea of prohibition is that there is no clear Quranic indicator against it. Indeed, there are some reasons that make the idea unreasonable and then unconvincing. Those who support the idea of prohibition have no evidence from the Holy Quran or the Sunna. Their argument is that insurance is a foreign subject or system that is suitable for foreign societies only. Islamic societies are not in need of a system like it because the Islamic teachings cover all that is connected with human life. The idea of prohibition is not supported or declared by all Islamic figures. Islamic figures are divided into three groups. Some are with the legitimacy of insurance, some are of the opinion of its prohibition while the remainder adopt a neutral stance. The group that follows the opinion of legitimacy of insurance says that the Islamic figures who follow the idea of prohibition know nothing about Islamic instructions.

Some Islamic religious figures prohibited dealing with banks. They asked people to deal with the Islamic banks that were established for this aim. They say that dealing with the commercial banks is illegal because they pay interests. The idea of insurance prohibition is based on the same argument. Those who support the thought call for establishing insurance companies based on the Islamic teachings so both of the two groups do not exactly prevent the system of insurance companies that deal with people according to the Islamic principles. Their objective is the prohibition of the system of insurance as a whole. They do not distinguish between its various kinds and assess each in accordance with whether it is harmful or useful. Insurance is sorted into four main categories: Marine, Life, Property and Pecuniary. Each of these is subdivided into sections that may have

one or more forms of policies. Each policy has its own provision and exclusions rather than the general condition and conditions used in all policies. So, the thought about prohibition must rely on good knowledge of the conditions of each and must also be restricted, if necessary, to the type which it is in contrast to our religious principles.

Islam asks us to treat the subjects, that have no clear and direct Quranic teachings according to the general instructions stated in the holy Quran and the Prophet's Sunna. General instructions state that humans should take everything that brings benefits and comfort for them and leave what may hurt them. Dealing with insurance proves that it offers many individual, collective and social benefits. People can benefit from it much. In addition, insurance plays an important role in increasing the national revenue of any country. Thus, there is no reason to stand against it or prohibit it because it is useful and advantageous. Some may say there are certain irregularities and wrong procedures in insurance operations. I reply that this is true but it is a great mistake to claim that these irregularities take place in all insurance companies. If they happen, they will be on argument on who commit them and not on insurance and a system.

From my good study of insurance and its various types and forms my working experience in dealing with it I see no reason for prohibiting it, Insurance is an orderly system. It has clear and direct eight basic principles and about nine limitations which show together the nature of insurance and the way of

exercising it. These principles and limitations can be considered the platform for passing a judgment on insurance system. Those of the opinion of prohibition must study them well. What is worthy to mentioning is that prohibition concentrates much on life insurance because it is against Allah's wish and fate. It clearly they misunderstand it. Life insurance offers great benefits to people and there is no reason to prohibit it. We must realize that the title "life insurance" is branched into different types and it carries another meaning not as some understand it. We may discuss this point next.

To conclude, my advice to the figures who advocate the idea of prohibiting the system of insurance is to read and exercise insurance much. To assess something you must have good knowledge about it.

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To conclude, my advice to the figures who advocate the idea of prohibiting the system of insurance is to read and exercise insurance much. To assess something you must have good knowledge about it.

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Al-Jifry:

“Violence, in our opinion, is more of an ‘animal’ rather than a ‘human’ attribute”

Q: Local and world public opinion have followed up the progress of you and 15 of your southern leaders being tried in absentia and the sentences passed against you, meanwhile contacts are still going on between yourself and the president. You are exercising political and information activity, could you please give an explanation for all this?

A: We have already stated our position on these illegal, illogical and selective trials. We said the issue at stake was political rather than criminal, and we demanded all sides to go beyond the aftermath and consequences of these trials so that these would not backfire on the prospects of the Yemeni question.

It seems you mention the contacts ‘between myself and the president’ as if they were a matter of fact, which is not the case at all. If they have ever occurred, I would not have covered them, because they are legitimate, even desirable. I lead a solemn opposition and offer thoughtful views and chart a peaceful course of action, consequently I harbor no personal enmity against any figure. Even belligerent foes hold talks. The fact that I exercise sophisticated and effective political and information activity does not require any further explanation, because it is in the nature of things, because we are a movement with visions and platforms, a party which pursues peaceful political action.

Q: Reports confirm you have

recently met with prominent leaders from the People’s General Congress (PGC)? The signals made for the first time by the PGC and reiterated by its leading committee, were interpreted by political observers as overtures towards reconciliation and closing the dossiers of the past. Are these signals the outcome of your meetings?

A: Never have our contacts been interrupted at any moment with the leading figures from the PGC, the Islah, the opposition, or with the independent patriotic figures. We have been meeting and still meet most social, political, cultural and intellectual leaders whenever they are abroad on a visit, for business or medication. But these gatherings are held in public, without secrets or screens. No official meeting for ‘dialogue’, however, has taken place, although dialogue is the very thing we have been calling for as a civilized means to resolve differences, handle crisis or aftermath of conflicts. This has been our method since the beginning of our party some half a century ago. Given this method and policy, it is unthinkable, on our part, to conceal any dialogue should it occur. If the brothers in the leading committee of the PGC had endorsed a policy of universal reform (the political, economic, social and constitutional reforms) on the way to reconciliation and closing the dossiers, this would have been a positive step, but it is short of the required mechanism, and these mechanisms are attainable only through genuine, objective dialogue,

rather than raising some slogans which are bereft of any content or any concrete steps on the ground. Slogan mongering is a barren style; it destroys credibility, solves no crisis, build up no state, heals no wounds, satisfies no empty stomach, removes no anxiety or fear, protects no citizen, preserves no homeland, halts no political, social or economic chaos or conflicts.

For this reason, we believe that it is a waste of time to reduce the cardinal national issues into mere slogans, and this waste of time should come to an end; we should resort to dialogue in earnest; neither time nor the world would wait for us.

Our return from abroad is conditional on the realization of a favorable atmosphere which may allow us to play an active role in nation-building. Thus the return should have a political rather than humanitarian character.

Because we have left the country for political reasons, there must be a dialogue to achieve universal reconciliation, bring crisis and conflict to an end and lay down the grounds for reform, so that we may end deterioration on political, economic, social and other levels.

Q: While several opposition parties accuse the government of pursuing a policy of cloning parties and newspapers, of marginalizing or curbing certain oppositional political parties and forces at home, we see your party, by contrast, intensifies its activities, and prepares for local conferences, notably in the eastern

governorates? Would not this confirm the current suspicions that the government is preparing the stage for RA to displace certain political forces which uphold, among other things, the question of the South? Would RAY take this window of opportunity? Or would it ultimately endure what the Islah is suffering today?

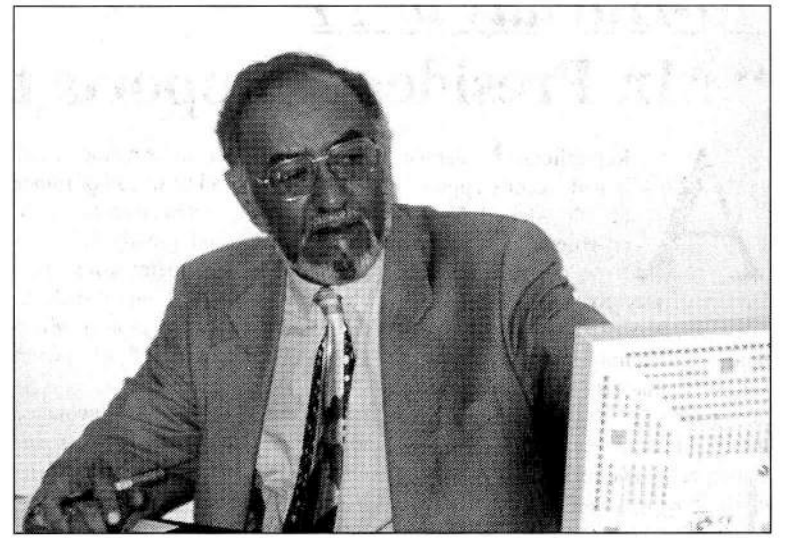
A: As a matter of fact, never has any other party endured what RAY has suffered so far from the attempts to marginalize, remove, or ‘clone’ it, not to mention pressures and persecution. This has been going on since it was established in early fifties. Unlike other groups, RAY is also the only political organization which does not receive aid from the authorities - or others. We are also the only party censored by the official media, and the most prosecuted by the present government. During the last three years, more than 120 of our members and cadres were arrested in Sana’a, Taiz, Lahaj, Adan, Abian, Shabwah and Hadramout. A sinister media campaign was unleashed against our party, and the government declined to initiate any dialogue with it although it held talks with all. Yet, by dint of being genuine, seasoned and experienced, our party could emerge from the ordeal stronger, tougher and more popular.

As for the local conferences, they testify to our democratic commitment in word and deed. We do not wave theory without practice. For RAY democracy is a genuine part of our policy, rather than a temporary or conjunctural response to new ideas or circumstances. Since 1951, our party endorsed and urged for pluralistic democracy at a time when no other party in most of the Arab and third world countries ever adopted such a democratic approach. We also applied democratic norms within the frameworks of our party. In Lahaj, for example, our influential pioneers initiated a legislative assembly and independent judiciary. Local primaries shall not be confined to certain districts, but will systematically cover all branches of the party. On the other hand, no authority is inclined to prepare the stage for another, rival party. It is the parties themselves that assume this burden of their self-promotion, activity or existence by means of their discourse, visions or political action. RAY has not been confined to criticize the government or uncover its blunders, but offered also the objective alternative. And it succeeded. It offered a clear vision for the present and the future, but declined to shed tears on the tombstones of the past, and shunned away from sinking into quagmires of old bloody conflicts. Consequently, RAY is not a captive of the past, but a free agent engaged in the present and the future. The idea or conception that there is an attempt on part of our party or other circles to let RAY displace other groups is totally irrelevant for the following reasons:

A- RAY is a genuine, established political party in the patriotic movement, with a well-known historical record. It is not a new comer seeking a vacancy for itself at the expense of others.

B- Many elements emerged from beneath RAY’s cloak, some of whom tried, in vain, to displace it. That is because RAY’s vision of democracy, sound unity, moderation, tolerant Islamic discourse, non-violence, market-based social-oriented economics, anticipated our time. With this unique vision, RAY was too solid to replace, displace or marginalize. When the right time for this vision came, RAY emerged to be itself not to replace any other entity. We decline to take the place of others, simply because such a position is inconsistent with our visions, methods, policy, or with the expectations of our people or the realities of our time.

