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## SOON!

### بطاقة تيليمن مدفوعة الأجر Teleyemen Prepaid Card

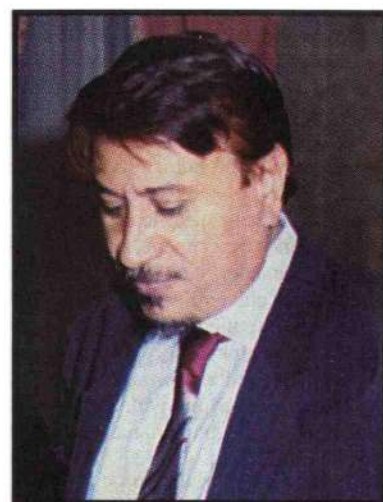
**OVERVIEW**

Teleyemen Prepaid Card provides the means for making international telephone calls to various countries of the world without the need for signing Teleyemen's International Telephone Access Agreement. There will be no monthly bills as the service is prepaid. Anyone can buy a Teleyemen Prepaid Card from various locations around Yemen, and make international calls from home, mobile, public phones or any touch tone telephone set.

### Sheikh Omar Ahmad Saif, in a Religious Opinion "Fatwa" "Shaking Hands with the Jews is a Great Treachery"

Strong reactions condemning Jews' visits to Yemen dominated on the Yemeni society. The opposition parties including the Coordination Council as well as Islah Party distributed statements denouncing such visits and called upon the government to stop dealings with the Jews whoever their identities were. Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Speaker of the Parliament, has in a press conference denounced such visits and called for not permitting them. On the other hand, Sheikh Abdul Majeed Al-Zandani, director of Al-Iman University, strongly criticized the government's permission of these

visits and warned against the dangers of re-inhabiting the Jews in Yemen. Sheikh Omar Ahmad Saif, a BGC leader and general director of the military forces, in a religious opinion "Fatwa" considered shaking hands with the Jews as a great treachery. YT contacted Dr. Abdul Rahman Ba Fadel, an Islamic leader and asked him to give his opinion this issue as he studied abroad and had no problem to adapt himself to other religions. He had the following to say:



- 1- In fact all Yemen people will resist normalization with Jewish state starting with political parties as well as tribal leading personalities, and Yemen nation in general Women and Men, without any exception. The question should be who are the individuals who will accept normalization.
- 2- In all cases most of the Arab regimes if not all accepted openly or secretly, directly or indirectly normalization with Jewish state on the official side. But surely on the other side the people all over the Arab World are against any normalization with Jewish state for example: Egypt passed ten years having diplomatic relation with Jewish state but only four thousand individuals went on a visit to Jewish state among more than sixty millions. In Yemen the situation will be more worse: with the exception of forty Jewish individuals living now in Yemen in addition to official staff, no one will accept normalization. Our President said it many times, that if they force us to normalize with Jewish state, we will ask first about Palestinian state with Qudos as capital, Four million refugees abroad to go back to their native land and independent state with all means and power and characteristics as that of Jewish state on equal basis.

#### Islah Party Position

We ask the American here about Justice of peace they claim;

- 1- Why should 8 million Jews all over the world have the right to settle in Jewish state whenever they like and Four million Palestinians are not allowed to return back to their native land?
- 2- Why Jewish state have all means

of defense including nuclear weapons meanwhile the Palestinians are deprived from any means of defense, not only that but all Arab states are not to have nuclear weapons, and more over US is looking for the unknown in Iraq and neglects the well known in Jewish state.

- 3- Why US forced the Palestinians to modify their program mainly elimination of Jewish state, but no demand for Jewish state to modify their program as they have a map of Great Israel From Nile to Ephruty in their Parliament as well as in their currency? This means their children will grow up with hatred towards Arabs, and hope to get back their claimed land in future due to open and continuous immigration to Jewish state. A strong indication is settlements of Jews in claimed Palestinian state.
- 4- What kind of state will have the Palestinians as Jewish state grants Visa for those who come and those who go including Yaser Arafat the President? Not only that but also Jewish state have the priority to check traffic, goods, and inspection of every thing including human beings going in or out of Palestinian state? IS it municipality or independent state?

All those questions among others need clarification from United States, for all Yemeni People as well as political parties as I have already asked these questions to congress technical staff who visited the Parliament last month on behalf of all parties in the parliament including GPC.



