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Monday, 3rd of July, 2000 - VOL. X • Issue No. 27 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

As Yemen Times asked last week "WHAT NEXT" in terms of Kidnapping, it didn't need to wait for long:

## MILITARY MACHINE CRUSHES JAHM

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At least 3 people were killed, one of which was a child, and tens injured in the clashes that took place between Al Zayidi tribe and military forces in Mareb governorate. The conflict originated in response to the latest bizarre action of the kidnapping of Military Officers of the Republican Guard Army (originally from Sanhan) by the Jahm tribesmen in Serwah, 70 km west of Mareb City. The story started when 6 high ranking officers were kidnapped in an attempt to force the release of one of the tribe's prominent figures, who is currently held in prison. But the officers' release was secured on Thursday after tremendous forces stormed the area and mediators convinced the tribesmen that they will work on releasing their prisoner. However, the bombardment continued even after the release of the officers, and according to eye witnesses, tens of houses were destroyed and other houses along with some vehicles were intentionally set on fire as heavy blasting continued. It was earlier mentioned that the conflict started when a number of tribesmen expressed discomfort with the military forces in their region, resulting in an exchange of fire, which lead to the murder of one soldier and explosion of the situation.

In the evening of Saturday, President Saleh interfered by ordering the halting of the military offensive and the withdrawal of some military forces from the area. Even though the President's ordered were obeyed, yet the damage was already inflicted. Among the houses that were destroyed because of the random firing, was the house of Vice Commander of the Military Region's, Brigadier Abdullah Mohamed Al-Zaidi. People of the region are currently pleading to humanitarian and human rights organizations to help in delivering shelter, food, and medicine to the affected families. "The military forces came to the village, which is 50 meters away from my house, to surround the kidnappers houses. We then emptied the village from families and children while forces bombarded the hideouts of the kidnappers. Only a few men stayed in their houses to guard them, but they were faced by greedy soldiers who later robbed their homes.



Burnt Vehicle

Remains of the offensive  
(see remaining smoke marks on windows of houses)

After the soldiers had robbed the homes and stolen all the significant belongings of the villagers, they set the houses on fire (see photo). What has happened to us, did not happen in Kosovo or Chechnya, it is even more outrageous," said Naji bin Saleh. About the offensive, Mohamed Hizam Al-Zayidi, whose house was also destroyed said, "the language of robbery is the only language that is known and used among these soldiers. We will never let this go without punishment, and shall defend our honor and dignity as long as we are alive."

On the other hand, tribesmen of Jahm held a meeting and decided to react confidently and solidly against what happened. Currently, most of the families are left homeless living in caves and mountains as a result of the offensive.

This kidnapping incident is the latest in a series, but the first of its kind. It was earlier reported by tourist agencies and other companies involved that the latest two kidnapping incidents of Europeans resulted in a European Union's ban against travel to Yemen. As a consequence, a large number of Italian and French tourists have cancelled their visits to the country. "Because of the kidnapping of the Italian archeologist, the Italian season has been blown off just like that" one of the owners of a tourist agency said. It is ridiculous to see how kidnapping incidents continue in such pace. But what is even more ridiculous is to solve this issue by force, resulting in the murder and injury of innocent villagers.

## Saud Al-Faisal Arrives in Yemen Tomorrow



Prince Saud Al-Faisal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is scheduled to arrive in Sana'a Tuesday morning July 3, 2000. Prince Al-Faisal and Yemen's foreign minister, Abdulkader ba Jammal are expected to exchange documents of the Yemeni-Saudi border treaty, the two countries had signed on June 12, 2000. Documents-exchange ceremony is to take place in the presidential palace in Sana'a. This move comes after the treaty had been endorsed by the constitutional, executive and leaderships of the two sisterly countries.

## Adam's Case: German Experts Reveal

### THE GIRLS HAVE INDEED BEEN MURDERED

German pathologists who inspected the bodies taken from the morgue confirmed that two of the bodies were indeed those of Hosn and Zaynab, the two girls who Adam had already confessed to killing.

In view of the fact that the other torn up organs were extremely difficult to analyze in Yemen, they will be taken to Germany for further investigation and thorough DNA examination to specify the sex, age, and other details about the bodies. The overall number of bodies were said to be 21, while one of the German experts claimed that the actual number is 25, and that the translation by the court mistake

only mentioned that they were 21.

The court, which was filled with a large crowd of people disgusted at the details of the report, was told that a package coming from Sudan, contained 2 pornographic films, 2 wild documentary films, 2 violent films, 2 Oriental films, and a cartoon movie. Adam denied the ownership of the films.

However, even though there was little suspicion that Adam intentionally killed the victims to sell



their internal organs to illegal gangs working out of Yemen, the missing kidneys, heart, and some internal organs of the bodies raised the question once again.

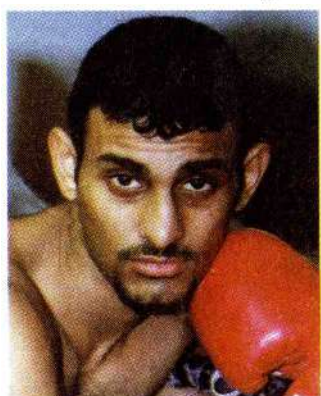
"We have now a stronger sense that Adam killed the girls to sell their organs to others, possibly in Arab countries. Why did he select women? Simply because they are weaker, and their families would not bother much looking for them," one of the analysts told Yemen Times after the end of the session.

Complete coverage on Page 7

## Naseem Hamed's to Box in Libya

Sources confirmed the readiness of Naseem Hamed, World Boxing Organization's feather-weight world champion, to accept the handsome offer of the Libyan President to organize one of his matches in Libya.

If organized in Libya, the match will be the first ever organized in an Arab country. The Libyan President's offer, £ 7 million, is far much bigger than all previous offers Naseem has ever been receiving. Besides, it gives Naseem the chance to realize his dream of playing on an Arab land. Naseem's father has also confirmed the news. Presenting this offer, Libya wants to take advantage of



Naseem's presence in the country to attract the world's attention to Libya and to promote Libyans' interest in boxing game. Naseem is paying his fullest attention to his Mexican opponent on August 19 which is scheduled to take place in Las Vegas, US.

## As UN Releases the Human Development Report 2000 Yemen, Still at the Rear

The UN released last Thursday the Human Rights Report for 2000, in which disappointing facts were provided in relation to Yemen. The report, which included thorough statistics of every country's position in regards to human development, has shown that Yemen is a country with an extremely low quality-of-life level as it ranked it No. 148 out of 174. Not only was Yemen the lowest ranking country in the Middle East, but it was also the worst place to live in the whole Asian continent.

The ranking was only made available through extensive and up-to-date surveys on: human development factors including poverty, economic growth, GDP, progress in survival, health, education, access to information, economic performance

ance, macroeconomic structure, resource flows, resource use, aid and debt, demographic trends, energy use, environment, food security and nutrition, job Security, political life, crime, personal distress, gender and women's participation, plus other indicators. Yemen's overall position was concluded based on all of these various indicators.

The list started with Canada, which continues to hold the first place as the country with the highest quality of life for its 6th consecutive year. For Yemen the story is totally different. The indicators show that Yemen has a long way before catching up with the average level of the Arab world, let alone the developed world. Yemen has only been able to maintain its position with no progress at all from last year.

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**Baggash Sentenced to a 20-year Imprisonment**

The primary court in the Capital Secretariat yesterday a sentence ruling the imprisonment for 20 years of Faisal Ahmed Baggash.

Faisal Baggash, 25, was accused for kidnapping foreigners several times as a means of pressurizing the government to release his imprisoned brother.

Baggash kidnapped tourist Steve Carter in December 1999, and transported him to Barat area where he was kept for one month. He also kidnapped 2 more tourists from the UK and the Netherlands at gun point, whom he held for 18 days.

The court has also granted him the right to appeal the sentence, which he is expected to take advantage of.

**Clashes in Khawlan: 7 killed**

Seven people were killed and 4 seriously injured during clashes in Khawlan last week. According to informed sources, the clashes resulted from a dispute over a piece of land, used as a base for water distribution located in a district called Al-Jahm. Casualties were taken to the Al-Thawrah and Al-Zubeiri Hospitals.

**Chief Editor of Al-Shumu' Attacked**

The Yemeni Journalist Syndicate (YJS) condemned the latest attack against the chief editor of Al-Shumu', Saif Al-Hadri. In an press release, the YJS protested the attack claiming that this was not the only one as he was harassed many times before. Apart from that, Al-Hadri was also detained without any legal warrant for two hours in the Capital Secretariat Security.

In the syndicate's statement, it was indicated that this was the third time he submitted a report protesting the continuous attacks against him as well as against his newspaper. The attacks were not at all based on legal warrants. He requested the syndicate to demand investigation with the attackers.

**Noman's Unsettled Dues Paid**

Mr. Noman Kaid Saif, ex-chief editor of Al-Showra, received half of his unsettled salaries and damages due on Al-Showra newspaper organ of the People's Forces Union. This was a decision taken by court in his favor as a result of his arbitrary dismissal from the paper. The other half is to be paid within two months as defined by Noman in the Supreme Court.

Noman, who has worked for 20 months as a chief editor of Al-Showra newspaper, has already won a court verdict

by the Preliminary Court that was endorsed by the Court of Appeal. However, leaders of the People's Forces Union refusal to abide by the court verdict delayed it for about a year. The implementation of the judgment came only after an obligatory verdict passed by the court.

**More Ethiopian and Eritrean Refugees Arrive in Yemen**

More than 500 refugees have arrived at Yemen's coasts fleeing their homelands as the war continues between the two countries. The Taiz local Authority received the refugees and provided them shelter, food, and medicine. It has prepared extra camps for more refugees expected to arrive soon. Refugees expressed their dismay and anger because of the war, and expressed their gratitude for the care they received in Yemen.

It is worth mentioning that according to the UNHCR statistics, Yemen is currently hosting more than 75,000 refugees.

**Al-Zaidi Family Members Arrested**

Abdullah Saeed Al-Zaidy, 17 years old and Ahmad Saleh Al-Zaidy were arrested last Tuesday in Sana'a. They were taken to the Alabab police station. Policemen said that they had been taken to an unknown place. The family of the arrested sent a letter of appeal to international organizations requesting them to intervene to free their sons who were arrested for something that they have nothing to do with.

**German Grants Al-Wasitah a Water Supply Project**

On June 26, 2000, an agreement to implement a water supply project in Al-Wasitah, Mahweet was signed between the German Embassy and the representative of Al-Wasitah Water Committee. The project comprises approximately 4 km of secondary pipes and a will.

The result of this, the water distribution network will supply an additional 11,000 people with drinking water. Worth noting that the installation works will be carried out on a voluntary basis by the local community in close cooperation and under technical surveillance of experts of Al-Wasitah water supply project.

**Journalist Harassed**

Mr. Abdulbaqi Al-Barhami, correspondent of Al-Wahdawi newspaper, was attacked and savagely beaten up by a

group of men belonging to Mohammed Abdulaziz, sheikh in Al-Rawnah district, Shara'ab, Taiz.

Informed sources told YT that the attack against Al-Barhami was after being accused of publishing some

news about the said sheikh who was accused of murdering a young man named Ghassan Abdullah Abdulatif one month ago. Worth noting that this took place after destructive operations dominated the area following a conflict between the said sheikh and one of the people. Al-Barhami reported to the Taiz Security Administration. Then he is referred to the Criminal Investigation Office which is still looking into the case.

The Nasserite Union condemned this act and considered it as savage and brutal and that it was a stark violation of press freedom. In its report, the party called upon security forces to investigate the matter, arrest the attackers and hold them accountable for their actions.

**Human Development Reports Inaugurated**

The United Nations Information Center organized Yesterday a speech party at the Sheraton Hotel on the occasion of inaugurating the Human Development report and the poverty report for 2000 prepared by the UNDP. The Human Development report, entitled 'Human Rights and Human Development' centered on the concepts of Human rights and Human development and their common vision as well as main goal which is ensuring freedom, prosperity and dignity of people. The report stressed the importance of human development for activating Human rights and human rights' importance to achieve a comprehensive human development.

**Sanaa and Aden suffer continuous electricity outage**

Candle Sales have increased as electricity outage resumed after a long period of stable and good electricity service. Electricity outage has become part of life in Sana'a over the years. Electricity failures face citizens in Hadda area every night, sometimes for 1 to 2 hours daily.

It is worth mentioning that Aden is also suffering from the blackouts, which would result in the halting of all duties during the day as working without electricity to run A/C conditioners is virtually impossible, and in some cases may result in death. Citizens claim that if the authorities are serious about this issue, they should put an end to this routine, and let people go back to work without worrying about not having enough candles, or having to leave work.

**Holiday Hotel Inaugurated**

Officially inaugurated by the president, Holiday Hotel is the a great tourist project being implemented in Hadramout. The overall cost of the project is YR 13 billion. The hotel consists of five floors containing 106 rooms and wards. There is a center equipped with computer facilities and e-mails for businessmen meetings. The hotel does include a hall fully equipped with the most modern visual and audio equipment for conferences, wedding parties and exhibitions. There are also two tennis

**Turkey Congratulates Yemen on Signing Border Treaty**

Turkey congratulated Yemen on the occasion of signing the border treaty with Saudi Arabia with an official statement from the Turkish Embassy saying, "The signing of the land and sea border treaty between Yemen and Saudi Arabia is a great historic achievement and it will constitute another very important step in securing peace and stability in the region.