We also believe that a unified Yemen as sound system of government would be large enough to accommodate all parties, groups or individuals, willing to take part in nation-building. True democracy does not allow for displacement or disfranchising, because such notions are the attributes of totalitarianism from which our nation suffered and at which, thanks God, we have never attempted. We strive for a



unified Yemen, for a sound, sustainable union, which may provide a solution of the so-called “The South Question”. We believe in diversity within unity, and realize that the consequences of the crisis have already crushed everybody, in the south, in the north, in the east, in the west or in the middle. They have crushed, in varying degrees, the employed, the unemployed, the countryside, the urban centers, the nomads, the urban, the educated, the illiterate, civil servants and self-employed, the civilians and the military, and so on and so forth. Hence, it is verging on the impossible to seek a partial solution for one part of the nation. We seek a universal, balanced resolution which takes regional disparities into consideration.

Undoubtedly, RAY would positively respond to any rational course, any dialogue conducive to build the foundations for a sound union, in terms of government, nation or institutions, within the framework of a true democratic alternative. True democracy is inconceivable without laying down the groundwork of full reform, mentioned earlier, and without universal national reconciliation, in the realistic sense we have announced, the sense that reconciliation shall not be an instrument to enhance power, or to distribute government posts and positions as rewards, profits, remunerations or appeasement prizes.

Q: How do you conceive the democratic atmosphere in the country?

A: In addition to what has been said earlier, democracy in our view is a comprehensive system, meeting all demands across the nation. If democracy is ‘tailored’, as it is being now, to ‘suite’ the needs of a certain party or group, then it gives birth to a ‘metamorphosed freak’, and the democratic course loses credibility. What has been going on in our country falls short of the true democratic path. In fact, it takes the form but removes the essence of democracy, and there is no room to take our experience as a good example of democratic practice. Undoubtedly, this reality has been grasped by those in the government and those outside it, not to mention Arab and foreign observers. Our aim is to reconstruct these attempts at appearances into a genuine course to preserve the true essence and remove ‘tailoring’, marginalization, exclusion, ejection, or monopolistic hegemony over power and mechanisms. Without full political, economic, social, legal and constitutional reform, such reconstruction is next too impossible.

Q: As we have entered the third millennium, how do you conceive the future of Yemen given its present reality?

A: In the new millennium, we look forward to create conditions that would go beyond what IS to what OUGHT TO BE. The present condition is ripping the nation apart. And it is a reality for everyone now that our nation is heading for catastrophe. Inability is seen on both the government and the opposition. A thorough change in our vision of the future is needed, in particular of what the country should look like, of what institutions and mechanism should be put in place to avoid disintegration and decline, and of what life we should build and hand over to the coming generations. If we pool our reform efforts together, a great future will await our country. It would enable us to leave crisis and inter-fight behind and embark on a great endeavor to build up the Yemeni man, achieve his

aspiration for security, stability, development, prosperity and exchange of benefits with the others. If we failed, history will never show mercy on us, and our nation shall not endure beyond their overstretched limits of forbearance. Before it is too late, the situation demands that we act promptly to bring conflict, disintegration and crisis to an end.

Q: The League party plays a growing role at the media level, do you think you are more able in using the impact of globalization on Yemen and do you think that the present League party information ability can mobilize the Yemeni public opinion according to a theory saying: “Information will have an upper hand in the formation of local and world public opinion?”

A: Yes, the League party, RAY, plays a growing and effective role, not only at the media level but also in politics, movement, action and expansion, both vertically (qualitatively) and horizontally (quantitatively), a fact which any observer may verify. I agree with you that the League party, RAY, which has a long experience as one of the earliest and most veteran political organization in Yemen, commands the ability to deploy advanced instruments and cope with the realities of the new global order. We should, however, not confuse ‘globalization’ with informatics and communications.

Globalization is a set of trends, visions or new philosophy to mould the world system and arrange its political, economic, social and cultural processes. Informatics and communication, by contrast, are the revolution which gave birth to the highly advanced communication systems and information processing, and reduced the globe into a small chamber, or a ‘global village’. At present, you may switch on your internet-linked computer in your sitting room and have access to the whole world, in terms of business dealings, media, information, advertisement, politics, religion or society. This revolution in information and communication systems and instruments led to various results, among which are the trends of the new globalized order.

And since the League party, RAY, has been innovative in its political thinking, it is also innovative in following up the advanced technology and data of our times and using them for the good of our people and country.

Whatever the theory of information might be, we would not have the ability to mobilize and rally the public opinion in the right direction by using advanced information media, if we had not carried a true content, true issues, clear visions which meet the demands of the people and coincide with the interests of society and the aspirations for a better future for the nation. Let me cite one example. An individual may have a modern television set, and may switch it on to watch, but this individual will not spend time watching, no matter how clear the sight and sound may be, unless the program on the screen meets the desired demands, and coincides with taste and inclinations of the viewer. The same thing applies to the instruments of political and information instruments and devices; they alone can not rally or mobilize public opinion unless they carry an accepted message. Without the good contents of our party’s vision and orientation, you would not have observed its growing activity.

*Final Part of the interview
NEXT WEEK*

Continued from page 5

Yemen Times Participates in the International Seminar:
The Right to Know: human rights, censorship and access to Information

Yemen’s Experience

Being the only participant from Yemen, Walid Al-Saqqaf gave a complete idea of Yemen’s experience in the civil war of 1994, and how Yemen Times was able to deliver up to date and serious information to the public. “In the first issue after the war, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, published a first page story about the estimated casualties in the first few days of the 1994 civil war. However, he was not taken for granted. He was taken from his home by political security forces to prison where he stayed for a short time. After he was released, he wrote down all his experience at the night the forces took him, which in itself, was a strong indication that violence against journalists does not always prevent the facts from reaching the public. Yemen Times continues today to seek for the truth and reports on it, no matter what the consequences. The media in general has suffered a lot from the ups and downs that the country went through during and after the 1994 civil war. Today, we feel that the leadership has understood the role of the media and hence, is giving more room for opposing thoughts and writings. This in fact is in the country’s interest. It is better to know about problems in governmental offices and try to solve them instead than hiding them under the carpets until they accumulate until they can not be solved.”

The seminar also included several speeches and comments from representatives of African countries who went through similar experiences. They hailed Yemen’s experience in establishing a free press while all neighboring countries did not.

Insult and defamation laws and international standards on the protection of sources

The rulings of courts for reasons of defamation in Yemen have resulted in the suspension and closure of several newspapers. Among these newspapers, is Al-Shoura that until today remains closed. Regarding this particular case, Al-Saqqaf said, “We know that there are problems and difficulties faced in any democratic transformation, however it is also reasonable to ask for more just trials for journalists

and newspapers for reasons of defamation. Closing such an important resource of information is a direct violation of article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which says, ‘Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.’ Being one of the countries that signed this declaration and accepted it, Yemen should try its utmost to implement it. The government should not prevent the readers from accessing information that is available in any newspaper. We do hope that it would back down and have the newspaper function again.”

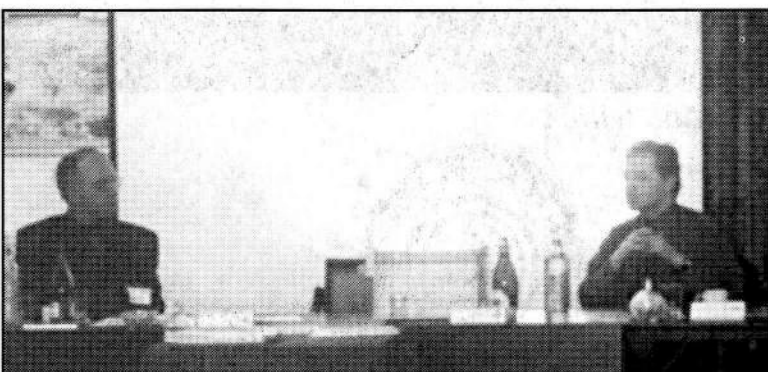
Despite the fact that the press law in Yemen is quite efficient and more than many other laws in the region, flexible, yet the problem is not in the law itself, but rather in implementing it. Defamation and insult related articles are available in the law but they are often misinterpreted depending on the mood of the government. If an article in a publication is seen by the government to be insulting or defaming, then regardless of whether their assumption is true or not, it usually files a lawsuit against the writer and publication. This reaction of the government needs to be less strict, as this would cause several writers to write in a mile and less credible way when thinking of possible consequences when writing the simplest critique of the state.”

The Internet and freedom of information

The Internet has with no doubt

become an important and focus point in the third day of the seminar. In regards to the Internet, Mr. Walid Al-Saqqaf complained of the monopoly exerted in Yemen by the government in providing Internet services only through one company (Teleyemen). “The monopoly in Internet services has resulted in high prices, low quality, more traffic on lines, and most important of all, the use of firewalls. A firewall is a method to prevent users from accessing certain sites depending on their addresses and contents for political or ethical reasons. However, at least providing the Internet services in itself is a good point for the government. A few countries still forbid the use of the Internet because it is well known that it is impossible to censor or control its contents. Thank God Yemen is not among them. Still we need to bring this monopoly to an end by constructive means. Countries like Jordan, Egypt, and UAE have opened the way for private Internet Service Providing (ISP) companies, and even encouraged them. Because of the high prices of the only ISP in Yemen, thousands of Yemenis are deprived from this useful service and resource of information. Yemen needs to follow their steps and bring about a private competing ISP for the benefit of the people and to enable them to get the most of this new technology.”

At the end of the seminar, Yemen Times editor gave a concluding statement full of optimism and hope that Yemen will continue to work on the same path of democracy, and would give more importance to the field of freedom of express



From Right to Left: Amnesty International Legal Advisor with the Executive Director of Article 19

Al-Humaty to YT

“Mr. President Supports the Freedom of Expression”

A Republican decree issued recently appointed Mr Ahmed Nasser Al-Humaty as Undersecretary for broadcasting and television affairs and external information with a ministerial degree. Mr Al-Humaty is an eminent media personage with 30-year experience in the media field. He joined the radio station at the age of 17 during the rule of the Southern Arab Union. He was then youngest broadcaster in Yemen radio station. He is a cultured person and a poet whose poems are full of enthusiasm and passions. Many Yemeni singers have sung his poems. He worked as an advisor to the president for Media and Culture Affairs. His commitment and high efficiency in his job has qualified him to occupy his new post at the Ministry of Information and as a spokesman for the ministry. Jamal Al-Awadi of Yemen Times has conducted an interview with him, discussing various current topics of national interest mainly the border issue between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, whether there a possibility of imminent cabinet reshuffle in Yemen besides many other social and economic problems.

Q: Shall we assume that your current post is similar to that of the State's spokesman?

A: A matter of fact, we are seeking to establish a special department that will be the source for official news issued by the government pertaining to any political, economic, or social issues. We will also make available all apparatuses needed for dispatching and receiving news. This will spare local and foreign correspondents great deal difficulties for obtaining correct media information. We have been aware that there are some sources leaking unreliable and lacking of credibility news.