## French Cultural & Food Festival

On 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> April 2000  
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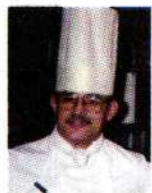


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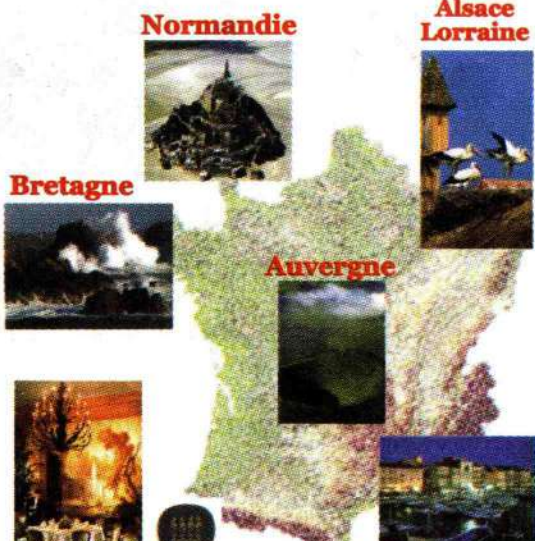
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Monday, 10 April, 2000 - VOL. X • Issue No. 15 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

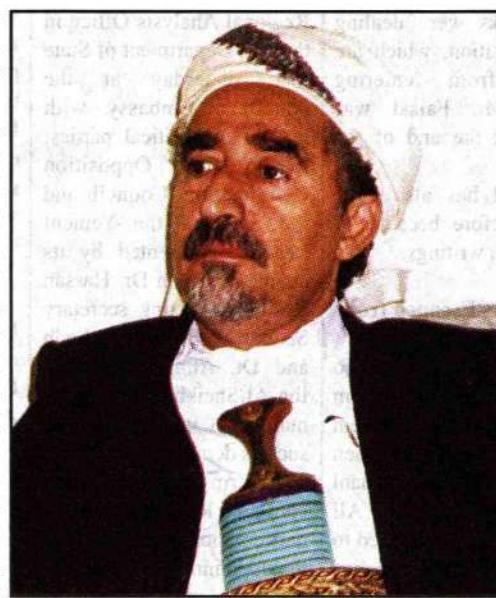
## SHEIKH AL-AHMAR CONDEMNS RECENT ISRAELI VISITS TO YEMEN

# "THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED A DEADLY MISTAKE"

Yemen's Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdulla bin Hussein Al-Ahmar, who is the leader of Yemen Coalition Party for Reform (Islah), last Friday said that by permitting Israelis to visit Yemen, the government has committed a

deadly mistake and a huge error. Speaker Al-Ahmar statements were made following a visit to Yemen of 13 Israelis, some of which are of Yemeni origin, from Tel Aviv via Addis Ababa on Thursday. The first group's mem-

bers were carrying travel documents instead of Israeli passports. In an interview with al-Khaleej daily of the



United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Al-Ahmar said the Yemeni Jews left Yemen 50 years ago, and should not be considered Yemenis, as they fled Yemen with their own will to an occupying enemy. He added that Jews, including Yemeni Jews, harbor hatred and terrorism against Palestinians, Muslims and Arabs as a whole. Al-Ahmar also said that Yemeni Jews should not come to Yemen because they were no longer Yemenis but Israelis and therefore must not be allowed to come back. He indicated that Israel was a state that he could not deny but "as long as it has an aggressive, colonialist and terrorist stand against Palestinians, Syrians, Lebanese and the Iranian people there should be no talks about normalization."

Abdul Karim Al-Iryani and that was welcomed by the US president Bill Clinton who praised Yemen for its relaxation on travel restrictions against them. Despite the opposition he has shown towards the visit of the Yemeni Jews, Sheikh al-Ahmar said that he had met an American rabbi. He said the rabbi Samah al-Qadi, a Jew of Yemeni origin who left Yemen in 1931, met him with others as American and not as a Yemeni Jew and was carrying an American passport. On the hand, the Yemeni Opposition Coordination Council, which includes five parties, protested the visit of the Israelis to Yemen and called upon the parliament to immediately conduct a vote of no confidence on the government.

## PRESIDENT BACK HOME

President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Saturday evening wrapped up a 2-week successful tour to Canada, USA, Italy and the State of the Vatican in response to invitations from the said countries. The president and his accompanying delegation had also attended the funeral of the former



Prime Minister Lamberto Denny, Speakers of the House of Senate and Parliament. President Saleh had a meeting in the State of the Vatican with His Pontiff Pope John Paul II, in which he discussed relations and areas of cooperation, reviewing the international situations and developments related to world peace and peace in the Mideast, the African Horn, and in the Red Sea. The talks also dealt with ways of consolidating bilateral relations and areas of common cooperation, the existing partnership and extending horizons of investment between Yemen and each of the friendly countries he had visited.