Turkey sincerely desires that the existing issues between the neighboring countries should always be solved through peaceful means and bilateral negotiations between countries concerned.

In this connection the mutual dialogue and the peaceful ways through which Yemen prefers to solve its problems and conflicts with its neighboring countries deserves every appreciation.

Under the able leadership of the president of Yemen H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh Yemen has maintained its unity, peacefully solved the border problems with Oman and Eritrea and now thanks to the endless efforts and firm political will of the leadership of both countries, the last and certainly most important of the remaining issues, the border agreement with Saudi Arabia, has been successfully and peacefully solved. On the occasion of the signing of the border agreement between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Yemeni and the Saudi people and their leadership for achieving a historical agreement which will bring peace and stability to the region and also enhance the relations among the Gulf countries. "Ambassador of Turkey to Yemen, Sanli Topcuogul

courts, two swimming pools, a free parking lot and an extensive green land. The hotel do possess a special restaurant where you can taste the most famous international meals.

Mr. Nasser Al-Masfi, sales manager of Holiday Hotel in Al-Mukalla, said "The hotel is an outstanding tourist monument and that it is a turning point in the tourist drive in Hadramout."

**Seminar on The Strategic Vision of Yemen**

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Planning a 7-day seminar entitled Yemen's strategic vision until 2025 was inaugurated in Aden, the beginning of this month. More than 150 planning experts, university professors, representatives of the mass organizations in Aden, Lahj, Abyan and Al-Dhalea governorates take part in the seminar. Discussions center on issues related to economy, natural resources, human resources development, means to alleviate poverty, the role of the private sector to enhance the national economy and other various issues. Similar seminars are planned to be held in Taiz and Sana'a.

**First Meeting of WNC Members**

The first meeting of members of Women National Committee (WNC) was inaugurated yesterday at the Police Officers' Club. The meeting was attended by Dr. Abdul Kareem El-Eryani, Prime Minister, the head of the Supreme Council of Women. The event was also attended by the ministers of Education, Civil Service, members of parliament, members of the Consultative Council, a number of journalists and members of the committee.

During the meeting speeches were delivered by Mrs. Rashidah Al-Hamdani, chairperson of the Women National Committee and ex-chairperson of the committee Mrs. Amat Al-Aleem Al-Sosuwah who was, on the same occasion, honored by Dr. Al-Eryani for her efforts as a former head of the committee. Mrs. Al-Sosuwah has been appointed Yemen's ambassador to the Netherlands as the first Yemeni woman to hold such a post.

In his speech, Dr. Al-Eryani spoke highly about the pioneering role of women as partners of men in the development process.

In a statement to the Yemen Times Mrs. Horiah Mashhour, vice-chairwoman of the committee described the Supreme Committee of Women as the highest authority at the WNC which outlined the general policies of its different departments. "These departments," said Horiah, were set up after five years of hard work that coincided with the preparatory period for the Beijing Conference. "After the elapse of that long period the



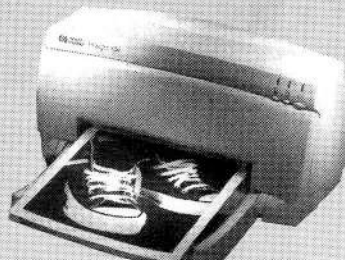
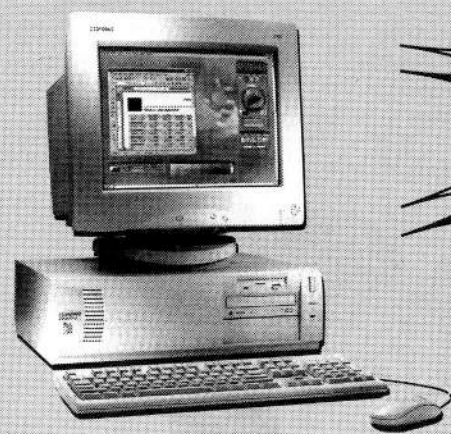
Mrs. Horiah Mashhour

Committee found it necessary to restructure itself in a way coping with the new changes and developments in regard with women's situations on both local as well as international levels. It was very necessary to re-draw a national strategy that would serve the Yemeni women," she added.

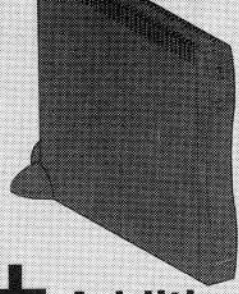
The report on women's situation in Yemen prepared by the Committee consists of 12 premises including dif-



ferent domains within which a number of priorities were also identified. In this context, Mrs. Horiah said that the Supreme Council of Women had to adopt those strategies recommended by the Beijing conference. The council should address all the challenges facing Yemeni women who face regional as well as global challenges within the strategies of economic globalization. "These challenges might appear to some people as simple, however, they are not and women and children are the most affected sectors by such challenges," Horiah Mashhour concluded.



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**Erratum**  
This is to notify that a printing mistake occurred in last issue piece of news titled 'Victory Over Fascism 29th Anniversary'. Please read the correct no. as 59th instead of 29th anniversary.

**NOTICE**

Yemen Times would like to notify its readers that there has been a mistake in a company's name mentioned more than once in the last few issues. There is no such company as "Aden Oil Refinery", but rather, the actual and accurate name of the company is "Aden Refinery Company." Our apologies.

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Bidding Farewell to Mr. Daniel Edward Hobson, Non-resident Ambassador of Canada to Yemen

## A Sad Farewell to a Friend of Yemen

It was a sad moment when Yemen Times Chief Editor, Walid Al-Saqqaf stepped into the hotel room where Mr. Edward Hobson, Non-resident Ambassador of Canada to Yemen, was staying in his last visit to Yemen as an ambassador.

"I just wanted to bid you farewell, and make a short interview with you, which I believe will be your last interview as an ambassador of Canada," Walid said. Indeed, Yemen Times had the honor to be the newspaper saying goodbye to a close friend of its founder, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, and to a man that has done a lot in strengthening the unique relationship between Yemen and Canada.

Here are some excerpts:

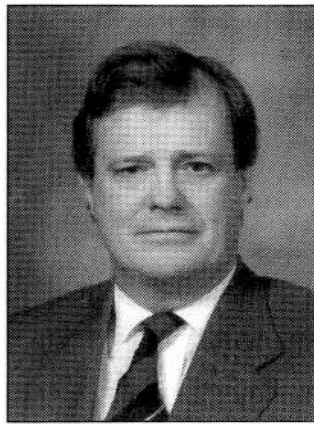
**Q: What are your feelings as you are leaving Yemen after expiry of your work term as an Ambassador to Yemen?**

A: The first impression is of some sadness, because it has been a special treaty to have the honor in representing Canada in Yemen and as I have come to know Yemen and particularly the Yemeni people. This sadness is tempered by personal assurance as I and my wife would come back either as tourists or doing other activities in the region. The lasting impression and the positive thing is the memory of Yemen which is the most awesome thing in my heart. The last 4 years have been a period when Yemen has made great strides. I am proud as well of how the relationship has grown fundamentally because of the strides that have taken place in Yemen and the progress that has been made politically and economically.

**Q: Could we know where you are heading for next? i.e., what is your next post?**

A: I am heading home! I should explain where home means. I was raised in a home life where my father was a Christian Clergyman, and as a child, I would move along with my family every five or four years. Although I was born in Ottawa, our

country's capital, I never lived there. I spent most of my school years in Halifax. I continue to move around like a gypsy as I was used to it. Last year, when in the public service, I will continue to work in the trade relations department, which is my specialty. I will also teaching courses in economic and trade relations and it will mean that I will be able to return to where my elderly parents are living.



mum level of relationship. What I have been happy about in the relationship is that we have been able to maximize a relatively small amount of resources to show that Canada would like to support the political and economic reforms currently taking place. We don't have a full program here, and realistically we did not reach a level where we can do that. But we have

been able to tap other sources as we had a Canada fund, which allows us to do small projects, but that is very modest as it was only C\$ 150,000. We were however able to tap some other sources such as CIDA in the NGO area. I believe that we were able to capture Mr. Norman Cook, Director of the Priorities and Special Needs Department of CIDA, along with the people working in that area. Hence, we were able to work with NGOs. President Saleh's recent visit to Canada was a great opportunity for Canadians NGOs to know more about Yemen. The Presentation of the Yemeni Minister of Planning, Mr. Sofan was a good introduction given about Yemen's conditions, and possible sectors of developments. We will be increasing the aid to Yemen. Starting from this April, we will start channeling more than CAN \$1 Million. This means that the Canada fund we run will increase from CAN\$ 150,000 to CAN \$300,000, which will help implementing more interesting projects in various fields. It is possible to add more attention to human rights education, and other humanitarian issues.

**Q: What about the news of a possible Canadian Embassy in Sanaa?**

A: We need to have more of a presence here. We at the embassy of Riyadh will have to be here more. This is a long-term

process, but I hope that it would not be long until we have a permanent Canadian presence here. I don't want to seem too optimistic on that, but personally I am optimistic. If I can just mention two or other things after having labored here for four years, I was particularly pleased to arrange a wonderful trip to Canada to show that the relationship between the two countries can indeed develop and strengthen and result in the ultimate establishment of a Canadian presence in Sanaa. You could see that it was very helpful to have top level Canadian leaders be aware about what is happening in Yemen. My sense has been to get that story across in the highest political level. There is greater awareness in Canada of the potential of a strong relationship with Yemen, and that could only be emphasized by having a more permanent here for the sake of the economic interest we have, which we need to enforce. We have Canadian Oxy here as you know, and other companies in the mining sector interested in doing more. My judgement is that the recent development of the settlement of the border dispute with Saudi Arabia can only be a positive boost in that direction. I was just mentioning to one of your ministers today that for a while in Canada we were very suspicious of the interest of investors to come into Canada, and thought that Europeans and Americans just wanted to come in to just take our resources and leave, but we realized, compared to such large countries that we couldn't develop our own resources anyway without the foreign investment. As investment came in, it generated wealth to Canadians in the form of jobs and high income. This also applies to Yemen.

**Q: Finally, as Yemen Times, we know that you enjoyed a unique and personal relationship with our late founder, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, who had helped a lot in arranging for President Saleh's visit a long time back. We wish you the very best of luck in your future, and hope**

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you a safe journey home. Any other remarks you want to add?

A: Thank you for those kind words. I would like to say in closing that my first two years here were made much easier because of your father. He was a wonderful individual. We had arranged for him two visits to Canada, in which he started laying the ground of work for the kind of activities that made the Yemeni-Canadian relationship move ahead steadily. Dr. Saqqaf also had the opportunity to meet our foreign minister in a regional meeting. Our minister was very much impressed with him and

with the story he had to tell about Yemen. So, his work and life will continue to be a legacy for you people here in Yemen. But it was extremely important as well for the steps we were able to take in improving the relationship between Canada and Yemen. He will always be in our hearts as we continue to try to develop the relationship. I would also would like to express my gratitude to the family and to the Yemen Times. I wish you and your colleagues to continue on the same path drawn by your founder. God bless you as you do.

## A Review of Press Freedom in A Decade

After the declaration of the Republic of Yemen, many parties and newspapers emerged as a natural phenomenon in the new era. Press freedom became the most dominant issue from the very beginning of the new age. About 160 newspapers were founded. This number fell to less than a half after the civil war of 1994.

Press in Yemen flourished in the period before 1994 when more freedom was granted. After this period newspapers and journalists were dragged to courts and prisons.

Among the problems press currently faces is the government's attempts to politicize and control the journalists' syndicate. Most of the Yemeni journalists boycotted elections of the syndicate in 1997 when the government imposed candidates who had nothing to do with journalism. The second election took place in 1999. Although more than 80% journalists supported the syndicate to begin its work, it was not as it should have been. However, it was better than the previous one. Press suffers also from the absence of a well-defined editorial policy based on the principles and concepts of journalism. What do Yemeni journalists say about the press experience during the past decade?

Jalal Al-Shara'abi met with a number of outstanding journalists and noted their perspectives:

**Abbas Ghaleb, Chief Editor of Al-Mithaq newspaper, mouthpiece of PGC**

The coincidence of Yemen unification with pluralism and democratization has created a suitable atmosphere for a good number of newspapers to come to being. However, any evaluation of the performance of the press during the last decade must, in my opinion, be based upon two grounds: legislation and the way it keeps abreast with achievements in Yemen. I hope that Freedom of Press Day would provide an opportunity to review the press experience in our country in order to learn from the mistakes during the past ten years.