Such news and information would consequently lead to spread of rumors and prospects. Establishment of this department would greatly limit this phenomenon and there would be a clear-cut dealing with an official official source for information. I will be personally in charge of this department.

In this era of information revolution, we plan to have good contacts with international and Arab news agencies. Besides, this will open new channels for the media and cultural cooperation among countries as well as exchange expertise in this field.

Q: How do you view Yemen's media work under the globalization?

A: Globalization has become a reality that we are aware of. As a direct result of the revolution in telecommunications and the known economic effects the world has been changed into a small global village. This should not make us embrace globalization blindly, but rather be within it provided that we must conserve our identity; our customs, conventions, and social norms.

Q: Do you think that Qat is detrimental to our economy as it is to health? and do you think the president's directives have played any role in curbing this habit?

A: First of all, I don't chew Qat. It is a habit that has been passed on by one generation to another. I believe that the major detriments of Qat are financial problems besides some health problems that it may cause. However, Qat is a lesser evil, compared to the other poisons and evil habits spreading all over the world.

All in all, it is an uncivilized habit costing people fortunes which may be better used to improve their living conditions. Besides, if this money is spent on development projects in the agricultural field, it may do a lot to



revive the old happy days. Qat has spread over large areas of agricultural lands at the expense of other strategic plants such as wheat. It spreads rapidly mainly due to the handsome profits its growers get in return. Therefore, to eliminate such a phenomenon, preliminary steps have to be taken for deep-rooted habits are often hard to break.

The presidents' directives to stop chewing Qat in military camps, and inside in official departments are good initiatives for a start in our fight against Qat in the long run. Therefore, I believe that there is a good and essential role that can be played by the media. That is our job for the coming period.

Q: Is there really a political struggle in that some tribes are seeking to have representation in the executive authority?

A: There is nothing like that. Tribes are part of our society and our democracy gives each individual the right to nominate himself to parliament or local councils. Besides, a good number of qualified persons belonging to different tribes are holding high and important positions in the government and are of the top brass. However, the point is that opposition newspapers may find some tribal feuds over a

piece of land or as a result of revenge cases, a chance to smirch the security image of Yemen. In most cases what they report is just a package of lies. Thus, if there are some tribal feuds this does not at all mean that there are conflicts between the government and these tribes. Moreover, we try to overcome such problems and disputes by raising the awareness of people by making them take such disputes to court when such cases occur.

Q: Rumor has it that there is reshuffle in the government? What is the truth of such news?

A: Such news is not true for the government is making progressive strides in terms of implementing its programs. Besides, the president met with them last week to push address some of economic issues to develop the economic situation of the country. In short, this rumor is groundless.

Q: Are there still some Arab Afghans in Yemen?

A: Absolutely not. This is also another rumor that has been around aiming to create the idea that there is no stability and security in Yemen. However, there is nothing called terrorism in Yemen nor are there any terrorists. For the only incident in which there happened to be some killings, the security forces arrested the kidnappers, held them accountable for their actions and they received court terms. Besides, the government does not allow wanted people by any other neighboring or friendly countries to live in Yemen.

The only terrorist activity that we came to encounter was that of Mostafa Hamzah who lives in London. He sent some of his relatives to carry out some terrorist attacks in Yemen. Thus we suffered from terrorism as many other countries. All in all, the Yemeni people are peace-loving as well as hospitable by nature, hence what

Mostafa Hamzah did is far from our traditions and conventions.

Q: How do you assess the security condition in Yemen?

A: The security conditions in Yemen are more stable than any other times. There is nothing that worries us except that some opposition newspapers try to make a mountain out of a molehill. For example, in New York acts of violence take place every minute and that is considered as something ordinary. However, if there is a fight or an accident happening here, you see that these newspapers raise hell and heaven. I do call any journalists to visit Yemen to see things in their real colors. Even reports about tribes were most of the time incorrect, for the tribe in its real meaning means supreme social values and ideals. If there is anyone who wants to praise someone he says "He is 'Kabili' meaning 'generous'." The tribal customs are the origin of Arab qualities.

Q: Do you think that there is some scope for the freedom of the press?

A: We view freedom of the press as one of the essential and pivotal pillars of any democratic system. This is much distinct as the opposition newspapers enjoy complete freedom to publish whatever they want. Besides, any newspaper has the right to file a case if it finds that its rights have been breached. There are some journalists who filed cases against the Ministry of Information and the ministry responded positively to such cases and accepted the award passed by the court whatever it was. So none can deny the scope of freedom of the press that newspapers enjoy and was the background and the basis for holding the Emerging Democracies Forum in Sana'a in 1999.

Q: Will you elaborate on the current situation of borders' negotiations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia?

A: Negotiations over the borders are in progress. The only new thing about them is that the president asked the committee to assign a specific period

to end up the whole issue. However, reports in the media of exchanging charges negatively affect relations between the two countries.

Q: Is there any future prospects for the TV and radio stations?

A: Many programs and projects are conducted to develop the TV and radio programs so as to match the changes of the times and technology. All sources necessary for receiving and broadcasting information will also be available. In addition, there will also be some training courses for the technicians and specialists in the radio and TV stations.

Q: What are the facilities that you offer in case there are any media delegations or representatives of news agencies?

A: We welcome all the people of the media with open arms and from any country all over the world. Yemen is a hospitable country and is open to the world. We will also provide all the photos, video tapes, documents, etc, that are needed. We will try - to our best - to meet any demands that are required by the local as well as the international media departments.

There is an open invitation to making reportages about Yemen and to come close to experience the democratic transition which the country is undergoing. Yemen has become an example in the region in terms of its democratic system. Besides the encouraging and positive conditions of human rights in Yemen which is also asserted by holding a workshop to raise the awareness of the social, economic and cultural rights organized by the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights which was attended by Mrs. Mary Robinson, commissioner of the UN. This was not the end of our goals for there is no limit for our ambitions. Some weeks ago a number of officials, diplomats, some international organizations joined together to discuss some important issues to the media. They also talked about the measures of cooperation in a way that will meet all the sides' interests.

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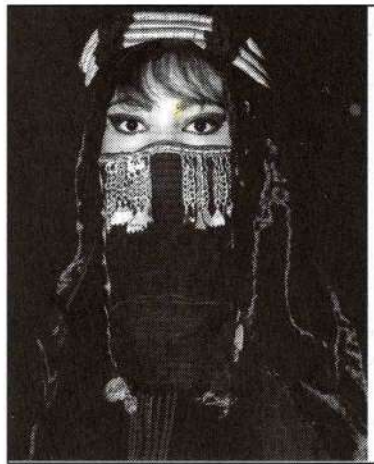
"Visage du Yemen" in the Zoom of A Camera

By: Nada Al-Shamery

An art exhibition of the well-known Yemeni artist Abdul-Rahman Al-Ghabiri was held last Tuesday 15 Feb. 2000 on Arthur Rambo's hall in the French Cultural Center under the title Yemeni Faces "Visage du Yemen". The art exhibition was inaugurated by Mr. Abdul-Malik Mansour, Minister of Culture and Tourism. Mr. Pierre Boillot, French Ambassador in Yemen, and Mr. Gerard Marciniak, Secretary General, have both attended the exhibition which contained 66 photographic pictures.

Q: How did you start?

A: It all began when I was just a little



child. I lived my childhood among moors and mountains and I had always wanted to capture the moments that I would see. In those days I did not have a camera. In the 60s, my dream became true when I got my first camera and I was in class 1/E then. Beginning there, my camera became my happiness and I always tried to personalize special photos. I joined the political guidance, the photography section where I worked practically in the darkroom. I also practiced printing and developing films until I was sent in a scholarship to Syria. There I was able to study photography in theory and practice. I was working and at the same time to learning theater and music. I graduated in 1973 then I was sent to Lebanon where I specialized as Cinema Director of documentary films. During this period I participated in directing two films which were

shot in south Lebanon in Nabatia and Kafr Shouba. I graduated with excellent degree and I returned to Yemen. There was no cinema in Yemen at that time so I worked for the on TV for a shot time. After that I moved to the private sector and finally I started my own business that I still do until now.

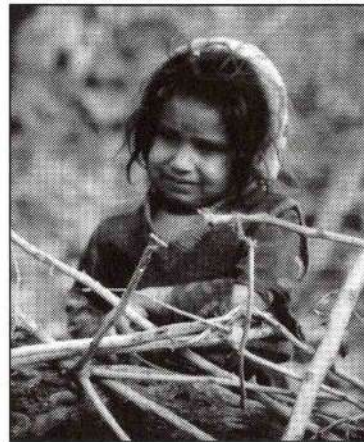
Q: What do you think of the awareness of Yemeni People of the importance of photography?

A: I cannot say for sure that there is a high awareness in this respect among the Yemeni people. At the same time I cannot deny that there were some brilliant brains which understood what photography is. Artistically speaking, there are many artists and critics who touched the beauty of this art like Hassan Al-Nouri, Moufeed Al-Yousifi, Abdul-Aziz Al-Makalih, Ahmed Shoja'a and many others. However, at the public level, the development of awareness is still quite slow. People always see pictures but

still they cannot comprehend this art's implied or even the visible meanings it conveys. I am longing to see the day when this art is appreciated. This art portrays our reality in a style which enables us to see it more vividly so that we can clearly observe its concealed features which grant it a mixture of strength of sincerity in both taking and giving.

Mr. Abdul-Malik Mansour, Minister of Culture and Tourism said:

"In the beginning I would like to thank



the French Cultural Center for hosting this art exhibition of the Yemeni great artist Mr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Ghabiri. Mr. Al-Ghabiri is really an artist in all fields of art but when it comes to photography he is the most prominent. This kind of art requires an eye which senses beauty and never misses it. We can see that his photos almost speak of what he felt and read in that picture. It is also clear that Mr. Al-Ghabiri adores the history and glory of Yemen and this is embodied in the expressions of yearning and patriotism that he portrayed in his photos. I personally encourage the Yemeni artist, Mr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Ghabiri who has become a school for all the coming generations."

Mr. Zayed Saleh Al-Fakeeh General Manager of the Book House noted:

"Before this exhibition I was used to think that photography exhibitions are never like those of paintings. However, now I can clearly see that photos far overweigh paintings. This art exhibition reflects the artist's soul which in turn portrays the brilliant, civilized side of Yemen. I should not also forget to thank the French



Cultural Center for hosting such Yemeni cultural activities."

"I am originally from Damar and I have known Yemen through Al-Ghabiri art exhibition. I am really happy and I also hope that all the world become to know Yemen through this artist." Novelist Al-Gherby Amran observed.