## According to Some News Agencies, Israelis of Yemeni origin continue to pour into Yemen

Despite the opposition of Al-Ahmar, Speaker of the House of Parliament, and all opposition parties, some news agencies reported that a second group of Israeli tourists arrived in Yemen on Thursday April 6. This is the second group in a week to visit areas where Jews once lived. At least 10 Israelis were on the tour, which includes visiting old Jewish neighborhoods and villages. According to sources from the tourism sector, most, but not all, of the Israelis were of Yemeni background. Even though the information came from internationally well-recognized news agencies, yet Yemen Times was not able to get a confirmation from tourist agencies or official sources confirming their arrival and where they were taken to. This raises questions whether the news of the arrival of the second group was just a rumor.

It is worth mentioning that the number of Jews in Yemen during the 1950s was around 50,000, of which only a few hundred still remain in Yemen today. The first Israeli group left Yemen last week after government officials refused to meet them. The government and leadership placed several conditions before any normalization with Israel can take place. President Ali Abdullah Saleh has been quoted as saying that the Israelis presence stirred an unjustified fuss in the media, and that the government had dealt with them not as Israelis, but as Yemenis living abroad. The current visits mark the first time the government has coordinated them through travel agencies, and permitted their entrance to Yemeni soil. This permission seems to have even driven the attention of the international media on Yemen.

## U.S. Embassy Hosts a Public Discussion on 1999 Human Rights Report on Yemen Tomorrow

On Tuesday, April 11, the US Embassy in Yemen will host a public discussion on the 1999 U.S. Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights in general, and the report on Yemen in particular. The U.S. Embassy staff will be present to answer questions about the report. The program will take place at the Abraj Saba (Towers) Hotel on Ring Road at 9 AM. Some analysts suggest that this discussion will focus on the controversial points that came in the report, but which the government had earlier denied. The Yemen Report on Human Rights Practices for 1999 focused on several issues, some which signaled negative developments, and some, in fact, indicated substantial progress compared to the previous records. The report, which was published in Yemen Times concentrated on torture, judicial corruption, child labor, women's rights, and freedom of the press. During the president's visit to the USA, he mentioned that there was information provided by some opposition leaders who try to distort the image of Yemen. He emphasized that US staff members should seek information from government offices and compare the information to get a clearer and more faithful picture. The president even indicated that the US officials apologized for the false information that could have appeared in the report.

## Committee to Protect Journalists Raises Press Oppression Issues During the Saleh-Clinton Meeting

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) urges U.S. president Bill Clinton to put press freedom high on the agenda for his meeting with Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh in Washington tomorrow. Since the end of Yemen's civil war in 1994, the Yemeni government has followed the repressive course of its regional neighbors by steadily restricting the extensive press freedoms granted to local journalists following the unification of north and south Yemen in 1990. Last year, the government carried out a number of punitive measures against journalists, including arrests, prosecutions, censorship, and acts of intimidation. This year has already seen new cases of censorship and harassment of local media. On February 22, a Sanaa court ordered the 30-day suspension of the opposition weekly Al-Wahdawi and permanently banned Al-Wahdawi journalist Jamal Amer from practicing journalism in Yemen. Amer had been charged with harming public interests, offending King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, and damaging relations between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, based on a report published on August 10, 1999. In this report he talked about an alleged power struggle within the Saudi royal family during the summer of 1999, and predicted that they would negatively affect the continuing Yemeni-Saudi border dispute. Both sentences have been suspended pending appeal.

In September 1999, the opposition weekly Al-Shoura was indefinitely closed by court order for allegedly printing two separate versions of the same edition in violation of the law. The newspaper accused state security agents of printing the second edition themselves as a subterfuge. In October, the opposition weekly Al-Haq was suspended for 30 days for running an article that criticized administrative practices in southern Yemen. And on March 7, 2000, judicial authorities summoned the editor of the independent tri-weekly paper Al-Ayyam for questioning about Al-Ayyam's published criticisms of authorities. He faces possible prosecution. "The Yemeni government's targeting of independent and opposition journalists shows a worrying indifference to press freedom," said CPJ executive director Ann Cooper. "President Saleh's visit to Washington is the perfect opportunity for the Clinton administration to voice its concern about the deterioration of press freedoms in Yemen, particularly in light of efforts to improve bilateral relations in recent years."

Complete annual report on page 6

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