**Dr. Faris Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the Future Studies Center**

The period before the internal war 1990-1994 formed the flourishing period for political scenario in Yemen. However, during these ten years, Yemen has been able to mislead the

public and show itself as a democratic country while in fact, many democratic institutions are still absent here such as press freedom. Journalists are arrested, harassed and suspended. Moreover, strict monitoring is imposed on the press, and the press law is the greatest barrier to achievement of full potential of the press. Some would say that we have some good laws but they are not implemented. This is untrue, because all these abound in terms like, according to law, within the framework of public interest, etc. These terms make all laws meaningless.

The press in our country passes through a very difficult time. It is true that there is some freedom, however, its tied by barbed wires.

**Nasser Taha Mostafa, Chairman of the Center of Strategic studies, Chief Editor of the Nawafidh magazine.**

I think that the situation is redeeming to some extent. Fortunately, the press law was issued during a period marked by balanced political powers, but we are in need to feel our feet on the ground.

This law contains some flaws which need amendment. Unless the majority of the parliament are aware of these and their ramifications, there might be some risk in giving the green signal to amendments because they may worsen the situation. So, we have to be more cautious in tackling this issue.

**Yasin Al-Masawdi, Vice Chief Editor of Al-Thawrah newspaper**

Press is a mirror of the society in all its political, economic and social aspects. Before 1994, press was no more than a picture of the political relationships which later on developed into a crisis. At the time, newspapers were the main means for exchanging political accusations instead of enhancing the democratic experience. However, it is a period that should be reviewed carefully in order to enable us to benefit from its pros and cons.

The period following 1994 witnessed the foundation of about 160 newspapers and magazines. Only those which have been able to withstand the strong political currents and crosscurrents and prove themselves are still published. Specialized newspapers in sectors of economy, women issues, etc. have been published during this period in contrast with the previous period in which all

the newspapers were only political. The newspapers available nowadays thrive on individual efforts and lack an institutional background. Newspapers should be based on a complete institutional background to be able to compete with others and to be able to grow and develop themselves.

**Khalid Al-Hammadi, the London-based Al-Qods Al-Arabi correspondent**

Press freedom in Yemen as an essential product of the reunification in 1990 could not move, particularly, from its zero point even after 10 years due to the fact that more obstacles faced its growth and sustenance.

I think the greatest contributory factor for that is the great gap between the ideal legislation and the actual practice

of those rights.

The Yemeni constitution and laws consist of more articles to safeguard the rights and duties of the journalists, newspapers and printers, but the meaning of most of those is unclear, which allows everybody to interpret and enforce them according to his own understanding of the same.

This creates a formidable problem for this part of the freedom, which sometimes pushes the legislation far away from the real objectives and from its letter and spirit, particularly with the unprofessional judges adjudicating journalist issues.

The real essence of press freedom is lost not in the ministry of Information only, not in the judicial departments only and not even in the political regime only, but the onus is shared by all of these official institutions which have the official weaponry and power

to obstruct rather than develop it. And, I think, the journalists in the absence of realization of the real role of their syndicate in effect play a helper's role in this enigmatic situation due to the absence of continual demands for press reform and press freedom.

All of these factors create more problems for the journalists and correspondents preventing them to benefit really from their legislative rights. The trial of Mr. Jamal Aamer last February is the clearest example of the sordid problem which worried the journalists and the government as well.

**Abdul Aziz Sultan, Chief Editor of Al-Wahdawi**

There has been a positive attitude towards the press since the reunification of Yemen. Journalists can write in partisan newspapers to express their opinions on various issues. However,

we are still in the beginning and there is a lot to be done. For example, we are talking about press freedom! In advanced democracies, press freedom is unquestionable. Therefore, we have to work hard to push journalism forward to the level at which it can be practiced properly in a worthwhile manner.

It is good to have a press law overseeing and supervising the press work. However, the press law has become ineffectual for one of its articles stipulates that press can be tailored in accordance with other laws. This makes it a must for journalists to read all the country's laws. Many newspapers have been guided in accordance with articles from other laws rather than the press law itself.

I am very optimistic about a better tomorrow in which mistakes of the past would be avoided.



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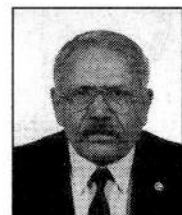
# More Reactions to the Border Treaty

**D**espite the overall happy response of most of the Yemeni population to the signing of the historic treaty, a significant number of opponents to the treaty are evident.

Apart from Sheikh Mohamed Bin Shaj'i, a few other Sheikhs from different tribes have started expressing their dissatisfaction with the details of the treaty, that have only been provided recently.

The other two tribes that openly opposed the treaty are the Dhu Yahya and Al-Zawalima tribes. The two tribes released a statement signed by 30 prominent sheikhs protesting the treaty's provision demarcating their "tribal" boundaries. In the political arena, opposition parties' positions are contradictory, some hailed the treaty, while others opposed it. Among the strong opponents was Abdulkareem Al-Khaywani, the Haq Party's most influential figure who said the treaty was "enforced by the winning party on Yemen."

*Below are impressions on the treaty of a number of outstanding figures*



**Mr Ahmed Saleh As-Salami, member of the executive committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party** has also responded to signing the border and sea

treaty between Yemen and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He has summed up his opinion in four points.

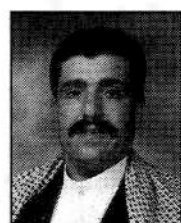
First: To have a decisive decision for a lasting form of borders between Yemen and Saudi Arabia is in itself a great accomplishment, saving the two parties many of troubles and preparing new atmospheres for cooperation in many fields.

Second: Personally I think this treaty represents unfairness for Yemen. Saudi Arabia has gained areas rich with huge oil and water potentials running down from juncture point 19/52 till reaching down of Al-

Wadie'a, 12 kilometers away. This area was and is still having rich oil deposits as well as by the sea in the excavation sites of the British Petroleum Company.

Third: The treaty did not introduce any solutions to the issue of Yemeni labor, its movement and activity between the two countries. I was surprised at the conclusion of the treaty at a time when more than one thousand Yemenis were being deported by force from the country of Al-Saud. This gives a negative indicator.

Fourth: The Taif treaty, by its former demarcation, is no longer there. Saudi Arabia has overstepped these borders and entered deeper in the Yemeni territory and therefore it has to withdraw. I personally think that Saudi Arabia does not care much about results of Taif agreement. For it the south-eastern area is the more important. Saudi Arabia knows well its interests and knows how to exert pressure and manoeuvre out of power and possession of financial potentials and temptations.



**Brigadier Mohammed Abdullah Al-Kibsi, Al-Ba'ath Party, MP.**

We at the parliament, as a legislative authority grouping different political forces, have approved the borders treaty motivated by its first article confirming the abiding of the two sides by the Taif agreement which included 22 articles. These articles included different aspects such as economic, cultural and border issues. This agreement was crowned by the memorandum of understanding signed on Ramadhan 27 1415 A.H.

In fact, all political forces, in general and nationalist forces in particular, do not believe in borders. They all supported the border treaty. We do not think that there is a difference between the two treaties unless there has been a secret agreement. We should not at the moment cast any doubt in this regard because the truth will soon come to light. Only there and then we will react

accordingly.

The treaty has closed up a 66 year journey of conflict and tension which served neither Yemen nor the neighboring countries.

The finest aspect of the treaty is the fact that we in Yemen are in dire need of stability in order to steer our efforts to development.

Our vote for the treaty was in fact motivated by its being based on the Taif treaty.

I have stressed at the parliament and in an interview with the TV the need to execute and activate the 22-article treaty. I also stressed the need of a new executive mechanism different from that of the Taif treaty.

I wished that the treaty was given more time for deliberation in the parliament. I also wished that it was entrusted with outstanding social figures put their interpretations and comments on it. However, it was very satisfactory to know that it was based on the Taif treaty with all its economic, social and political aspects.

The Taif treaty identified not only the villages belonging to the two sides but even the people. Therefore, the execution of this treaty means nothing harmful. But if there are violations, doubts will arouse.

The articles of the Taif treaty were imposed by the victorious side. The treaty was agreed to be renewed each twenty years. According to that treaty, Nijran was supposed to be neutral. In this context, Nijran has never experienced a life of stability due to the conflict between Aal Aidh and Al-Adarisah. These at times sided with Saudi Arabia and other times with Yemen.

In fact, the treaty will give Yemen the power to concentrate attention on its internal affairs of development. Now the government has no excuses to refrain from the development process. All border disputes, with Oman, Eritrea and recently with Saudi Arabia have been resolved. The time now is for building modern Yemen, distributing the public wealth among people, encouraging all political and independent forces to take part in the decision making, encouraging the opposition to be a real partner of the leadership, creating good living standards for people, fighting corrupts and corrup-

tion, etc.

In this regard, all the political forces and social figures must join hands with the government to build Yemen of the 21st century. On the other hand I hope that the government will direct its attention and efforts to develop the country.

Yemen after closing all border disputes will be able to make strong stands both regionally and internationally. However, I would like to say that the country can not be strong enough unless its people are strong. This can only be by ensuring strong economy and real democracy.



**Abdulkarim Mohammed Al-Khaiwani, Spokesman of the Coordination Council, leader at Al-Haq Party, the chief editor of Al-Omah**

Concerning the articles of the new Yemeni-Saudi borders treaty, we, in the Coordination Council, had no idea of it at the beginning. We submitted a memorandum to the government requesting a copy of the treaty for discussion.

On Tuesday, the Coordination Council issued a report approving the treaty and of any solution that will solve the long dispute over the borders. Though the final treaty stipulates that Taif treaty is obligatory to both parties, we do hope that the articles of Taif treaty will be implemented for the benefit of the people of the two sisterly countries.

We do cherish the hope that the tense atmosphere that prevailed in the past over the relations of the two countries will clear out and relations will come back to the right track.

Generally speaking, the treaty is a good and approved settlement of a hot issue that used to worry Yemenis and Saudis as well. Now it is the government duty to deal with issues of development more seriously and with considerable commitment. It has also to combat corruption, contaminating many institutions in the country.

One thing to note about the treaty is the strict confidentiality that was imposed over its articles. This does not cohere with the democratic atmosphere that we claim to adopt. The Authority seems to be indifferent to democracy and its importance as it has the power to enforce its decisions without having to refer to other parties present on the arena. This is not only applicable in case of the borders issue but is also valid in all internal issues as well.

I can hardly predict how the coming generation will view the treaty but this will certainly be based on how the wealth of areas

that are located at the borders distributed and to whom these areas will belong.

Our stand towards the treaty is that we do approve the borders treaty so as to clear all the clouds of tension and conflicts that have dominated over a long period of time.

Now the authority has no excuse to claim. It has to launch a sincere war against corruption that has taken roots in all institutions of the society. The people should feel tangibly the fruit of this treaty in terms of real and substantial economic, administrative, political and social reforms, otherwise the treaty will be meaningless.

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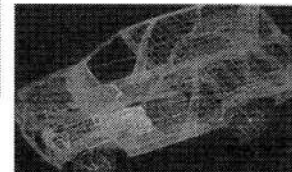
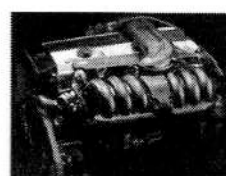
Desired Skills/ Abilities: Good English typing. Ability to use PC-based on accounting database spreadsheets, and desk calculator.

Salary: The minimum starting annual salary for this job is YR 1,020,891, based on qualifications and experience.

How and who may apply: All Yemeni Nationals. Interested applications should fill an application form (SF171) available at the embassy's gate during the official schedule hours of the Embassy (8:00 am - 4:30 pm). The form should be filled properly and attached with a C.V. and certificates if there are any. Applications will not be accepted after July 12, 2000.

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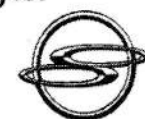


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## World Bank Journalist Workshop Says it all: "Your Role is to be the Watchdog of the Yemeni Government"

The World Bank (WB) successfully held its second Journalist Workshop in Yemen on Saturday July 1<sup>st</sup> 2000. This workshop is the second after the successful workshop held in Aden last year.

The workshop, which was arranged by the WB Headquarters in Washington, gathered a number of prominent chief editors of Yemeni newspapers, including Yemen Times, and a number of media people in one of the most comprehensive and detailed workshop explaining the WB, its activities, and upcoming projects in Yemen.

The workshop, which was chaired by Mr. Abdullah Bouhabib, Manager of External Relations of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region of the WB and Gianni Brizzi, Resident Representative of the WB in Yemen, hosted Mr. Inder Sud, the Director of the Middle East Department of the World Bank.

The workshop started with a welcome statement by Brizzi who expressed his satisfaction with the large number of journalists coming from different newspapers and media organs. He then introduced Mr. Bouhabib and Sud. He indicated that the purpose of the workshop was to "shed light on the WB and its activities." He also introduced the latest development strategies implemented by the WB in favor of developing countries. He stressed the fact that the WB deals with governments, and concentrated on the governments' roles in working hard on implementing the WB projects efficiently. "We only provide the funds and directions, and the rest lies in governments' hands" he said.

Afterwards, Mr. Bouhabib gave a comprehensive lec-

ture about the different organizations belonging to the WB. "There are 4 organizations working under the umbrella of the WB. These are IDA, IBRD, MIGA, and IFC, all having their headquarter in Washington, D.C."