New Suppressed Class in the Making

Abdul Rahman Al-Mikhiafi

Nowadays it is a fanciful story to own a house. One should be rather practical to realize that only the most fortunate and well to do see their dreams come true. Therefore, to begin with, let us, first of all, survey the housing and rent problem in our country. Before the 1990s leasing a house was an ordinary matter and was not too pricey. In the past, the number of people inhabiting cities, especially Sana'a, was very small. Facilities were somehow available. Besides, economic conditions were much better than today.

However, the case nowadays is thoroughly different. Population has increased sharply. A huge number of villagers, both workers with their families and students, are flocking into cities in search for living, better opportunities and good life. This, by itself, has posed lots of difficulties to find houses to rent. Landlords, on the other hand, have become more greedy as they find people fighting for renting their flats. The absence of law has also made them do whatever they want and ask for the amount they desire. So they exploit these difficult conditions to gain more and more.

In fact there is a great number of people in our society who are being agonized by the problem of renting. They have suffered a lot, however, their suffering has reached the climax these days. For renting a house has become almost impossible for these landlords have become devoid of any sense of mercy asking for unreasonable rent rates difficult to afford by ordinary people.

Our armchair officials, who are supposed to carefully as well as studiously address such a problem, do not care a bit, just to make the situation worse. These officials do not feel the suffering of the people that is mainly because they are completely living in another world; residing the most comfortable villas located in the most beautiful and spick-and-span areas. Therefore, they are indifferent to whatever happens to other people as long as they are living comfortably.

In such hard and difficult conditions, we can never fail to notice that there are a good number of people living in basements that can never be inhabitable. Some other

ones are living in very old houses that are liable to be pulled down at any moment. To add insult to injury, these places are very expensive and cost them much. From time to time landlords come to ask for a rise. If they show their objection they are forced to leave the so called flats to find themselves in streets.

If we consider the relationship between the owner and his tenants, we will find that it is up to the landlord himself to fix the rent he likes, raise it when he likes and gets rid of his tenants also when he wants. Therefore, there are no regulations that control this and preserve the tenants' rights. Sometimes these owners may conduct silly behavior so that they get rid of their tenants; they may turn the electricity off, block water pipes, or threaten them or beat them etc.

In such hard and miserable conditions people are driven by necessity to steal and ask for alms. For necessity knows no law. All this happens at a time our armchair philosophers preach democracy and human rights.

In an attempt to solve this problem and settle it down the Yemeni government has built two cities, however, only the well-to-do have settled there. You could see one family living in a big building that can embrace five families.

Therefore, our government should do something to retrieve the situation and save its image before it is too late to control. Some people are fighting tooth and nail for their survival while other ones are spending money through their noses and are exploiting the potential resources of the society before the very eye of the authority. This renting problem has really preoccupied the minds of people and holding their attention.

In short, the government should address this issue and try to put strategies to set a limit to the aggressive behavior of landlords against the tenants; our government should set rules and apply them seriously on all without fear and prejudice. It should also follow a system to overcome the leasing obstacles and it should do what it is expected to do. It has also to adopt projects of constructing some buildings for low-income people and government employees. Is there any end to this problem?

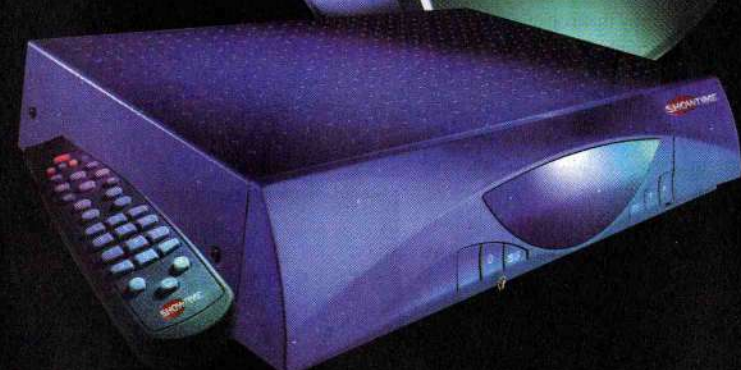
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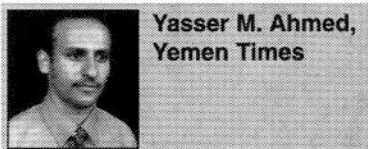


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Be Warned! There are Expired Products in the Yemeni Market



Yasser M. Ahmed,
Yemen Times

The Yemen Times has prepared a report on the expired food stuffs that fasting worshippers used to eat during Ramadan and interviewed the competent authorities in this regard. As a result the Yemeni Society for Consumers Protection was established.

The Yemeni Society for Consumers Protection is a non-governmental community action group that was established on 20 September 1997 working towards safeguarding the rights of Yemeni consumers. This society is aimed at achieving several goals, some of which are:

- Educating the consumers and disseminating awareness among them on the quality standards of products and their effect on their health and safety.

- Preparing research and studies and performing laboratory tests to check the quality, safety of products on the market and releasing the results to the public. Also it does the work of monitoring goods in the market to determine whether they meet sound quality standards and to make sure that they continue proper right information on their labels.

- Informing consumers on the goods that could be subject to commercial cheating, or poor imitations of sound products that are made by reputable manufacturers.

- Building relationships and cooperating with local, Arab and world organizations, unions and societies in order to help this society achieve its goals.

- Receiving, studying, treating and suggesting solutions for dealing with consumer's complaints and relaying them to the responsible authorities.

- Pushing for the necessary legislation for the protection of consumers.

The society has sent several letters to the Minister of Supply and Trade, The Minister of Construction and Urban Planning and the Deputy Minister in the Ministry in charge of Municipalities and Environmental Affairs. These letters showed the violations which consumers were subjected to. The society receives complaints everyday about the cheating, the unreasonable increase in prices and the absence of the monitoring role of the provisional supplies, for which they were founded and resulted in the spread of meat traders everywhere.



Mr. Hamoud Kasim AL-Bokhayti, Deputy Chairman of the Society said, "The task of the Yemeni Society for Consumer Protection is very difficult in such a diseased environment.

What hinders our job is that executive authorities do not respond positively and quickly. Therefore, instead of educating consumers, we now have to inform authorities on the importance of protecting consumers and of its beneficial effects on the national economy. The protection of consumers is strongly related to the social and economic development of a country and the Economic Council of the UN had proved this after a decade of studies.

The Society had plans to implement sever-

al programs. However, the lack of funds was always a hindrance. The Society is in lack of even the necessary money to pay for the rent of its building that was until now paid by the Minister of Health. The Society received lots of contributions, but had to reject, because they were aimed at controlling it and creating conflicts of interest. There were even attempts to lure the society members but they also have failed. Finally, some parties started sending volunteers that we soon discovered were agents to certain political parties. We are always ready to stand and face all partisan-oriented attempts to infiltrate our society.

Through the Yemen Times, I would like to say that the Society works for the interests of 18 million people and to serve the national economy. However, the Society is not an alternate to official executive authorities, it is merely performing a role complementary to that of the government. All that we aim at is to safeguard the social and economic rights and interests of the people and remain far from politics.

We are now trying our best to educate the new generation in schools. Unfortunately, our schools have become a storehouse for expired and decayed food products such as cheese, jam and sweets. In addition, school cafeterias and workers do not meet the health standards and therefore schools will end up producing sick graduates.

The Society is trying to work out plans to increase awareness among women since they have more influence in making the shopping decisions. Therefore, we hope that women's societies and organizations cooperate with us in this field. We also have many other plans that include:

- Preparing for celebrating the International Day for Consumers Protection on 15 March 2000.

- Preparing for a seminar to support the national economy and encouraging investments.

- Preparing for the Second Meeting of the Arab Union of Consumers scheduled to be held in Sana'a on September 2000.

Finally, I would like to send a message through the Yemen Times to all public and official parties that are concerned with consumer's protection that they should take heed of Allah. Our consumers have become exploited and are becoming consumed themselves! The markets have turned into a big disposal bin for the unwanted products of the affluent neighboring markets. It has become a widely known saying, even outside of Yemen, that "if you would like to get rid of any unhealthy products then all you have to do is send them to Yemen where there is no control or inspection. You will even find help from the authorities in charge to sell them and protect you from all consequences".

It is important to say that consumers are not as weak as they might look like. It is they who operate factories and pay taxes. They are also the ones who can abolish any product, close any factory and make any trader bankrupt in case the latter are not concerned with the interests other consumers. Consumers possess an effective weapon with which they can destroy all those who would want to harm their health and safety or damage the national economy. This weapon is the boycott.

If the officials do not take care about our needs and conditions as consumers, then we will boycott any product that does not suit us as consumers. We will also sue all

those who would cause any damage to consumers for compensation, whether the perpetrators were government or non-government corporations.



Eng. Abdul-Rahman A. Zabarah Minister of Construction Housing & Urban Planning:

Despite of all our efforts to look after the health of residents we failed.

The General Directorate of Environmental Health had assigned qualified health inspectors to carry out a food monitoring campaign with inspectors from the Environmental Department at the Mayors Office. More than 10 tons of various foods were reported (invalid, expired and contaminated). Sellers of these goods were reported to the Residential Prosecution to be interrogated in accordance with the food monitoring law 32 which was released on 1992, and the invalid goods were either disposed or incinerated. Carrying out such campaign need substantial support from all national and foreign organizations. We need program to establish well trained inspectors who are equipped with all inspection requirements. Difficulties:

- 1) The limited number of qualified health inspectors. There are not enough cadres to inspect all food shops and stores especially those located in urban and suburban districts. For example, the population of in Sana'a and its outskirts is approximately 1,100, inhabitants.

- 2) Smuggling expired and invalid foods into the country.

- 3) Exposing foods to sunrays and not storing them according to right health standards and specifications.

- 4) Except for the national program, which is insufficient, no other international or foreign organizations are involved in supporting programs of food inspection.

Finally I would like to propose some solutions which would help solve this problem; a) Keep a good watch on our borders to prevent smuggled goods from entering the country whether through land or sea.

b) Activating the role of non-governmental institutes to control and limit the smuggling phenomenon.

c) The government should release laws regarding the role of control on spoiled goods like establishing a General Authority for Standards and Specifications. It should also qualify cadres of the Control Authority in the Environment Health Department and provide them with central laboratories to perform tests on goods that enter the country. In addition, it should use information media to educate citizens so they would avoid harmful goods.

If we do not find a solution to this important case then the Yemeni markets would be flooded with smuggled goods that do not meet health standards and specifications. So are we really aware of the seriousness of this problem?

Yemeni Art on YALI Walls Talented Yemeni Students Need More Encouragement



Omar Al-Yaf'ei,
Yemen Times

Many Yemeni students, of all ages: at schools, English Institutions and universities have varied talents, but they don't get the opportunity to display these skills. So, they practice these hobbies at home and derive enjoyment from them. When I recently went to talk to some of these students, at YALI, I discovered their resourcefulness.

Among these creative activities organized, by an active American women, Ms. Marie Hurlburt, who is an English Teaching Fellow, advisor, trainer and teacher at YALI. I was invited to a "Poster Art Exhibit" that she organized. Frankly, I expected to find something quite ordinary, but instead I discovered something great! The Exhibit was beautiful as well as educational. I was impressed to encounter a teacher like Ms. Marie who wants to encourage the students, at YALI, to expand and expose their talents. The whole idea was to encourage the student's artistic talent as well as their knowledge of English. All art had to have an English theme. The students used many diverse means to express themselves in their artistic expression and some were deeply profound and wonderful. I discovered the students had the ability to take simple things like vegetables and fruit, great men of history, Yemeni culture and tourism, and different nationalities to not only have beauty but teach English as well. Over seventy-five entries were submitted and Ms. Marie said they were all winners and would grace the wall and hall of YALI. A number of students participated and many males and females won prizes for their entries, but the top three winners were awarded to:

1st prize-Asma Mohammed AL-Hamdi, 2nd prize-Bushra Ahmed Abass and 3rd prize-Samira Ahmed Al-Othary.



Ms. Marie, the organizer of this exhibition, said that it is important to have Yemeni art at YALI institute.

She pointed out the name of the institution Yemeni-American Language Institute, and it is important for the students and to feel proud and able to contribute to the school they attend. She came up with the because there was so little on the

walls of YALI to both educate decorate. So she instituted the idea and has been delighted with the response. Ms. Marie hopes that many of the talented students will be discovered and famous in the arena.

I interviewed the top three winners; Asma, Bushra and Samira. My questions to them were about what they hoped to convey with their art, and the importance of their respective art work. Their answers follow:



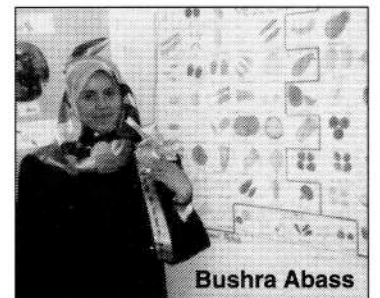
1st Winner: Asma Al-Hamdi:

"Before I paint I thought about something that would make people think deeply about others and gain from it. My painting is about nationalities of the world. My aim was to show the importance and uniqueness of people around the world. They represent originality and greatness of their countries. I put them in native costumes. They are historical and colorful. For example, I chose Sphinx from Egypt, Native American, Japanese Yemeni and...etc. The focus of my painting is African boy that I hope calls attention to the current bad circumstances in many African countries. I hope it will touch people's heart to help the poor countries of the world. I collected those pictures from different books and magazines for inspiration. I like historical figures and I analyzed to make my characters from different countries pure. By choosing different countries I would enable my classmates to know more about these characters. Painting means everything in my life because it is another way to express feelings besides speaking my native Arabic and second language English. Finally, I would like to say that I would like to decorate my country with paintings. I would like to see it beautiful like a beautiful painting because Yemen is a historical country. Finally, I would like to thank my teacher, Ms. Marie".



2nd Prize Winner: Bushra Abass:

"My interest in art began with drawing on fabric, which is a very accurate type of work. Then, I began to practice this hobby in different mediums of painting. The work that won me the prize I chose to help educate my classmates and it gives me satisfaction to know it is helping them. I pondered whether or not to do animals or fruit and vegetables. I finally, I decided to paint vegetables and fruit because I have all the pictures and their names and thought they would be most helpful to the students. They also draw on nature. I spent two crowded weeks drawing and coloring different kinds of vegetables and fruits. My intention here is not to get money, but to fulfill my talent in this area, which I have worked on since my primary school days. It also helped me to further develop my abilities. I recommend that all my classmates who want to be successful to devote themselves and work hard and they want will meet their goals. I want to thank my family and my favorite teacher Ms. Marie and Dr. Aziza who encouraged me from the day of the announcement telling me I would do well and be a winner".



3rd Prize Winner: Samira Al-Othary:

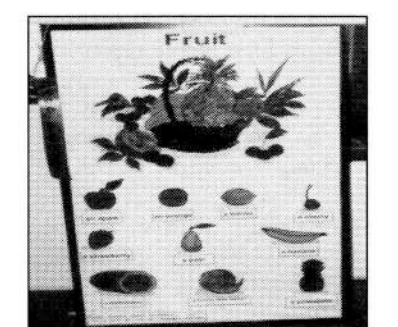
"For about five-years I have drawn on glass. I have desired to such occasions and exhibitions. So, when I was told by Ms. Marie that she was organizing a Poster Art Contest I wanted to enter and let people see what I could accomplish. I chose fruit because it is from nature and nature gives us peace. Nature, to me, is a soft word and means friendship, purity and beauty. I chose fruit in order to express my faith in my friends. I am very happy to participate and got the 3rd prize. I hope I will have other opportunities to show my work. I would like to acknowledge my thanks to my family, who encouraged me and thank my Ms. Marie and my teacher Karema, who helped me a lot".

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جعلها الله قرة عين والديها، وألف مبروك
المهتؤون: عبد الفتاح اسماعيل علي
وآل العذري وآل المراني وآل أبو غانم

أجمل التهاني وأرق التبريكات نهدتها للأستاذ/
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بمناسبة عقد القران وقرب الزفاف
فألف مبروك
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والحاصل على شهادة الجودة العالمية الأيزو 9001
تلفون: ٢٢٢٠٠٠٠ - ٢٢٢٠٠٠١
فاكس: ٢٢٢٠٠٠٢

COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Democracy in Iran: So Far, So Good

Amidst the confusion and mayhem immediately following one of the most bizarre and intriguing revolutions that has ever erupted – so it seemed then – the Iranian religious leaders (Islam does not have a clergy, so it is incorrect for the Western press to call them “clerics” or “clergy”) were able to produce a masterpiece document that has very significant implications, not just for Iran, but for the Moslem World, and maybe the world at large as well.

When the Iranian Constitution was just issued (1980), this writer read an Arabic version of the document. I was awestruck by the foresight and legal expertise that the document reflected and by the progressive flavor, which the document was characterized by. Moreover what came out to be more impressive than anything else was that the Iranian Constitution seemed almost like a carbon copy of the Constitution of the United States of America, in more ways than one. One would almost think that John Madison and Benjamin Franklin were there with the drafters of the Iranian Constitution as constitutional consultants (not paid for of course under any technical assistance program of donors headed by the World Bank). At the time, I recall discussing the document with some friends, in which I said: “If the Iranians stick to this document and defend it to the end, this Iranian Revolution is for real and is going to be around with us for a long time to come.” By, God they defended it and they stuck to it faithfully. Interestingly enough, this observer also once recalled reading that Benjamin Franklin once stated, in essence, that Islam’s contributions to

civilization is insurmountable, especially in the areas of human rights and science, or something to that effect. It is therefore not surprising that much of what is incorporated in the US Constitution is a practical application of the dogma that the Religion of Islam is all about. It should also not be surprising that the Iranian Constitution should embody a lot of conceptual and practical elements contained in the US Constitution. No matter; whether by accident or arrangement, even if we assume that the framers of the Iranian Constitution merely “copied” what others have done – which is highly unlikely, to their credit would be the fact that they only copied the very best. It would be a sign of ignorance to think that the United States Constitution can be rivaled by any other existing constitution for its simplicity and sustainability. It would be a mistake also to undermine the intelligence and foresight of the framers of the Iranian Constitution, for it is far more than clear now that they knew what they wanted for their country and they knew what their countrymen deserved from their leaders. After 20 years of experience with the Iranian Revolution, in the wake of pressing tests, it would appear that for all practical purposes, it is here to stay and it is here to present an interesting model of popular will and determination, for most of the deprived populations of the Islamic world from the Atlantic to the far reaches of the Pacific, and the Third World in general.

What is going on in Iran is growing political maturity and a steadfast democratic society that is baffling to its friends and foes alike. There is indeed a generous display of democracy that has been put on the plate of the Iranian

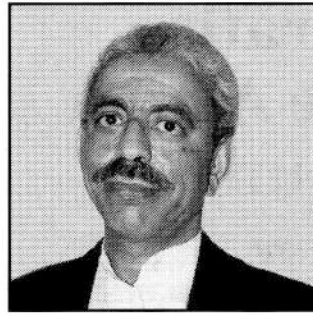
people and they are enjoying it to the last spoonful.

Ayatollah Rohullah Al-Khomeini had relied on the masses of the country to enable him to oust the ungodly regime of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, and they were not at all reluctant to follow his cassette taped messages from Paris to tread on the regime of the last of the Persian Emperors, who lived on a lavish ego trip at the expense of his people. It would seem then appropriate that their sacrifices should not go in vain, and that this Revolution, the Ayatollah called for, should be a lot more than the coups and countercoups that have characterized Islamic and Third World countries, which have offered their people nothing to live for except to await the next “Decree No. 1” blaring out of their Radios and TVs. Accordingly, he orchestrated the formation of a regime that would ultimately affirm that the ownership and benefits of the Iranian Revolution should indefinitely rest with the people of Iran. The drafters of the Iranian Constitution apparently knew this and were not about to let their people down.

Anyone following up on the Iranian situation, as it stands now, is bound to be impressed by the astounding display of dynamic political activity on a broad scale, which is characterized by widespread popular participation, with the women having a real and active role in the political process of the country. Surely *this is Islam* in its truest manifestations and surely this is *real progress*, in any dictionary. Moreover one cannot fail to see this dynamic political vitality carried out in a smooth systematic manner underscored by civilized behavior on the part of the government and the governed alike. In addition the widely

active civil society is clearly demonstrating its presence in both human welfare and in the political arena.

The body politic that makes up the Iranian regime has taken on the form of a state that is comprised of a well structured institutional framework, with the right degree of empowerment spread out evenly and neatly among the different elements that make up this regime. This allows the institutions of government to carry out their roles effectively with a high sense of responsibility, yet without infringing upon the rights and powers of the other institutions in the regime; and more important without forgetting that they are governed by Law and eventually accountable to the people of Iran. Obviously, there are a lot of social obstacles that Iran has yet to overcome, in view of the very chronic ills inherited from the pre-revolution era of dictatorial rule and wanton exploitation by local and Western narrow-minded interests. Such ills surely cannot be obliterated with a syringe or a pill, but take a long time to overcome. But the Iranians leaders are not ignoring this reality and the Reform Platform of Ayatollah Khatemi is geared to underscore the need for alleviating and eventually removing these ills. It is the only road for Iran to pursue for the moment, if Iran is to continue manifesting itself as a true democratic society to be envied by the people of all the dictatorships and family dynasties that surround it. It appears then, that the democratic aura prevailing in Iran is bound to lead to putting Iran on the right track to deal with the shortcomings in the society, with a reliance on widespread participatory approaches in all aspects of community life, which renders the regime free to deal with the greater



national issues of the day. Accordingly one would expect that, over time, the Iranians will be able to pass the test, as they have passed so many difficult tests in the critical early years of the Revolution, and would be able to streamline the operations of their other social fabric. This would go a long way towards enhancing the standards of living of the Iranian people and their welfare and towards upgrading their already impressive educational and cultural output.