He continued by describing Yemen's role in the WB. "Yemen has a 0.1% of the total share of the capita of the bank, which is approximately \$ 170 Billion. When compared to many other countries, one would realize that this amount is not little after all. Actually, Yemen has to pay only 5% of this amount, which is just \$8.5 million." He indicated.

Then he openly challenged any other easier and more convenient way of earning money for developmental purposes by saying, "Countries benefiting from IDA, such as Yemen, have a 50 year period to pay back their loans. Not only that, but with no interest at all, let alone the first 10-year period, during which the country does not need to pay anything." He stated that all countries of the world, except Cuba and North Korea are members of the WB. According to Mr. Bouhabib, the number of projects financed by the WB so far exceeded 4,700 projects. "Yemen's projects financed by the WB in 1999 totaled to more than \$170 million." He concluded.

Then Mr. Inder Sud started his presentation, which dealt with Yemen in particular. "We can assess Yemen's accomplishments in implementing WB's projects as good because during the last 5 years, Yemen was able to accomplish a lot by hard work in all fields, economically, politically, and socially." But the story also has a dark side, as "Yemen also suffered increasing poverty, unemployment, deteriorating civil services, decrease of oil production, and scarcity of water resources in the near future."

Mr. Sud emphasized on the importance of the implementation of different reforms simultaneously, among them is improving public administration by efficiency development mechanisms, privatization, implementing judicial reforms, strengthening local authority. Then he focused on the increasing of private investment by finding alternatives to Oil production as a source of revenue, granting the right of land ownership, raising the accountability of the financial system, and by increasing efficiency of public services, the judicial system, the taxation system, and privatization mechanisms. He also gave importance to the water issue, as it is one of the most critical problems, or as he said, "crises of Yemen." He also recommended the development of coastal areas as a way to occupy citizens coming from central regions and establishing industrialized complexes near coasts to absorb the labor forces.

Finally he pointed out the importance of driving atten-

tion to education issues by providing basic education to all children by making it compulsory, which will help develop local societies.

"However, all of these cannot be implemented unless a strong political will is available. We would like to notify all Yemenis that the World Bank is merely an institution that tries to guide governments to the right steps to take in order to achieve better economic conditions, and gives the financing as well. However, it is then up to governments to decide whether to go for it or not, i.e., the ball usually ends up in the government's court."

Afterwards, a long discussion and debate session took place, during which several journalists asked critical questions such as: Why isn't the WB doing a thing to stop the corruption? How can the labor force thrown out of work because of privatization be compensated? Is the World Bank an American Organ used as a propaganda tool for the West? How can you assess Yemen's economy as enhancing while poverty is increasing and is evident every where? Why doesn't the World Bank provide documents that prove failures of the government to accomplish WB projects? And other similar questions.

All the answers to the above questions were given by the three WB representatives, who sometimes felt embarrassed at the critical questions asked, especially the accusations that the WB is no more than an American propaganda and way to increase poverty instead of decrease it by lifting subsidies to basic food items and fuel.



The discussion was followed by a presentation by Mr. Gianni Brizzi, who explained the role and activities of the World Bank office in Sanaa. He explained how needs are assessed, proposals are discussed with local authorities, how proposals are sent for approval to the WB's head quarter, and how their funds are later delivered to the government. "Established in July 1995, the WB's Sanaa Office was a direct result of the need for an office that can coordinate with the locals directly and listen to the needs and proposals of the local community. Its role has been to be a linking unit between the clients and the World Bank." He also expressed his readiness to help all who seek information, especially journalists who may be helpful in providing a lot of helpful information to the public about the true role of the World Bank, and how it could be beneficial for them in all aspects.

Later on, two more presentations were made by Mr. Kaiser Khan, an economic expert in the development of human resources at the WB, and by Mr. Abdullah Al-Dailami, the director of the Local Societies Development Unit of the Social Development Fund. The first presentation was about managing social risks in Yemen, the other was about the Social Development Fund, that has proved to be one of the most successful in Yemen.

At the end of the workshop, Mr. Bouhabib stressed on the importance of continuous coordination between journalists and the WB to bring a clear picture of its real role in their societies. He noted the possible differences in points of view that may arise.

He then summed up the workshop by a decisive, strong, and straightforward statement, "I know that some would write about this workshop critically, while others won't write at all. However, when inviting you, we did not place any conditions of publishing something about this workshop. All we want you to do is develop a better understanding of the WB and try in your own ways to work on having WB's projects successful in Yemen by acting as watchdogs. We want you to follow up your governments and to check whether they are serious in implementing our projects in the way they are supposed to be implemented and on time. Wish you all the best in your difficult mission."

After the workshop, a lunch was organized on the honor of Mr. Mohamed Sofan, Minister of Planning, who gave a speech on this occasion thanking the WB for his effort in bringing journalists together and holding such workshops that help a lot in enlightening the public about the World Bank and its activities through the press.

After the workshop was over, Yemen Times took the opportunity in meeting Mr. Inder Sud and filing a comprehensive interview about the World Bank and Yemen. Below are some excerpts.

**Q: Could you please give us an introduction to this workshop that is actually the second to the one held last year in Aden?**

**A:** First of all, let me tell you that I am glad to be here in Yemen as this is a great opportunity for me to follow-up with the workshop we held with the journalists last time in Aden. We have just complete our own country strategy for Yemen and will be presenting it to the board soon. The Yemeni government itself is embarked on the preparation for the five-year plan. Of course there are several questions asked by many about the future of the country economically. I believe that this particular workshop is of great importance as I believe that journalists can play an important role in the society in terms of asking the hard questions and keeping us all honest, ensuring public integrity, and also generating a constructive discussion. I believe that the workshop we held today has indeed fulfilled many of these objectives. The questions were difficult, but valid questions, on which we need to reflect. I hope that this will be the start of the process of more and more questions on such issues.

**Q: A lot of people in Yemen mix the WB with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Could you please describe the difference between both organizations?**

**A:** I am glad you asked this question because we are two sister institutions as we were born from the same mother in 1954 after the reconstruction of war. However, although we fundamentally are both interested in the social and economic development of countries, we have quite different functions. The main difference is that the IMF is responsible for short-term stability, while the WB aims at long-term economic stability. This is why when countries are out of war crisis for example, when budget deficits are out of control, when the country faces a short-term economic crisis, the IMF interferes by providing finances to the troubled country to get it out of the temporary crisis. Sometimes stability is achieved on the cost of development. For example, when a country gets a loan to stabilize a budget deficit, a long-term development plan is sacrificed. However, the WB is a development institution that works on long-term plans. Development can never be achieved over night. It sometimes requires more than 20 years to witness any economic improvement, and this is facilitated much by non-profit WB loans to developing countries. Hence, in some cases, one generation would begin such a development program, and only the next generation could gain its fruits. The WB does guide governments and explain to them how inflation can be lowered, how services can be enhanced, whether goods should be subsidies and when, etc. This means that our projects deal with education, health, public services, telecommunications, roads, water supply, etc.. However, part of our duty is to help governments think to do, as we cannot keep on thinking for governments forever. Governments should learn how to deal with their issues independently and efficiently.

In conclusion, the IMF helps governments get out of their economic crises in the short-term, while the WB help countries improve their overall economic performance in the long-term.

**Q: How do you feel the permanent Yemeni-Saudi border treaty signed recently could affect the Yemeni economy?**

**A:** As a friend of Yemen, I am delighted to see that such a breakthrough treaty has been signed. The dispute has lasted for as long as I have been to Yemen. So, seeing that both countries have reached such an agreement is quite pleasant. I am not an expert in the treaty, so I cannot comment on its contents and direct implications on the economy and politics. However, what it has done in my view is very important. It removed the degree of uncertainty, which always created problems. In today's world, stability has become a major factor behind increasing investment and economic growth. I believe the agreement opens new opportunities for economic cooperation and exchange of ideas. After all, Saudi Arabia is your neighbor, and ironically, many Saudi businessmen are actually of Yemeni origin. It seems to me that this dispute has always been a source of potential uncertainty, as many thought there may be a war between the two countries. Now that this is out of the way, I hope that we will see Saudi investment in Yemen. In addition, this treaty is a breakthrough for Yemen Internationally also, within the last 10 years, countries that have gained foreign investment were the ones with little uncertainty. I think that even though this agreement will not solve all Yemen's problems, it is still a step in the right direction.

**Q: The WB is not only an institution that gives funds, but it also guides the government and provides valuable advice of what to do and when to do it. Could you provide us with some of the main points that you think Yemen should concentrate on in the time being?**

**A:** In the last 5 years, the government has done remarkably well in economic stabilization, however much work lies ahead. On the basic macroeconomic fundamentals, the conditions now are quite different from what they were 5 years ago, but this is still not enough. Yemen has to build an economy that is capable of providing job opportunities, and enabling the poor to develop their own sources of income to raise their income level. This cannot be done by the government alone, as the private sector should also play an important role as well. The government's focus should be on creating conditions in which the private sector can feel comfortable. In other words, that could only be by creating civil service, decreasing bureaucratic obstacles and regulations, and increasing more private sector involvement in decision making. The government should also spend its money on the highest priority areas such as strengthening the infrastructure and concentrating on the social sectors such as education and health, and protecting low income groups. We have the foundation, but it is time to build a house on it, and building a house is almost as difficult as building the foundation, and that is what we are going to work on with the government.

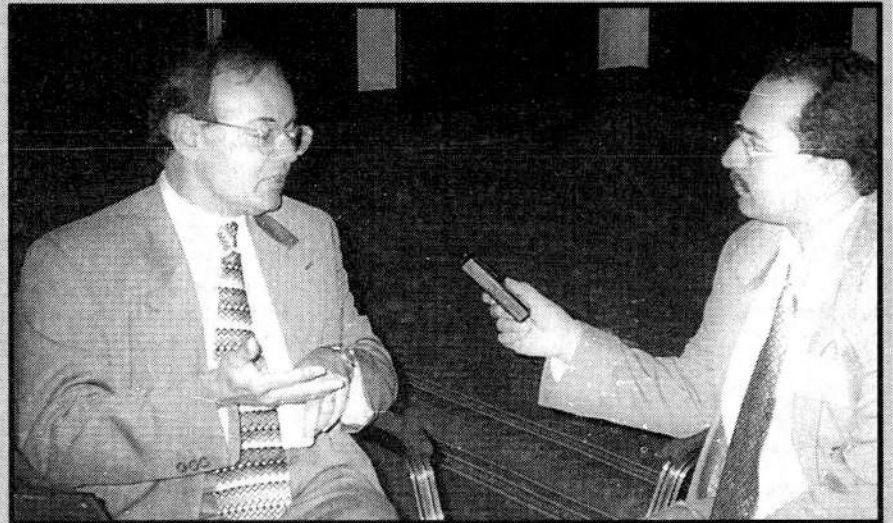
**Q: You said in the last workshop that if no work is to be done to eliminate corruption and inefficiency in the government, this will affect your program. Now that a year has passed with corruption in the same level, was the WB program affected?**

**A:** First of all, it is not that the government did not work on reducing corruption. Reports show that some, even though extremely little, progress has been made. We do support civil service reforms implemented so far by the government. Hence, we realized that the government should be encouraged to continue on the same path. Let me tell you that for the first time in Yemen, every civil servant has a proper personal file. It is a simple step, but honestly speaking, it is a difficult one and it shows that things are moving on. I have to agree with you that much has to be done. But we should at least show some appreciation to what has been accomplished so far, and ask for more. About the size of the government, yes, there is need for reducing the large number of employees in government offices. However, we should also offer training, giving them a proper work environment in another institution, or giving them a compensation salary. These are quite difficult issues that governments have

a difficult time implementing. However, as you know, there are some success stories, and the Social Development Fund is one of them. I do believe there is hope, but it is in the hands of the government, and the government itself. I believe that I will need to raise this issue tomorrow with the minister of planning and the prime minister as this is an important issue that needs more effort and a stronger political will.

**Q: Many complain that the main obstacle behind the little investment in the country is the corrupt judicial system, particularly corruption in commercial courts. What projects does the WB have that would help reforming the judicial system?**

**A:** I totally agree with the assessment because investors usually run into problems and need an honest judicial system that would defend their rights and money. We actually have provided a small pilot project (\$ 2.5 Million) to strengthen the judicial system composed of the ministry of legal affairs and ministry of justice in Yemen. We have started training judges and have for the first time ever compiled the Yemeni laws that have been compiled that have been issued through the years. The judicial issue is quite a complicated issue and requires a lot of study before we start. This is why we started with this



pilot project, which will be followed by more important projects that would concentrate on commercial courts.

**Q: You know that Yemen is the country with the highest population growth rate in the world (exceeding 3.5%). What is the WB doing about this?**

**A:** I am glad that you raised this question too. I have toured the country during the last two years, and what stroke me most was the increasing number of children seen everywhere. This means that the population is increasing rapidly. Even though we do not have projects aiming at reduction of population growth, we still have social projects that in some way or another implicitly refer to the importance of family planning and population growth control. But I believe that this is a serious issue that I feel we should concentrate on in the future.