As the Iranians continue to pass the test of time and illustrate that the Islamic regime in Iran conforms to modern government framework, to a considerable extent, with large doses of real democracy and popular political vitality, it would seem inappropriate that the West would have any real reasons for taking on a prejudiced stand against the regime, especially when considering that the marks for good behavior and proper interaction with the international community have

been more than satisfactory. Any support for anything other than the present situation in Iran would act severely to destroy meaningful gains the Iranian people have acquired and are bound to be countered with a determined stand by the Iranians to preserve these gains. Apart from Israel, on one in the region is fearful of the Iranian or their Islamic Revolution, except the rulers, who understandably, fear that the fever for democratic rule could catch on with their subjects. What Israel is really afraid of is that for once, they are seeing a Moslem State sticking to dogma, but proving that dogma alone is no guarantee to progress and self-esteem. It is freedom and hard work (which are real manifestations of Moslem dogma anyway) that gets one to progress and it appears that the Iranians understand this very well. One would hope that the other states in the region could also be so enlightened.

On-Line BOD Analyzer

Provides continuous, real-time Biochemical Oxygen Demand data for wastewater treatment process control

Isco Inc. introduces the Isco-STIP Biox-1010 analyzer for on-line control of wastewater treatment plants. BOD, or Biochemical Oxygen Demand, is widely recognized as a standard parameter for characterization of wastewater loads or for proof of a required purification level. Biox 1010 provides continuous BOD load data with only three minute lag, compared to the 5 days required for the traditional BOD5 laboratory test. Applications include untreated municipal wastewater as well as monitoring final discharge, highly pollute chemical and food plant effluents, and river monitoring.

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The ideal candidate should:

- have a good working knowledge of spoken and written English (the equivalent of IELTS Band 6.0 or TOEFL 580),
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- have a clear and detailed idea of what sort of training or study he or she would do (and where) under this scholarship scheme.

Candidates should collect the application form from the British Council in Sana'a and then bring it back in person along with covering letter, copies of qualification certificates, and two references to the British Council by Wednesday 15th March

For help in choosing a suitable study course consult the British Council Library. For more information about the scheme contact Raya Almoayad, Ext. 13

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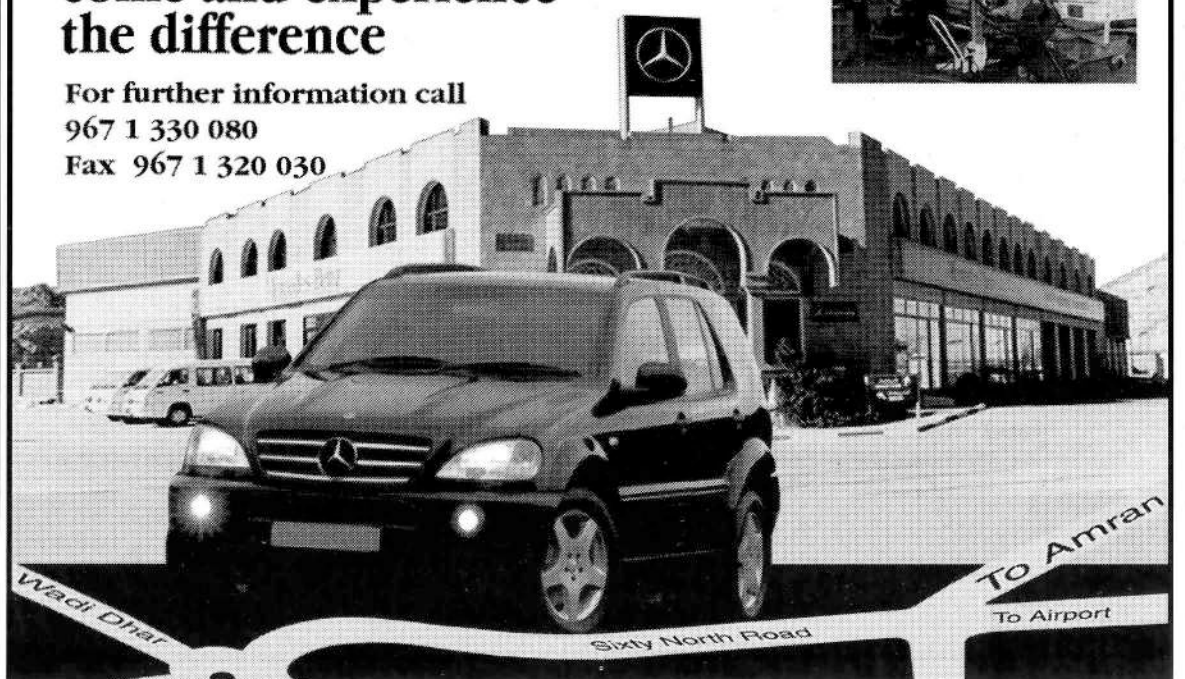
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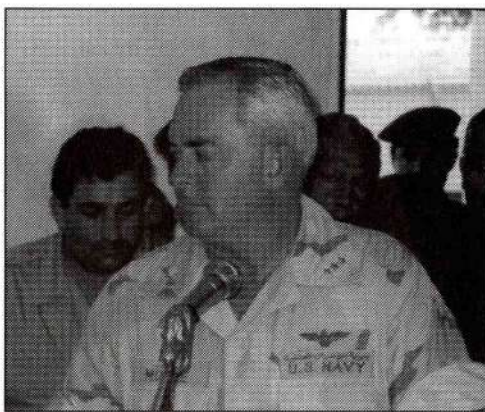


Ceremony of Inaugurating the New National Mine Action Committee Compound



Ridhwan A. Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times,
Aden

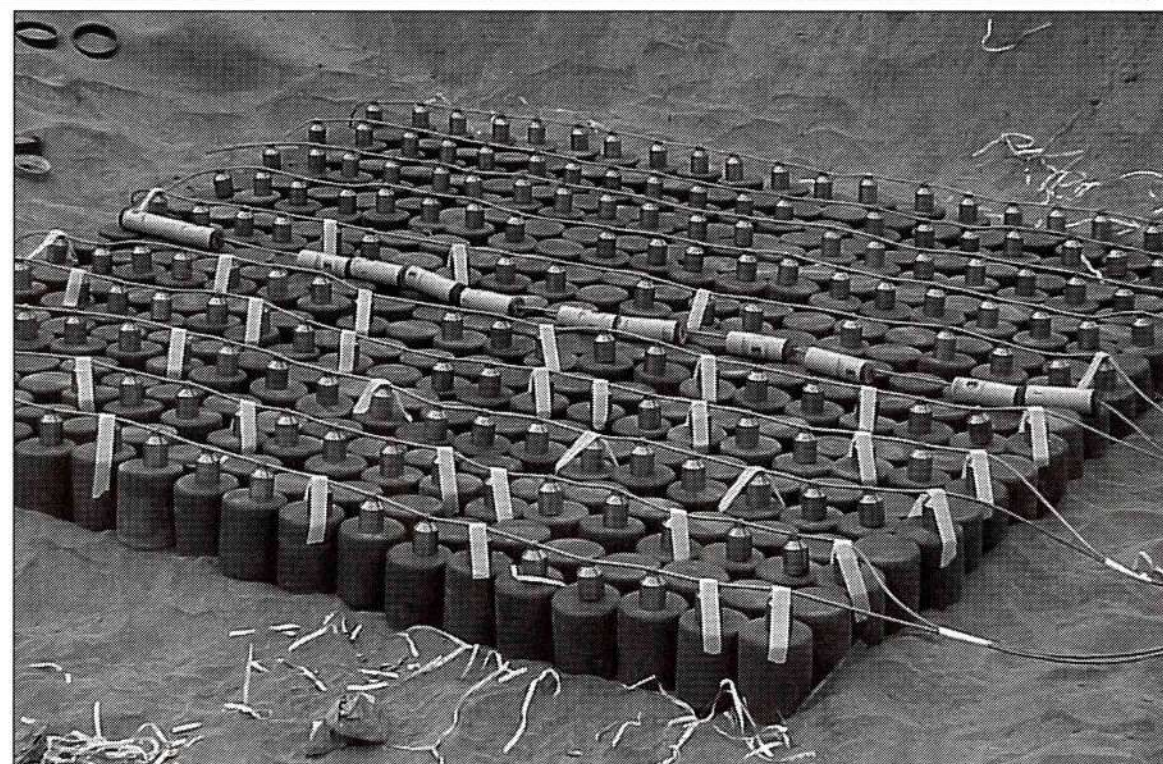
Under the motto of "Yemen without Mines" a ceremony was held Monday February 15, 2000 to inaugurate the Training Center of the Yemeni Humanitarian Demining Program at Daar Sa'ad. After the inauguration of the center the technical unit blasted around 5,000 mines as the first stage for blasting up to 10,000 mines. The ceremony was attended by Dr. Motaher Al-Sa'idi, minister of the Cabinet Affairs, and chairman of the National Mine Action Committee, major general Mohammed Daif Allah, the Defense Minister delivered a speech at the ceremony, praising the efforts exerted for the success of this project and cooperation of the military forces, the National Mine Action Committee, the American experts and friendly countries such as Canada, Switzerland, Poland, Germany, and Japan. He also said that the compound was opened to qualify soldiers who will have a good know-how in demining by the end of the course. Mr Neuman, deputy of the U.S.



officers and American trainers in mine clearing as well, as a good number of people. Then, the technical demining unit inaugurated the second stage of the project. Major general Mohammed Daif Allah, the Defense Minister delivered a speech at the ceremony, praising the efforts exerted for the success of this project and cooperation of the military forces, the National Mine Action Committee, the American experts and friendly countries such as Canada, Switzerland, Poland, Germany, and Japan. He also said that the compound was opened to qualify soldiers who will have a good know-how in demining by the end of the course. Mr Neuman, deputy of the U.S.

ambassador has also delivered an address at the ceremony. He expressed the American government pride in funding the program for the improvement of training facilities for those who have devoted themselves to work in the field of clearing mines. He described the success achieved by the program as an example of team work cooperation between the two countries, the other donor countries, the non-governmental and foreign organizations towards common goals. Mr Neuman said the program has worked in a good way making his government as an example to be followed on the way of operating a program of demining.

Admiral Charles Moore also addressed the ceremony expressing his great happiness to see what had been achieved during the period since the first opening of the program in October 1998 up to now. Mr Moore expressed American pride for financing this program and providing the training facilities for those who devoted themselves to the demining field. He said "I am really happy and proud by all the achievements that have been accomplished since the beginning of this project in 1998. All the sides involved in this project have exerted commendable efforts and shown great commitment. The job we are doing is a very important one for we save the lives of many people. Even if we could only save the life of one child, it will be a great achievement for us. We do appreciate all the help as well as cooperation we have found by all the participants." Rough estimates of the mines existing in the North and South of Yemen, since the Imam role, war of 1962, continuous conflicts between the North



and South, the last of which the war of 1994, are amounted to around 1 million. The mines planted by the separatists around Aden, other Southern and Eastern governorates are roughly estimated at around 60,000. Most of the mines are those of land mines and anti-personnel. Colonel Al-Shaibani, chief of the technical unit said that Norway has become another donor country granting the program \$ 280,000, besides the USA that renders more than \$ 2.5 million worth in equipment, training, cars, experts, etc.

Admiral Moore along with Mr Neumann, representative of the American government, offered a present for president Saleh received on his behalf by Dr. Al-Sa'adi, minister of cabinet affairs. In the present represents a picture depicting the first mine destroyed in cooperation with America and a picture of Admiral Moore inaugurating the National Mine Action Centre in 1998 located now at Daar Sa'ad, Aden. The following sentence was also written in the present:

"In commemoration of our strong

friendship and mutual dedication to the removal of land mines from Republic of Yemen" (Admiral Thomas Charles Moore) Commander of the US Naval Forces of the Central Command and Commander of the 5th Fleet.

The representative of the Yemeni government made a speech asserting that the program proves Yemen's credibility for peace and that it will do its best to protect peace. The new renovated compound contains the National Mine Action Committee building that could accommodate 350 persons at Daar Sa'ad in Aden. Colonel Al-Shaibani, the chairman of the technical unit said that the technical unit has conducted a medical survey for all those who have been injured as a result of mines. Some of them were treated by American doctors last September while the rest of them will be treated in the near future. The number of those trained for demining campaign are 380 trainees under the supervision of an American group."



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رفاه للداعية

دليل السؤال الذهبي
برعاية يمن تايمز والشركات المساهمة

January							February							March							April							
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يرفق هذا الكوبون مع أجبائك بخط واضح وأرسلها إلى العنوان التالي:
صنعاء - رفاه للداعية ص.ب. (١١٨٤٠)



AZ Communication introduces MOTOROLA's latest Communication Technology in Yemen



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THE QUICK WORD
(Alpha-entry device) Arabic

His excellency, Engineer Ahmed Al-Anisi, Minister of Communications has always left his finger tips on every achievement of implementing new Technology in Communications has successfully launches of the Flex paging system early this year. It is worth mentioning that PTC is currently working on expanding coverage of paging transmission via satellite. To meet with this progress, AZ Com is very proud of launching MOTOROLA's new pager, Flex capable and receives messages in Arabic. The Scriptor JAZZ 200 displays 2 line Arabic message with information service capability allowing users to receive information services such as sports, weather and headline news. A long list of features makes the scriptor JAZZ 200 the best choice of a new alphanumeric pager. The Quick word (alpha-entry device) - Arabic or commonly known as "Mirsa" allows sending messages up to 80 characters per message. On the other hand Motorola's memo express pager can still receive messages in English from a word sender with 120 characters per message.



TALK ABOUT 200 Radio

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Night of February 28

Planned to be A Spectacular Night

With the presence of diplomats, ministers, members of parliament, and several key and intellectual figures, the reception at the TAJ Sheba Hotel has been planned for since the last millennium!

We have produced a film to be displayed on a wide screen to give a briefing of the stages of Yemen Times: how it developed, what it went through till it reached the level it is on today, and its future.

The event will also include the prize handing ceremony of the Millennium Competition, which has the first prize as YR 1,000,000 plus several valuable prizes.

We also will be handing certificates of appreciation to all the sponsors of the event and the Millennium Competition.

In his speech, the Chief Editor of Yemen Times will give a brief statement on the conditions of Yemen Times today, and proudly announce the new plans for the future.

This night will signal a turning point for Yemen Times in many ways, as we will use this opportunity in announcing a truly fantastic and important new service that Yemen Times will be offering from next week (let it be a surprise.) On this occasion, we would like to congratulate ourselves and say "many happy returns Yemen Times."

Answers to Yemen Times Millennium Competition

Yemen Times:

- 1- Did the circulation of Yemen Times increase or decrease after the death of its founder?
- It increased by 100%
- 2- When was the first issue of Yemen Times published?
- On February 27, 1991 (28 Feb. also acceptable.)

Shammr Trading Center

- 1- Where is the Shammr Fortress Located?
- In Al-Beida Province and Al-Beida Village.
(The Answer "Al-Beida Province" is enough)

National Cigarettes & Matches Industry Ltd.:

- 1- When were Radfan cigarettes first produced?
- 2- What are the two products produced by the National Cigarettes & Matches Industry?
- Radfan and Pall Mall

Salim Bagirsh & Sons Est.:

- 1- What are the ingredients of Kanola Oil?
- Kanola Flower's Oil
- 2- What are the cooking oil products of Sabson?
- Al-Safa, Al-Tayyibat, Al-Barakat, Al-Waha, Kanola

Musallam Commercial Establishment:

- 1- What are the Ingredients of Al-Kaha Mango Juice?
- Mango Natural Juice, Water, Sugar, and Enhancing Components

United Insurance Company:

- 1- When was United Insurance founded?
- It was founded in 1 Feb. 1981
- 2- Which group does United Insurance belong to?
- Hayel Saeed Ana'am Group

Artex Commercial Agency:

- 1- What are the products that Artex deals with?/Mention three product brands that Artex Agency sells?
- The brands are: Glim Gas, Delonghi, Krups, Kilon, & Leonard.

United Company for Industrial Metals

- 1- What is the huge project the United Company for Industrial Metals planning to establish in Yemen?
- The Iron and Steel Factory
- 2- In which city is the main office of the factory?
- Aden, Al-Mansoorah

Ba Maroof Group - Aden

- 1- Mention three countries where Ba Maroof is an Agent of Suzuki Motors
- Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Morocco.
- 2- Mention the Suzuki car models that are sold by Ba Maroof.
- Grand Vitara, Baleno, Jimmy, Carry Bus, Carry Pick-up, and Samurai

General Establishment for Furniture & School Equipment

- 1- What is the old name and current location of the General Establishment for Furniture and School Equipment?
- General Establishment for Carpentry and Ship Construction, located at Al-Qalloo'a - Aden

Taj Sheba Hotel

- 1- What are the restaurants of Taj Sheba Hotel?
- Bilquis and Golden Peacock
- 2- When was Taj Sheba founded?
- 15th May 1980
- 3- What is the most famous and prestigious hotel located at the heart of Sanaa City?
- Taj Sheba Hotel.

Sana'a Trade Center

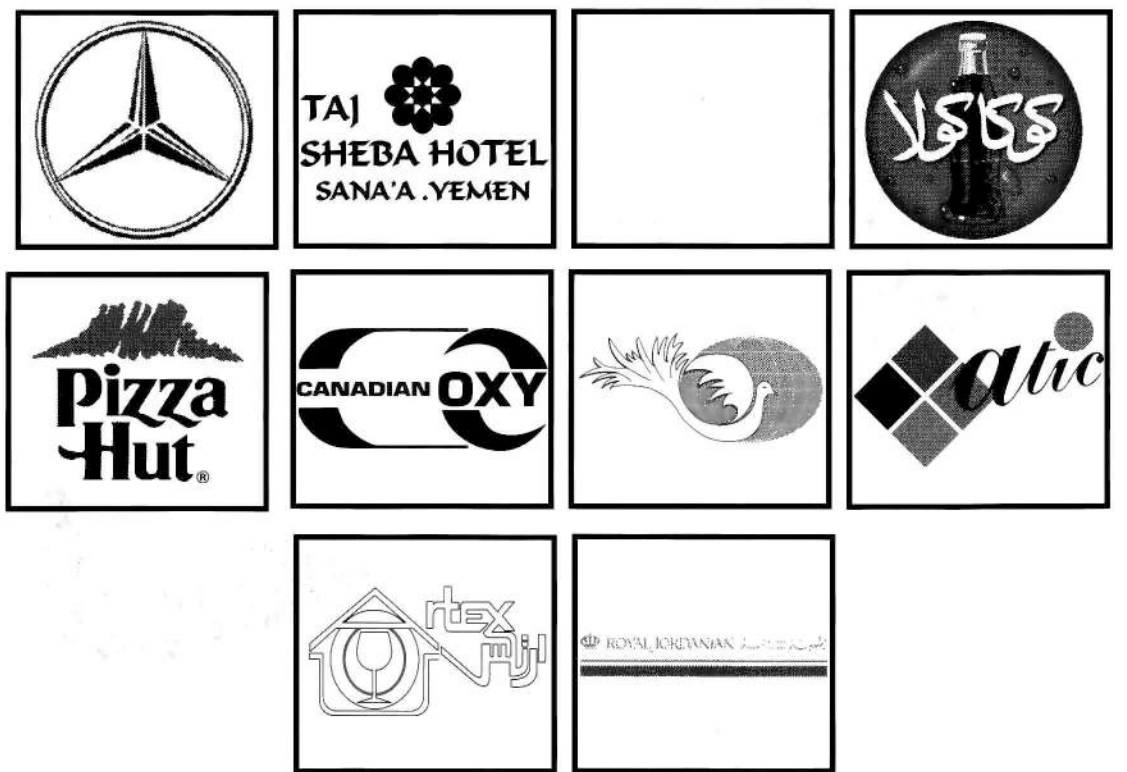
- 1- How many markets are there at the Sana'a Trade Center?
- 77 markets
- 2- What is the company that Sanaa Trade Center belongs to?
- The Libyan Withholding Company.

Important Notes:

- * Any coupon with missing or that do not match the above answers will not be considered for the draw.
- * The coupons that are cut inappropriately (not as indicated by the scissors, will not be considered for the draw.
- * Coupons without complete information (phone no., ID card no., age, etc.) will not be considered for the draw.
- * The above answers are taken from the sponsoring companies directly, hence the validity and accuracy of the answers is of their sole responsibility.
- * The draw will take place on Saturday, 26th February, at the newspaper's main office in Sanaa at 15:00 pm. Whoever wants to witness the draw is welcome.
- * The handing of the prizes will take place at the Taj Sheba Hotel on the 28th of February's night.