**Q: We also have the water problem. I believe that your program concentrates on it a lot, could you brief our readers about your efforts in this regard?**

**A:** I would want to call this a water crisis rather than water problem. We are seeing the water levels dropping every day especially in the Sanaa area. We had programs in the past, and we need to increase awareness about this issue. We have to educate people about this issue. There are a lot of projects ahead we believe would help reducing the risk of a total dry out of Sanaa, which is suffering from major depletion. This issue is more important than one can imagine because water is the source of life, and drinking water is basically what Sanaa is in dire need for. I believe that much needs to be done, and we do indeed have several projects that may help somewhat in preventing a true disaster.

**Q: What about Qat? That plant that is consuming most of Yemen's ground water, and harming the economy?**

**A:** I personally do not have much to say about qat, which seems to be a social issue that is not only damaging the water resources, but also causing a lot of negative affect on family budget's as much is spent on it. We have once before arranged on a workshop on qat in Yemen. I must be honest in saying that I do not myself know what the answer to the qat problem is! I know that President Saleh has started a campaign against qat, and several educated individuals have started such campaigns as well. Sometimes I get the feeling that political will and education are two major steps that may help contain this problem. However, we are still wide open for any suggestions on how Yemen could ever get rid of qat.

**Q: Yemenis are known throughout history to be quite resilient. However, every Yemeni wants to know when these reforms would ever lead to improvement, if they would at all. Can you give a date in which we see reduction in poverty?**

**A:** If the government is serious enough, I am confident that we can see positive change within the coming 5 years. But I repeat, this only is in the hands of the government, and no one else can give any date. I do give the Yemeni public all the right to be impatient as they have suffered a lot and deserve happier days. As a matter of fact, they should be unhappy about it and push the government to do more in this regard. In brief, it is all in the hands of the government and not in our hands, we cannot decide for the government when to act seriously or when to double its efforts. It is a matter of political will and hard work, by the government, and only by the government.

**Q: Finally, you mentioned in the workshop that the WB always advises the government to take your advises. Well, does the government do with the advice?**

**A:** The best times is when the government takes our advice and decides whether they use our advice or not, which is a very healthy action. The WB is not always right, and the government should sometimes decided whether it should take our advice and use it or just ignore it. We don't want the government to be a blind follower to what we say. We want it to think and see what is best for it and for its people and do it accordingly.

**Q: Any final remarks?**

**A:** All I want to say is that I dream of a more prosperous Yemen, with fewer poor people, less unemployment, and better overall conditions. It always refreshes me when seeing the beneficiaries of our projects, whether a school, a hospital, a public service, etc. Being in this business, I am ware of the tremendous challenge ahead of us. In the coming years, I will concentrate on reducing poverty by introducing and implementing appropriate and well-studied methods. I will consider my 10 years involvement with Yemen a success if every child-boy or girl-is in school, a health system is available to all pregnant and young mothers, and seeing families live in happiness without the worries of not being able to make ends meet the next day. Only then will I feel that my mission was totally successful.



# Adam's Confessions Refuted

Jalal Al Sharaabi  
Yemen Times

**T**wenty one bodies were recovered at the morgue of the college of medicine, according to the primary report made by the German experts. The two bodies believed to be of Hosn and Zainab's, two of the reported victims, are included. Most of the remainder bodies are of male dead people that were likely brought in for education-



al purposes, the report said. For the body parts found in the morgue they were said to belong to about 6 people. Other parts, a child, twins, were also found in basins full of formalin. The report also indicated that parts of about five bodies were chopped by an electric saw.

All the above facts disagree with confessions of the accused, Mohammed Adam specially those related to the way of raping and killing his victims in general and Hosn and Zainab in particular.

For his part, Mohammed Adam confessed of what the Germans reported. The court screened 12 film, two of which were pornographic. The others included children, violence, wild animals' movies which the accused said that they did not belong to him.

Magistrate, Yahya Al-Aslami, chairman of the court stressed the importance of accelerating the final report of the German experts who have taken some body parts to be examined in Germany due to lack of some substances in Yemen in order to determine the victims' sex and dates of death. It is expected that the final report will remove the mystery of Adam's confused and contradictory confessions.

Mr. Al-Aslami gave orders to re-translate the report which is made of 66 pages. The translation which was read for the first time on Saturday was only of 18 pages. On the other hand, General Mohammed Saleh Al-Hamdani, chairman of the criminal laboratory is to travel to Germany to fetch the final report and the human body parts taken there by the two German experts for examination in specialized laboratories in Germany.

According to the report, the body that is believed to be Hosn's, belongs to a woman at the age of 20-25 years old. Her body was chopped by an electric saw after her death. The internal parts and organs were still there. The report also indicated that the victim was hit on the right side of her head with a flat instrument and lost her consciousness. Then she was choked until death.

Contradictory to what the report of Dr. Mohammed Aqlan of the forensic medicine said about the head that was found next to the victim's body, the Germans said that it belonged to the same victim.

As for Zainab's body it was found that it belonged to a woman of 20-30 years old. The body was chopped into 7 parts. The head, hands and legs were separated from the body. The lips, nose and the fingers were worn out. Human hair was found on the right hand. The sex organs, heart and the kidneys were not there. The victim received a hit with a round device on the back of her head resulting in an immediate death.

This goes against Adam's confessions in connection with Zainab and Hosn's death. Adam said that he anesthetized Hosn, choked her and chopped her. For Zainab he said that he punched her below her mouth to fall unconscious on the

ground. Then he repeated what he did with Hosn.

The report stressed the importance of a laboratory examinations on a large number of parts, tissues and curl of hair to determine the age, sex of the victims as well as the date of their death. The court accepted to send more body organs to Germany for finalizing the final report that everybody seems to be eagerly awaiting.

On the other hand the report of the criminal laboratory showed that blood spots were found on the ground of the morgue, its door and equipment. In addition, the report listed the following things: a knife with blood spots, clothes of laboratory technicians, a piece of blue carpet with blood spots, curls of hair, make up, part of a necklace, 11 buttons of 'Sharshaf', a gown worn by Yemeni women when going out and copybooks.

The court also read out a report on the 12 films which were found inside the luggage of the accused in Sudan. However, he denied to have any connection with the films. Following this, the court



allowed each representative of the case parties to watch the films and decided to hold the next session tomorrow.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Khateeb was doubtful about the bodies that were said to be of Hosn and Zainab's. He also said that the confessions of Adam showed that he was either an innocent or a criminal that had committed more crimes than he confessed of. However, the magistrate said that it was the victims' families who recognized their daughters' bodies. He also



said that Adam himself identified their bodies when taking them out of the place they were hidden in.

In an interview with Jalal Al-Sharaabi of the Yemen Times Dr. Al-Khateeb said that he was still unable to meet with the accused despite the permission he had got to do that. He said that new facts that may change the trend of the case would be revealed if he was allowed to meet with Adam. Below is the full interview with Dr. Al-Khateeb, the accused defense lawyer.

"This case was a little bit obscure from the very beginning because it was not given its due attention. The security bodies had a very limited time that did not exceed 24 hours to finalize their work in connection with the crime when it appeared. So, they only reported the situation as it was found to the Prosecution, which, unfortunately, did not try to investigate into the situation of the places, people and things that were suspected to have connection with the crime. Had more efforts been exerted in this regard, there would have been more positive results. At least there could have been no shortcomings in the accusation. An accusation of killing 14 unidentified girls was brought against Adam which was very strange in a country of authorities and institutions," Al-Khateeb said.

"However," he said, "Many facts have been gained. The prosecution's statements show that the number of victims has decreased to two, Zainab and Hosn. This means that the story of the other 14 victims was fabricated," he added. He said that the entire case centered on those two victims. "I was sure from the very beginning that Adam's confessions had their motivations and that they were a reaction to the repeated complaints against him which led in the long run to

his being sacked from the University. Under pressures he confessed to killing Zainab and others. This is one possibility. Another possibility is that he wanted to tarnish the image of Yemen and its society. The Yemeni society is conservative and families can not let either a son or a daughter disappear without trying to find him or her. The Yemeni society is more careful about women than men.

Disappearance of women does not necessarily mean their involvement in a moral scandal," Al-Khateeb said.

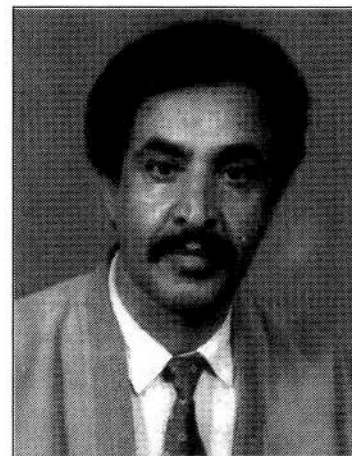
Al-Khateeb appreciated the media represented by newspapers which helped reveal many facts by drawing many exclamation marks about the whole case. As far as the German experts' report, Al-Khateeb strongly criticized it saying that it gave a bad impression about the experts' work indicating the age of the victims which was expected by the report to be between 20-30. "This is inaccurate," he said. "I think that a nomad can determine a close age of a body by his own way," he added.

He complained against the magistrate's way of treatment. "The magistrate should know that by such treatment he is wronging himself. I will not keep silent if that goes on. The law gives me the right to respond against any wrong behaviors. However, I still have hope that the magistrate will improve the way of judging," he said.

He added that he was not concentrating on the innocence of Adam as much as his concentration on revealing the truth.

On the subject of meeting his client, "The prosecution is still a stumbling block preventing me from meeting with him," he said. "The general prosecutor refused to allow me to meet with Adam unless I take with me one of the court officials. In this case Adam will not say something new. If Adam's rights are not completely guaranteed as stated by law, I am sure that the international organizations will intervene to guarantee his rights. I might withdraw from the case, not because I felt defeated but because I can not go on in a job where I am not allowed to use my rights," he added.

When asked whether Adam has been sub-



Dr. Mohammed Al-Khateeb,  
Adam's Attorney

ject to pressure to make confessions out of his will, Al-Khateeb said that keeping the accused at the hold of the general prosecution will not help reveal new facts. It is worth mentioning that Al-Khateeb once demanded moving the defendant to another place.

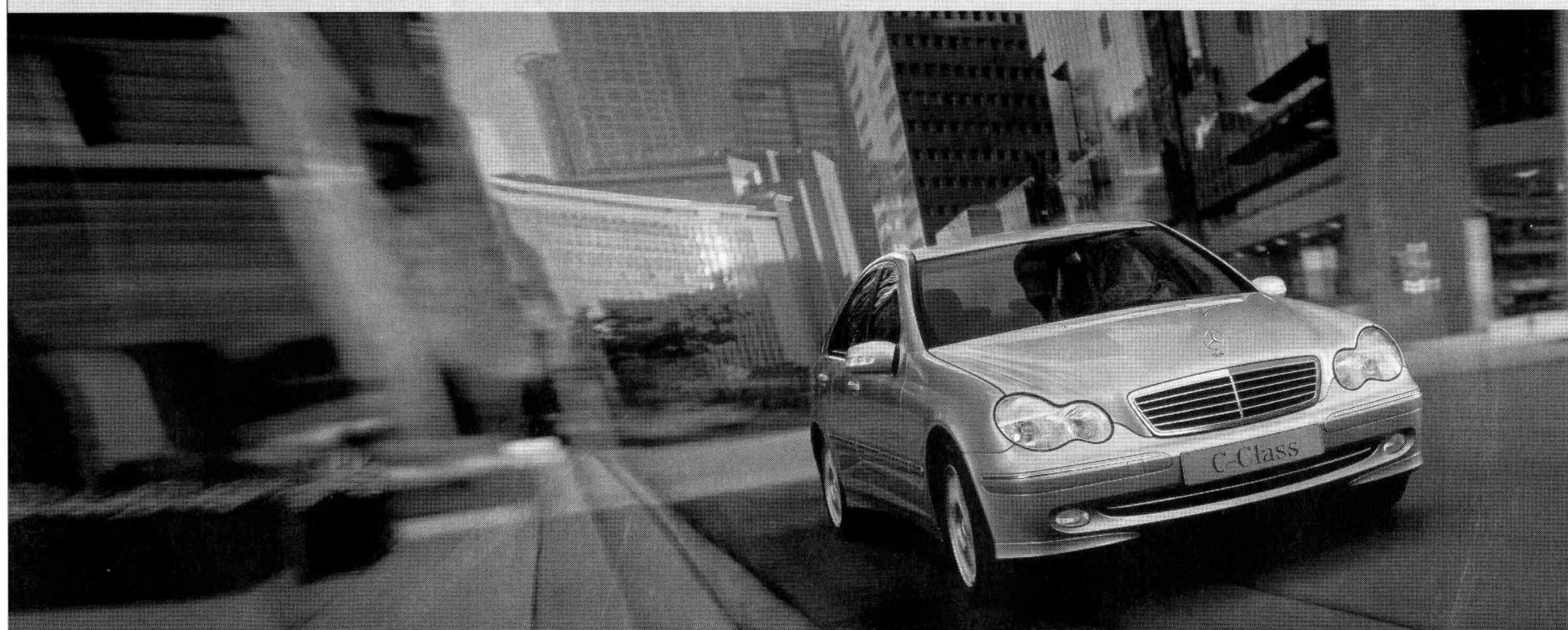
On the reason why the prosecution do not allow him to meet with his client he said that there were fears of revealing new facts that might change the trend of the whole case. The prosecution then will feel that it tarnished the image of Yemen by accusing him of killing 16 girls which seems impossible to be committed by Adam alone.

Many people are wondering about those suspected to be Adam's accomplices. These have not been brought to trial. Al-Khateeb attributed this to some shortcomings in the prosecution which he described as against the law.

He said that the present magistrate is not specialized to look into such a case and that it was the responsibility of the judge of the criminal cases at the Bani Hareth court. He added that it was the advocates' respect for the present magistrate that made them accept him to look into the case despite the fact that it was against the law. However, he promised that he would not keep silent against any act that went against the law.

At the end of his interview he stressed again that meeting with Adam would reveal new facts. He added that, Adam whispered to his ears many times that what had been said in the investigations was false.

## "Never expected to be given so much power"



► 'Well done, young man', they said, 'in a few years you could be calling the shots'. The young man looked around. He saw hierarchies, secretaries and filing cabinets. Having been well brought up, he did not say 'you're dead and don't know it'. Instead he said, 'I'm afraid

I can't wait that long', and left it all behind to start up on his own.

► Left it all, except the C-Class Mercedes-Benz.

► It was the one thing that seemed to share his philosophy. Embrace the new, but never let it dominate you. Revel in flair, but

don't let flair become your goal.

► He turned his back on the high-rent district and dipped the accelerator; instant response

### Life's what you make it. The New C-Class.

from the turbocharged 4 cylinder Kompressor propelled him through six gear changes as the sleek C-Class body deceived the air around it,

surging forward with astonishingly little resistance.

► Power and to spare, but applied with rigorous intelligence, controlled by unstinting attention to detail.

► 'I can take a hint', he thought. And smiled.



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## Words of Wisdom

"Yemen is plagued with corrupt officials. This is merely a factual statement. Success of the reform program presently underway requires more accountability and transparency. The government has not made any progress towards either of those requirements. In fact, society has witnessed more corruption, favoritism, nepotism, etc."

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



## Our Opinion

BY WALID A. AL-SAQQAF

## YEMEN, THE DEVELOPED WORLD, AND THE BRAIN DRAIN

Many companies and establishments, including Yemen Times, have suffered and will probably continue to suffer from the brain drain caused by globalization. Nowadays, it is common to hear about young, talented, educated Yemenis leaving to the USA, considering it the promised land where they will find all they need. The US Consulate in Sana'a has tried hard to prevent everyone from leaving without a strong indication that he will be coming back, however, it still can sometimes be fooled, letting away Yemenis who leave Yemen for good. Hundreds of Yemenis were able to get a green card, and US nationality just with a simple visitor's visa. It is almost impossible to prevent or even track down these hungry Yemeni citizens who made it and reached US shores.

Today, being educated, or having expertise in a specific field is another good factor behind allowing Yemenis to have a visa to the States. We are every day feeling that the most talented and educated Yemenis leave either to the USA, or to Europe seeking a higher living standard.

Yemen Times, as was mentioned above, is one of the victims of this brain drain. We have trained, equipped, and worked hard on raising qualified intellectuals who, with their experience, can work anywhere in the world. However, these very employees pay us back by leaving and preferring the USA, all without our notice.

Is there a way to prevent this from continuing? Of course, holding the employee's passport is one way of doing it, but it is quite easy these days to get another one by applying lots of different methods.

It is a person's right to seek a better living, but what if these persons are the most qualified and well-trained people? How would Yemen ever continue to develop and cope with the globalization and technology revolutions taking place?

Is it our government's responsibility? Could the US and European Embassies help prevent this from continuing? Or shall we just watch our talents leave without even saying good bye? These are some of the questions that we feel unable - or unwilling - to answer.

## COMMENTARY ON THE BORDER TREATY

By Brian Whitaker, the Guardian

*The "final and permanent" border agreement between Yemen and Saudi Arabia is being hailed as a milestone in relations between the two neighbors. But there is still work to be done.*

## THE BORDER

treaty between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, signed on June 12, describes itself as "final and permanent". It is not actually final because, as the text shows, a large portion of the border is still to be agreed - though that should not detract from what has been achieved. Yemeni leaders are particularly delighted, claiming that it is as important a landmark as the unification of north and south Yemen 10 years ago. There are few surprises in the treaty: the frontier it describes could probably have been agreed, given the right conditions, at any time during the last decade. The significant point is that conditions were not right then, but they are now - and the changes seem to have occurred mainly on the Saudi side.

The Saudis have long regarded Yemen as a problem, whether on account of its republicanism, its larger population, its democratization, or the unruly ways of some of its people. The unification of Yemen worried them, and they did their best to ensure that it would not succeed.

But Saudi Arabia is changing. With King Fahd's health declining, Crown Prince Abdullah is now in day-to-day command and his influence is ever-more apparent. In May, Abdullah took the unprecedented step of attending the celebrations in Sana'a to mark the tenth anniversary of Yemeni unification, the event that the kingdom had done so much in the past to oppose.

There could be no clearer acknowledgement that previous Saudi policies towards Yemen had failed. It was a signal that, instead of regarding Yemen as a problem, the Saudis were prepared to regard it as a partner - at least for a while, to see how Yemen would

respond.

Abdullah also appears to have taken a decision to tidy up the kingdom's borders once and for all; the dispute with Yemen was the biggest, but not the only one. He has since turned his attention to the dispute with Kuwait.

**THE TREATY** divides the Yemeni-Saudi border into three parts. The first part is the area originally covered by the 1934 Treaty of Ta'if. This runs from the Red Sea coast to Jabal al-Thar, the "moving mountain" whose identity had been hotly disputed. It is now fixed in position with a grid reference.

The main problem here has been relating the line described in the Ta'if treaty to actual points on the ground. Both sides have now agreed to employ a specialist company to survey the line and erect marker columns.

There is also a continuing problem in relating ancient tribal boundaries and grazing rights to the Ta'if line. The Wa'il tribe, for instance, reject the official border on the grounds that they have a 241-year-old document demarcating their own tribal boundary with the Yam tribe. The new agreement provides for amendments to the Ta'if line where the border cuts through villages, and allows cross-border grazing (with special permits) for shepherds.

One concern is that this area is also a traditional smuggling route, and Appendix 4 of the agreement seeks to prevent well-armed "shepherds" driving across the frontier in convoys of trucks stuffed full of consumer goods.

The second part of the land border - the longest section - runs from Jabal al-Thar to the frontier with Oman but its precise legal status under the treaty is puzzling. The treaty says it has not yet been defined but "the two contracting parties have agreed to demarcate this part in an amicable way".

The treaty does, however, define the starting and finishing points, and refers to Appendix 2, which is described as "tables defining distances of the border line". The tables are not, in fact, "distances" but a set of 17 co-ordi-

nates.

Joining up these co-ordinates would produce a border very similar to the "Como Line" which was provisionally agreed in 1997 when President Ali Abdullah Salih met Prince Sultan bin Abd al-Aziz in Italy (see article in Middle East International).

What seems to have happened is that the two sides have agreed on a number of fixed points but not the line between them. This may be an attempt to avoid the problems that can arise when borders are drawn in straight lines on a map without reference to the local geography. Once the independent survey team have done their work it will be easier to see whether any adjustments should be made in the spaces between the fixed points.

It is worth noting that the provisional border in this area is well to the north of borders claimed by the Saudis between the 1930s and 1950s. Part of it appears to follow the Riyadh Line (offered by the British to Ibn Saud in 1935) but it dips south in the middle to avoid the Saudi city of al-Wadi'a.

The third part of the border is the maritime frontier. The repeated and very precise references to its starting point on the coast - the quay of Ra's al-Ma'uj Shami, Radif Qarad outlet (latitude 16, 24, 14, 8 north, and longitude 42, 46, 19, 7 east) - are obviously intended to leave no room for doubt. A sign that this has previously been contested.

Yemen had earlier pointed out that the Ta'if line turned north-west before reaching the sea and regarded it as an indication that the maritime border should continue in the same direction. The Saudis appear to have won that argument, because the newly-agreed maritime line starts by heading due west.

**THE YEMENIS** have always been interested in the economic benefits that might follow from a border agreement.

The 1934 Ta'if treaty had a side-letter granting special privileges for Yemenis to work in Saudi Arabia. This effectively ceased in 1990 when the Saudis took offense at Yemen's attitude to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Yemen has long maintained that the letter is

an integral part of the Ta'if treaty. Although the Ta'if treaty has been incorporated into the new agreement, the status of the letter remains unclear. But it is unlikely that the Saudis will want to revert to the previous situation, which gave Yemeni workers more rights in the kingdom than other Arabs.

The new agreement provides for negotiations in the event that "shared natural wealth" (e.g. oil) is discovered on the border. This is a minimal commitment: it does not require either side to do anything more than negotiate, and it does not prevent either side from exploiting shared mineral wealth unilaterally. That is not necessarily a problem, but it will only work if there is mutual trust and goodwill.

The new treaty also incorporates the 1995 Memorandum of Understanding which contains several important clauses not directly related to the border. One of these is the promotion of economic, commercial and cultural relations between the two countries. There are suggestions in the Yemeni press that Saudi Arabia will now support the country's application to join the Gulf Co-operation Council.

Another key clause from the memorandum incorporated in the treaty says:

"Both countries confirm existing obligations whereby their territories will not be used as bases or centers of aggression against the other: nor will they be used for political, military or propaganda purposes against the other party."

This is easily the most contentious part of the agreement and the extent of its observance will determine whether relations have really changed. Both sides have long accused each other of meddling in their internal affairs.

If the interference does stop, several hundred politicians, tribal leaders and officials in Yemen, who have been accustomed to receiving loyalty payments from the kingdom, will see their incomes cut. The future of some Yemeni opposition groups backed by Saudi Arabia, and of those southern Yemeni leaders who took refuge in the kingdom after the 1994 war, looks uncertain, too.

The non-interference clause also extends to "propaganda" - which has sometimes been interpreted as meaning that neither side should allow its media to attack the other. If that interpretation prevails, the effect will be to enshrine a permanent restriction of press freedom in an international treaty.

Common Sense Column  
will resume next week

## Letters to the Editor

## Rejoinder to article "Who are more intelligent and more intellectual men or Women?"

Issue no. 25 page 8

Mr. Issam Al-Khawlanani has made a grave mistake in understanding intelligence and intellectuality and has proven that he is far less intelligent than most women.

First, he has defined intelligence by education and knowledge through learning; Knowledge is information; learning; clear perception, understanding and is not only accomplished through reading, but also through life experiences and education.

Intelligence is mental ability and perception of the intellect. A person who has a high professional position cannot measure it. There are many women in positions of authority. For example, India's political arena has been highly influenced by women politicians. In fact, Yemen's own ambassador to the Netherlands is a woman.

General director of Al-Sabin Hospital Dr. Arwa Rabiya has done a commendable job to make the hospital better than other government hospitals in the Republic. She is also a woman.

However, being women, we will not foolishly generalize and say

that all women are more intelligent than men. No! There are smart men, and there are smart women.

On the subject of the story that Mr. Khawlanani has related, it proves nothing but the fact that sexual discrimination is still prominent in such developed countries as the United States. The five men who graduated five years after the women were more successful in all terms than the five women. That is so because women are still trying to guarantee themselves the right of equal pay for work of equal value. Even now women with the same qualifications and experience are given a salary less than their male colleagues.

Unfortunately Mr. Khawlanani has been unable to comprehend fully the complexity of the issue he has so fondly narrated. Finally, please do keep in mind that behind every successful man is a woman.

By: Ayla M. Shabooti and Sadaf Shah

Dear editor,

I am writing in replay to an article published in the newspaper titled 'How do Yemenis Perceive Public Parks?' I went with my class, here at Sana'a British School to Attan swimming park. We found this park a very nice and well-organized place to have a picnic. The trees were taken after well. My class and I have disagreed with that article. There are places to go but you have to look for them.

Our class decided that Attan swimming park needed a few changes such as signs, grass and picnic tables. Yet that was all. Jannett and John Rizcallah

Dear Editor,

I thought I'd write to say what a great newspaper site you have. It's easy to use and I don't get lost. I have found out a lot about Yemen.

I live in Australia and I am a student. I am interested in Yemen for a school assignment. In reading your newspaper and other sources I have found a lot that disturbs me about your ways of life. I found many negative articles or information regarding kidnapping, corruptness, women's rights etc. I believe that everyone should get a fair go and more positive articles should be printed about the good in Yemen... Or isn't there any good?

Larissa Pentheseila  
enthesilea\_1@hotmail.com

Dear Larissa,

I appreciate your sympathy to Yemen's conditions, etc. However, as a newspaper, we cannot in any way try to distribute the news items in positive or negative terms. We can only publish what happens in reality, and unfortunately, negative developments are more common nowadays. But if you look at previous issues, you will find several articles emphasizing achievements. However, as the famous proverb says, "a true journalist's role is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."