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الإجابات الصحيحة لمسابقة الألفية الثالثة الكبرى

- يمن تايمز:-**
- 1- هل تدهورت مبيعات وشهرة صحيفة يمن تايمز بعد وفاة مؤسسها؟
- كم نسبة الزيادة أو النقصان في المبيعات؟
- لا لم تتدهور. بل زادت المبيعات والشهرة ونسبة زيادة المبيعات هي 100%
 - 2- متى تم إصدار أول عدد من صحيفة يمن تايمز؟
- 1991/2/27 م (الإجابة 1999/2/28 م أيضاً مقبولة)
- مركز شمر التجاري:-**
- 1- في أي محافظة وقرية تقع قلعة شمر؟
- في محافظة البيضاء و قرية البيضاء - شارع الرياض (محافظة البيضاء إجابة كافية)
- شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة:-**
- 1- متى بدأ تصنيع سجائر ردفان (اليوم/ الشهر/ العام)؟
- 1973/6/22 م
 - 2- ما هما المنتجان اللذان تنتجهما شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية؟
- سجائر ردفان - بالمال
- مؤسسة سالم عبد الرحمن باجرش التجارية:-**
- 1- ما هي المكونات الرئيسية لزيت كاندولا النباتية؟
- زيت زهرة الكاندولا (أو زيت الكاندولا)
 - 2- ما هي ماركة الزيوت التي وكيلها مؤسسة سالم عبد الرحمن باجرش وأولاده؟
- ليست ماركة واحدة، بل خمس ماركات وهي: الصفاء، الطيبات، البركات، الواحة، كاندولا.
- مؤسسة مسلم التجارية:-**
- 1- ما هي المكونات الرئيسية لعصير المانجو من قها؟
- ماء، سكر، عصير مانجو طبيعي، مواد محسنة للقوام.
- المتحدة للتأمين:-**
- 1- متى أسست الشركة المتحدة للتأمين (اليوم/ الشهر/ العام)؟
- أسست في 1981/2/1 م وبدأت العمل في 1981/7/1 م (الإجابة 1981/7/1 م مقبولة)
 - 2- الشركة المتحدة للتأمين تتبع مجموعة معروفة في اليمن، ما هي هذه المجموعة؟
- مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم وشركائه.
- شركة أركس التجارية المحدودة:-**
- 1- ما هي الماركات العالمية التي وكيلها شركة أركس التجارية؟
- الماركات هي: جليم غاز - ديلونجي - كيلون - ليونارد - كرويس.
- الشركة المتحدة للصناعات المعدنية:-**
- 1- ما هو المشروع العملاق الذي تنوي الشركة المتحدة للصناعات

Third Lawyers Conference Kicked off

Jalal al Shara'abi
Yemen Times

Over three days 15-17 February, the Third Conference of Lawyers was held at the Culture Center in Sana'a to elect a new chairman of the syndicate besides a Disciplinary and Syndicate Councils. A heated campaign had raged between the ruling party on the one hand and the opposition parties on the other as both of them presented a lists of their candidates for the posts. However, as a result of some strong pressure exercised by the PGC, elections were put off from last Wednesday to Thursday without clear-cut reasons.

The position of the chairman was occu-

which paralyzes syndicates' activities.

Yemen Times interviewed a number of



lawyers to see their points of view about the Third Conference and what they look forward to see from the new leadership. Shayaf Al-Usifi said "Holding the Third Conference of the Lawyers Syndicate was after endorsing the law of lawyers by the parliament and was also amended by the president of the Republic so as to protect the lawyers' rights and join them in a syndicate that aims to develop legal awareness in our society as lawyers are the standing judges.

The number of lawyers attending the conference was really remarkable and impressive.

However, the syndicate did not arrange the conference well. It was also attended by a number of lawyers from the Union of Arab Lawyers as associates and observers. The inauguration of the conference was attended by the



pied by the PGC for the second time while the Syndicate Council was formed from the two lists presented by the ruling and opposition parties.

About 800 members from all the governorates attended this conference, however, their hopes of change were very dim. They were not at all content with its results especially after the interference of the ruling party to keep the ex-chairman who belongs to the ruling party. Besides, they are aware of the weak role played by the syndicate during the Second Conference held in Aden in 1996 during which the leadership of the syndicate did not present any practical and clear prospect to activate the syndicate work. The Syndicate of the Yemeni Lawyers seems to be the only syndicate that has not been subjected to division due to the partisan censorship and dominance

president himself, minister of the legal Affairs, some scholars and a number of representatives from different syndicates in Yemen.

Elections of the Chairman, Disciplinary and Syndicate Councils were conducted last Thursday 17.2.2000 and went off well. However, many Yemeni lawyers are not satisfied with its results.

We look forward to seeing the new syndicate's active role to activate and modernize the lawyers' syndicate and among the lawyers themselves.

We will wait to see how the syndicate does its work and

what will it do for lawyers. We hope that the new syndicate will dominate and get out of its state of motionlessness that characterized the previous syndicate. We are now before two options; the first of which is either to modernize and develop the syndicate while the second one is that the current leadership proves it's a complete failure."



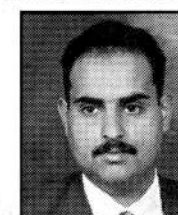
Mr. Khalid Al-Anisi, a lawyer, said "The conference, as considered by the majority, was the first ever professional conference in which profession took precedence over parties. As a matter of fact, we were afraid at the beginning of the conference of the political plots for some parties try to control the conference. However, what we found is that there is a sense of responsibility, unity and seriousness towards all the issues dealt with in the conference and the elections which have resulted in a somehow balanced Syndicate Council as members were chosen according to their efficiency and not anything else.

I believe that the chairman was not changed for a number of reasons such as, no candidate was qualified enough to compete him. Besides, the parties of the coordination council were not successful in choosing an alternative for him not because he was not qualified and for his behavior but because of his limited contact and relations with the other lawyers. There were some other names the opposition could have selected and they might have won the chairman position. However, there was not a special focus on the professional side while electing.



They look at the political side and the divisions between the opposition parties therefore there were some names who were ignored as candidates.

Moreover, when lawyers find themselves at weak options that do not constitute a change for them, they preferred the ex-chairman as a matter of paying tribute and appreciation for his role. Besides, there were some lawyers who refused to introduce themselves as candidates though it was certain that they would win. They did so mainly for the sake of the syndicate; they are certain that the ex-chairman is approved by the authority and if another one comes to hold his position, the authority may not like him and this may have affected the syndicate and their sacred profession negatively if the authority does not cooperate with him so as to make him a failure.



Gamal Al-Ga'abi, a lawyer, said "first of all, I would like to say that Mr. Abdul Majid Yasin, the competing candidate elected by the opposition, was not himself convinced of presenting himself as a candidate. He did so in response to a political partisan decision.

I hope that the current Syndicate Council will establish a real professional work and that it will assert the principle of judiciary assistance stipulated in the constitution.

Though there were some political as well as partisan paralogism conducted when electing the candidate of the opposition for some parties did not live up to their promises and went to elect Mr. Al-Basir. I also do hope that the current Council will consider the issue of Mr. Hafid Fadil and Rakiyah Hamidan who participated in the elections of the Palestinian National Authority in 1997 which was a clear normalization attitude and was absolutely contradictory to the articles of the Union of Arab Lawyers. All in all, Mr. Al-Basir, chairman of the syndicate, is considered to be one of the outstanding syndicates' leaders and is a national personage very much known for his loyalty to the profession."

Mr. Abul Majid Yasin, the competitor for

the position of chairman, said "We must establish a real professional syndicate that assures social security, rights as well as duties for the lawyers.



The procedures of elections went all well. The only thing that we can complain about is the delay of casting polls from Wednesday to Thursday which has affected the whole make up of the syndicates' bodies. I am pretty sure that if elections were held on the assigned day, Wednesday, things would have been much different.

It is undeniable that there was some pressure exerted by high partisan sides so as to control the course of these elections, however, our sublime aim is to have an independent syndicate and we will do our best to achieve it. I was also hesitant

to compete with Mr. Abdul Fatah, however, I accepted the competition after he refused to introduce himself as an independent candidate and came as the candidate of the PGC."

Mr. Mohammed Al-Mikhlaifi, current chairman of the Disciplinary Council in the syndicate said "It is a well-known that the syndicate was shut down since 1996. However, what makes this conference so special and is different from those held after 1994 is that it was held in a transparent, clear and correct basis. We have conducted elections in a democratic way.

We in the Disciplinary Council will work to complete forming the council according to the articles of the new law. If we receive any complaints filed against lawyers, we will take appropriate measures according to the effective laws.

We hope from the new syndicate to establish real syndicate activities that will get it out of the state of stagnancy that prevails most bodies of the civil society and that it would be the start for the syndicate work."

More Investments in the Free Zone

Mr. Derham Abduh Noma'an, Deputy Chief of the General Authority of the Free Zone in Aden has stated that many projects linked to the Free Zone and the activation of its investments accomplished and ratified the following week of this month.

Statistics reveal that the total number of assured investment requests in the Aden's Free Zone received during the period (1 August 1991 - January 2000) were 414. They included the establishment of industrial, storage, commercial services as well as other investment projects. As for the total area that is allotted for the establishment of the

project, it is 4,839,801 square meters. Mr. Derham Abduh Noma'an has asserted that the total cost of the project is US\$ 401,757,065 in addition to YR 13,525,353 from which more than 10,716 Yemeni workers benefit. He also noted the total number of investment requests were 738: 187 Industrial projects and they come in first place, then follows storage and commercial projects which occupy 14,304,735 square meters with a total cost of US\$ 1,227,890,940 besides YR 31,894,299. These projects would, in the future, provide employment for over 24,286 Yemeni cadres.

New Discovery to be Launched

Yemeni researcher discovered new kinds of amber in different areas in the Republic of Yemen. He is continuing on searching for new kinds of quartz, amber, demand and ...etc. However, He could reached rare kinds of amber and other precious stones. He launches his discovery to scientists and those who are specialized in this field in order to see them, and give their opinions about these discoveries. These petrified insects which are kept inside amber belong to thousands of years.

Some of those insects become extinct, while the other are still existing up to now. He found them inside some kinds of amber and quartz. As it is commonly known that there is no petrified insects inside agate, but he has one piece of agate which contains petrified insects.

He has giant stone which weights up to 770 Gm. and the other one is 740 Gm. Those insects are strange in which he had never seen like them before. One of these stones contains a marine life. He contacted with some famous channels as CNN and JAZEERA to show my discovery on these channels. They responded to my request, but there is opportunity at the present time.

Ali Kasim Ibn Al-A'beda Email: binabedah@hotmail.com

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