The Editor

## Response of Ethiopian Embassy to the Common Sense Article Entitled "On Neighborly Relations on the Banks of the Red Sea" - Common Sense of Issue 25

Dear Editor,

We have seen the comment made by Hassan Al-Haifi on Yemen Times 19 June, 2000 with regard to the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, under the title "On Neighborly Relations on the Bank of the Red Sea."

We do not want to go into the details of the observer's view in each paragraph of his article. Suffice it is to say Mr. Al-Haifi, a regular contributor to Yemen Times used his common sense, as the topic of his article and his logic of argument witnesses, to substantiate his comment.

By using common sense, one can say all the good things but mere common sense can not go beyond wishful thinking and discover the facts on the ground whether the issue at hand is an inter-state conflict or a skirmish between group of individuals. In other words, any reasonable person is expected to go deep into the root cause of the conflict and raise the following points before extending his/her comments: -

- How did the conflict first erupt?
- Who was the aggressor and vice versa?
- What efforts were made to help resolve the conflict and who contributed positively to these efforts?

It is rational to pose at least these and other appealing questions and find out facts and answers to them before one comments on the subject.

Mr. Al-Haifi's criticism, apart from being self-defeating is aimed at using Yemen Times as a vehicle to convey his weak and disrespectful message to the people and the government of Ethiopia, who were in the agony of war for two solid years after their territories were seized by the state of Eritrea.

Nobody denies that war has a devastating effect both on material and human life. While trying to give advice to avoid war in the incident of conflicts, Mr. Hassan at the same time argues that fighting a war is logical if disputed territory possesses significant economic value or if the belligerents own enough resources to finance war. According to him, it is economic return or the existence of abundant natural resources in a given territory that justifies the logic of engagement in war.

Whatever perception he may have, Ethiopia, being the victim of aggression has tirelessly attempted to change the scenario and give peace a chance despite the

unprovoked attack and all sorts of intimidations launched by the Eritrean regime in the past two years.

We would like to remind the commentator that Eritrea repeatedly resisted peaceful settlement of the conflict by rejecting the proposals and documents prepared by mediators to bring an end to the conflict peacefully. Efforts by the Organization of African Unity and all other supporters to achieve peace were finally to end at stalemate as far as the rule of law could be applied to change the rigid status of the Eritrean regime. It was at this juncture that the Government of Ethiopia was forced to carry out its constitutional obligation to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In view of this, the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Government of Ethiopia expresses its deep regret and anger at the untenable comment produced by your publication against the Government of Ethiopia which managed to go beyond all levels of tolerance to stop bloodshed as far as the conflict with Eritrea was concerned. And that tolerance is well understood and respected by many except Mr. Hassan Al-Haifi and a few others who may share his view.

We also wish to bring to your attention the commentator's irresponsible approach which indiscriminately criticizes both leaderships with such a parochial outlook and cheap explanations as "the leaders of the two cousin states of Ethiopia and Eritrea... have lost their senses". This is an insult to our government.

Our Embassy does not deny the constructive views and articles Yemen Times usually brings to its audience. We have great respect for that and we use it. But such comments as made by Mr. Hassan Al-Haifi go far from his common sense and thoughts of imagination, quite apart from being unacceptable contributions to staining healthy relations existing between nations and governments. In conclusion, the Embassy recommends that necessary measures be taken by the editor to deter this sort of baseless comment from appearing in public view and requests that the full text of this letter be published in your next issue to help redirect readers to Ethiopia's rationale on the issue and her inalienable right of self-defense in cases of unprovoked and naked aggression against territorial integrity.

Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
Sana'a, 22-6-2000

YEMEN  
TIMES

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by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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## OPHTHALMIC EDUCATION (5)

## Understanding Vernal Catarrh (Spring Catarrh)

## What is Vernal Catarrh?

It is a type of allergic conjunctivitis that usually affects children before the age of ten. It is more common in hot climates and is more common among those with a family history of allergic diseases. It affects boys more than girls between the age of 5 – 15 years old and usually gets better by the age of 18.

## What are the main symptoms?

Usually the symptoms of vernal catarrh get worse during spring and summer and in some cases continue throughout the year: -

1. Itching (which can be severe and boring)
2. Watering

4. Redness and foreign body sensation
5. Ropy-like mucous discharge
6. Decrease in vision in advanced cases due to changes in the cornea.

The symptoms keep recurring every year and they get better as the patient gets older.

## What is the treatment?

Cold compresses: help in decreasing the itching.

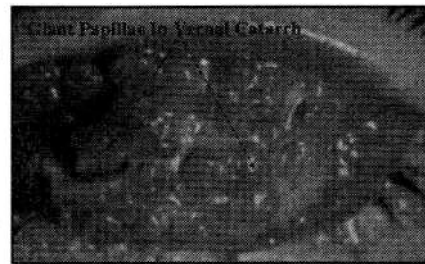
Anti-allergic drops: which decrease the itching and stabilize the cells responsible for itching.

Steroid drops: these should be used under the supervision of an eye doctor. The eye doctor is the only one

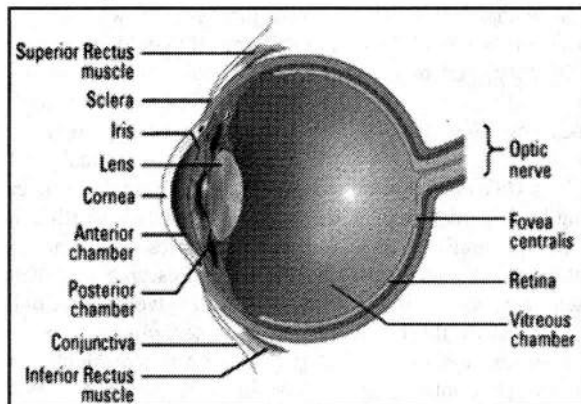
Usage of steroid drops without the supervision of an eye doctor can cause cataract and glaucoma.

## Remember:

Vernal Catarrh is a benign chronic disease but can create serious visual problems. Avoid using steroid drops without the



Giant Papillae In Vernal Catarrh



3. Stickiness of lids with difficulty in opening the eyes in the morning

impairment from corneal changes especially keratoconus (conical cornea).

## Are there any long-term complications?

The disease is usually chronic and can produce visual

impairment from corneal changes especially keratoconus (conical cornea).

advice and the supervision of an eye doctor

If new symptoms appear while you are on treatment consult your eye doctor. Do not repeat the use of drops without the advice of your doctor.

Routine eye examinations by an eye specialist are very important. Your sight and your eyes need every care they deserve.

**Dr Qusai Abdel Baki**  
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon  
Ibn Al-Haitham Clinic  
University of Science & Technology,  
Sana'a

## Acute Water Shortage in Al-Makatera



Article by: Mohammad Abdullah Al-Saqqaf

Photo by: Abdulhakim Al-Maktari

Al-Makatera district lies to the west of Lahj governorate. Not so long ago this district belonged to Taiz. Al-Makatera is divided into two subdivisions; Eastern and Western Makatera. These are separated by the Al-Makatera castle. Inside the castle there are plenty of arable lands, caves, slopes as well as a large dam in the middle of the castle. Below the southern castle slopes lies a very beautiful forest, discovered recently, and it is preserved by the government as a sanctuary for birds and trees that are rarely found in Yemen.

Two weeks ago I visited one of my friends in Eastern Makatera, in the Al-Damaka village. After having lunch, we heard a woman screaming loudly as if a serious disaster had occurred. As soon as we reached her, we found that my friend's daughter was crying with a broken water container in her hand and water spilled all over the place. I asked my friend what was wrong and he answered in a sad tone: "My daughter has been standing in the queue all morning to fill this container with water. She fell down and broke the container". I was really surprised and asked: "Don't you have water service in your houses?". "No," he replied,

"we were always depending on natural spas but now that there are lots of people and little rain, many spas have dried up so we are left with only one source of water." Then he moved his finger up pointing at some trees lying at the top of the mountain and continued: "There you'll find the answer to your questions." We decided to climb the mountain to see where people were getting water from. After walking roughly two kilometers, we found a man digging the ground under a rock. We asked what he was doing and he replied "The drowning man catches at a straw". Then he continued: "I found that the soil was wet under this rock, so I figured there might be a spa beneath it." We felt really sad for this man who was trying to 'catch at a straw' as he said. After that we continued our walk until we found what we were looking for. There we looked up to see the source of the water. To my utter surprise, I found that there were plastic water pipes hanging down high

up from the mountains. They were hundreds of meters tall so we wondered who had placed them there. Later we were told that a man was hung down from the mountain and that he placed one end of the pipes between the rocks. I was astonished. When I looked down, I found long queues of people holding different kinds of plastic containers waiting for their turn to come. It is really a pity. Each family is entitled to two full containers of water and not one drop more. Women stand there all day long under the sun far from their families to get barely enough water for one day.

The rich people in this district moved to bigger cities and settled there and the poor were left to suffer. Now, to whom should I complain? This district is a part of Yemen as much as any other district is. Therefore, I urge all Yemenis to stand beside these people and give them a helping hand to tide them over the crisis.



## Mr. Habib to YT:

**"A tremendous improve in girls' enrollment has been achieved. However, this is far from satisfactory."**

UNICEF is playing a pivotal role in moving the drive of development in the country through different programs and support that extended different dimensions of the society. These programs are developed by the national authorities together with the UNICEF which supports these projects in terms of funding, equipment, training and supplies. UNICEF also provides the background of expertise from all over the world. Mr. Habib Hamam, the director of the UNICEF office in Sana'a, had first opened the two residences of UNICEF in Sana'a and Aden late in the 1970s. Mr. Habib has finished his second three-year assignment to Yemen and he is leaving the country for the office headquarters in New York.

Mr. Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Managing Editor of the Yemen Times met with him and filed the following interview:

## Q: Could you please give us a background about the UNICEF activities in Yemen?

A: We are cooperating with different ministries to support programs of high importance. Traditionally, our work has been in the field of basic health, education and rural water supply. In the first three years, we worked on these three areas. In addition there was a new kind of cooperation on the legislation for children such as street children, orphans, for protection measures.

At large, it has been a satisfactory progress on the projects particularly in health with the success of the polio campaigns to increase the immunization coverage from under 30% in 1997 to over 70% today against the six major killing diseases. We also work for the production of water hydration.

The various health efforts of Ministry of Health which cooperated with other ministries and supported by UNICEF and other donors, have brought down the number of child's deaths under five years of age significantly, according to the statistics from the central statistics office.

We have also supported some important new initiatives in the field of nutrition for example, the iodination of salt to reduce the incidence of iodine deficiency which negatively affects the thinking capacity of children, especially school children.

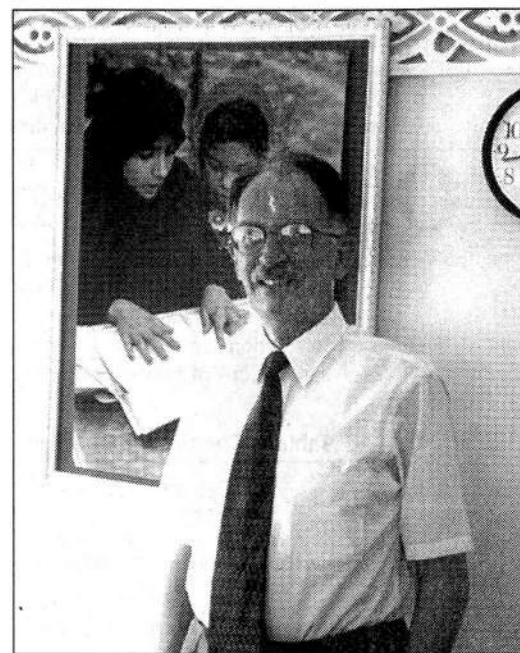
Q: what is the contribution of

## UNICEF in the field of education? And how do you view the situation of Yemeni children particularly working children in streets?

A: In general, there has been a tremendous improvement in the enrollment of children in Yemen over the last ten years. Still there is a very long way to go. Girls' education is also on the increase. UNICEF supports training women teachers and the establishment of community based schools which has increase girls' enrollment in schools. Official statistics indicate that in comparison with the past few years about 43 thousand girls have by now enrolled in schools. However, it is still far from satisfactory and the enrollment of girls has to increase much more.

On the other hand, in recent years there has been a decrease in boys' enrollment and this is alarming and worrying. According to recent statistics there has been a decrease in boys' enrollment almost as much by ten percent. Equivalent to more than 200 thousand boys have left schools. Hopefully this trend will be reversed so that both boys and girls have a better chance in education. The education of both boys and girls is an absolute prerequisite, an absolute pre-condition to the ambitions of Yemen for progress as the world becomes more competitive and is a global economy. Therefore, it is only with education that the young generation of today can compete and contribute to the development of his country and to the social, political progress. So we can not over stress how important education is and we hope that the trends on enrollment and on quality and relevance of education, the forward progress will continue very much.

Regarding the working children in streets, it's a phenomenon on the increase. Studies show that these children work in different careers. The main way to deal with them is to encourage their enrollment in education. For those who have already fallen in streets we are working together with the ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs to try to develop programs that respond to their needs of and to the needs of their community. We look at working children in street on the same way as we look at children in schools from the point of view of their rights. Even if these children are begging, they have rights which are guaranteed by the Yemeni law. Their families, society, community, government, and international community have a duty to do what is best possible for



them.

Probably the most important thing right now is to establish a program for training social work personnel in governmental and non-governmental organizations. Many workers who have not professional social work training are working with the government and in private companies. We are working with the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs to develop a program to train people working in these sectors.

## Q: What are the main problems facing Yemen?

A: Yemen is a developing country. It is a poor country. It is also classified among the least developed countries by the UN. This means that there are many problems. But there are important opportunities as well. When one recognizes problems one has to identify the opportunities. For example, the childhood illnesses, those which are preventable, are still too many. There is no reason for children to die from diarrhea. A simple antibiotic, if parents are aware, can save children from death.

The private sector should also play a more important role in the basic health. The current budget of the Ministry of Health is about \$ 3.5 per person. For a country like Yemen, it is a very small budget. WHO estimates the need in a country like Yemen at about \$12 per person so as to render a meaningful health service. If the government budget in Health increases from \$3.5 per person to \$ 7 to start with, good health services will be deeply appreciated by the people. It is within the interest of decision

makers to strengthen health services and this is something which we are trying to support.

Other problem is the number of children enrolled in schools and the quality of education. Are the children learning what will make them able to deliver and contribute to their society? Will they be able to compete with the global economy?!

I would also add the water supply, that is clean water. There is a lack of availability of clean water in villages and towns as well. This is a problem to be addressed. All these matters are linked together with the issue of public awareness which is of high importance. There is also an importance to look after the young children who vulnerable to streets' abuse. There should also be an attention paid to the marginalized women in the community. So how to increase the public awareness is also another problem that has to be dealt with.

## Q: Women living in the countryside suffer from various problems including health problems and high rate of illiteracy. What is the contribution of the UNICEF in this regard?

A: Our main focus has been in girls' education. That is, our main approach is to enroll their names in schools while they are young. We have collaborated with the Yemeni Women Association on some issues. We in terms of strengthening health system all girls benefit equally. There is not a specific focus on the rural areas. We hope to do more on save pregnancies. Far too many mothers die during pregnancy and child birth. We are not satisfied with the fact that not enough has been done in this area. I wish we can do more in this area.

## Q: Will you please shed some light on the UNICEF program for the future?

A: The current three-year program has been developed after considerable study, negotiations, analyzes, fact finding and discussions with officials both in the central ministries and at community level in governorates and districts. So the current three years program covers a broad range of issues from child rights

to basic health, basic education, rural water supplies, working with communities, child protection and enrollment of women, etc. What we hope is that this kind of broad thrust will continue and expand in the next two years. In its cooperation with UNICEF, the government of Yemen has succeeded in obtaining a soft loan credit to help in expanding the range of services, especially in health and girls' education to reach larger and larger numbers of districts in the country.

## Q: What is the UNICEF contribution to the development of media?

A: UNICEF in the ministry of information, radio, TV and media people have come to the conclusion that media professionals have the same role in promoting the well-being of people as professionals in health and education. That media professionals do not only have a duty to report on events when taking place, but to promote development, awareness and sensitization. Where would be immunization be today without the media, where would the important achievements of polio eradication be known without the media. The media played an pivotal role in moving immunization from being a technical medical matter to being a public issue. So we have been working with the media professionals to advocate and mobilize sup-

port the work of the Ministry of information and other ministries in mobilizing public opinions to demand services in health and in education, to consider and feel that girls' education is important, to care for the under privileged children in the street other than their being an unpleasant site. All this can not be possibly be achieved without the media. It is the media here the newspapers, TV, radio and interpersonal communications that help to make our efforts a success.

Besides, we cooperate very much with dialogue and training programs with media professionals. There is now a whole net work of media people in newspapers, radio and TV who are aware of different important issues in the country.

## Q: Any final comment?

A: This is the end of my second assignment to Yemen, the end of three years. I have made a lot of friends and I have deeply loved this country. Yemen is a great country with great people. I have been privileged and proud to come and serve this country. I leave in a way with a sense of sadness, but I also leave with the hope that many important initiatives are on the right track. Although more and more needs to be done there are a number of good things that are happening.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

## CLIENT SERVICE OFFICER

We are looking for an efficient and dedicated client service officer who will also execute superior's directions. University degree, English knowledge and experience are necessary.

## SECRETARY

A lady who can type on computers in both Arabic and English. Has a good knowledge in filing and answering phones. One year experience is a minimum qualification.

## PROMOTERS

A number of young ladies who can communicate well and like to work with people and have the ability to communicate the benefits of food products and issues related to family and children health. If you have any working experience in the promotion field is a plus, but we are willing to train. Salaries commensurate with experience and ability.

## DRIVERS

A number of drivers with valid driving licenses and enjoy good appearance. Ability to communicate in English is a plus.

**If you are interested and you are less than 40 years of age please send your CV to:**  
**Job Application, P. O. Box: 15265, Sana'a, Yemen**  
**or Call: 208910 or 206155**



# GENDER:

## Meanings, Uses, and Discourses in Post-Unification Yemen



Dr. Margot Badran

I would now like to consider the contradictory fate of gender in Yemen within the last twelve months. In 1999 two important international conferences were held in Yemen. The first was The Emerging Democracies Forum held in June. The second was the International Conference on Challenges for Women's Studies in the 21st Century convened in September. Both conferences were sponsored by the President of the Republic and both accorded gender important attention. At the Emerging Democracies Forum the President of the Republic and Prime Minister of Yemen gave keynote addresses on the practice and enhancement of democracy in Yemen. Throughout the conference balanced gender participation in the democratic processes was acknowledged as fundamental to the democratic project. The President of the Republic stated in the closing session: "We cannot just keep on saying that women have the right to vote, women have equal rights with men, women have the right to study, etc, without working on this. We need to have these things implemented in reality, and not be satisfied with just talk." (quoted from *The Yemen Times*, July 1, 1999) The Sana'a Declaration adopted at the end of the Forum asserted that: "Public participation in democratic decision making is enhanced by...ensuring that governments and political parties take measures to increase the number of women in parliament and appoint women to key government posts, conducting civic education in schools, non-governmental organizations, parties and the media to address cultural, attitudinal and legal barriers to the political and eco-

nomic participation of women..." One month following the conference a woman was appointed to the Politburo of the ruling party and the first woman was named ambassador.

The second conference, the International Conference on Challenges for Women's Studies in the 21st Century, was organized by the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center to assess the state of the art of women's studies, especially in Arab and Muslim societies, on the eve of the new century. The conference was designed to serve as a forum for nationally and internationally recognized scholars in the field of women's studies to present their work and engage in dialogue and debate. Instantaneous interpretation in three languages, Arabic, English, and French was provided in order to facilitate more effective audience participation, specifically encouraging members of the audience to ask questions and engage in dialogue.

In both conferences there was a range of views expressed and analyzes advanced. In the first conference, the Emerging Democracies Forum, there were lively debates on gender and other issues in which sometimes distinct and strongly felt disagreement were articulated. During the second conference, the International Conference on Challenges for Women's Studies in the 21st Century, some of those in attendance became irate over certain presentations, but did not avail themselves of the opportunity provided to them to engage in the common practice of free, open academic debate at the time. They did not directly confront those with whom they disagreed in order to have a constructive dialogue. We only learned about the outrage later in angry articles in the press and through other forms of public pronouncements. Moreover, some irate persons expected the conference

organizer, the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center, to pass prior judgement on the presentations to be given at the conference, a requirement, it should be noted, not expected of the presenters at the Emerging Democracies Forum. The prior vetting of conference papers, of course would constitute censorship and a removal of the democratic right of free speech and a flagrant attack upon the practice of academic freedom.

Following the women's studies conference, which ended on September 14, 1999, at the time when the country was preparing for the presidential election, there was a severe and widespread attack on the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center. This occasioned the unleashing of the demonizing discourse of gender—a sensationalist discourse of deceit and ignorance capitalizing on ignorance. Although the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center had previously run several public workshops and conferences, the press and public showed little interest in gender on these occasions.

In September 1999 the negative and fallacious discourse of gender was unleashed in public attacking the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center at Sana'a University and maligning the academic discourse of gender. An article appeared in the newspaper *al-Asima* entitled, "al-Jandar haqiqa wa akhtara" (Gender: the Truth and the Danger) warning that "The Genderists (*janadira*) have arrived in Sana'a." Genderists, presumably those who use the discourse of gender, had been around at least from the early 1990s. Suddenly, the genderists were portrayed as a disruptive force, out "to change the basic social order under the pretext of educating us." (article by Rashad al-Shara'bi, Oct. 17, 1999)

This discourse of negativity and alarm

was quickly spread in the press, public addresses, and cassettes from the capital to the far corners of the country. The demonizing discourse put the loanword gender (*al-jandar*) on the Arabic lexical map, and more particularly the map of vernacular Arabic, but as it did so it cast gender as a pejorative term. The demonizing discourse spread "definitions" and ideas about gender that cast gender as something immoral and against religion, triggering a pernicious atmosphere of suspicion and danger. Of course, an analytical tool, which is what gender is, logically cannot be for or against something.

In order to discredit an idea, classic forms of attack have been to brand it as against Islam, culture, traditions, and the nation. Indeed, a leading politician pronounced in *The Yemen Times* in October 1999 (issue 14, Oct. 4-10) that gender has "no place in our culture or language" and, moreover, it "insults our constitution, our religion, and our culture." One might ask again, how can an analytical tool insult the constitution, religion, and culture? And if, gender insults the constitution, religion, and culture, is this to say that the government insults its own constitution, religion, and culture? Is it to say that the university and its leadership and faculty insult the constitution, religion, and culture? And, that the state and academia have been doing so for the better part of the decade of the 1990s? If so, why was the alarm not sounded earlier? The self-appointed custodians of the constitution, religion, and culture were tardy in carrying out the job they accorded themselves. And when the gender alarm sounded why was it so selective?

Gender discussions often mask an important sub-text, which is not about women and/or men but are meant to serve other agendas, or multiple agendas at the same time. Indeed, there is a

large literature on this subject. When looking at the demonizing narrative of gender in Yemen we see that it goes far beyond a simple lack of understanding but ventures into the realm of wild fantasy pivoting around sexual imaginaries, associating gender with what is illicit sex in Islam. In one stroke, to link gender with illicit sex is to delegitimize gender in the most sensational way possible. A sample of quotations from the press will illustrate the demonizing narrative.

Gender is parallel to globalization. It means unifying the human being and erasing the differences and barriers between males and females in order to give equality to women with men. 'Ansar al-jandar' (disciples of gender) are out to deform nature [issuing] an invitation for marriage between men and men, and women and women...Those who demand to erase the differences between males and females despise the woman and so they want to transform her into a man. And to achieve equality they want men to become women.

Zaid bin Ali al-Shami, *al-Sahwa*, 14 Oct. 1999  
Gender philosophers (*jalasafit al-jandar*) are spreading immorality, corruption, and harm to the family...They advocate deviant sexual behavior: adultery, homosexuality, and lesbianism. They want to destroy the legal marriage contract between women and men, which includes rights, duties, and responsibilities. How can this term be spread in academic centers under the name of knowledge in a country of faith and wisdom?

Muhammad al-Khamisi, *al-Sahwa*, 14 Oct. 1999  
What is interesting and counter-logical is that the demonized notion of gender was selectively, and in a highly public way, applied to women's studies, that is to the academic discourse, but was not directed towards the governmental discourse of democracy and development. Strewn through the demonizing discourse were attacks, both implicit and explicit, on the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center with urgent calls for the closure of the

Center. Could the Center have been engaged for several years in teaching gender with the meanings the detractors have attached to it under the eyes of the faculty and higher university authorities (many of whom also taught in the Center) without being found out and exposed far earlier? And, if this were possibly the case, then these higher authorities should surely bear responsibility. Moreover, would a foreign donor, with an excellent reputation for supporting gender projects in Muslim societies, not only in the Middle East but in South Asia and East Asia, have supported such a malevolent project for nearly four years?

For these and other reasons it seems superfluous to deny the allegations put forth in the demonizing discourse of what gender means and to counter the attacks leveled against those who teach gender theory and methodology. However, I would like to state for the record that gender was never, and indeed logically could never be, used at the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center in the ways the detractors have alleged. To repeat yet again, gender as an analytical tool cannot be against anything, it cannot be against Islam. It is worth pointing out that all lectures and discussions at the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center were electronically recorded and accordingly there is thorough documentation available to those concerned with the truth. What *is* against Islam is defamation and slander which constitute grievous offenses for which restitution is required. While the attacks against gender were used as a means of slamming the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center, to attack gender as such is also to attack the governmental gender discourse of democracy and development, yet this discourse was not attacked outright. Why this selective demonizing of gender? If gender is demonized can this demonizing be controlled or confined, simply to one sphere?

Continued on next page

# Learning about Women's Qat Sessions

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### "Closed" Qat Sessions

This type of women's session emerged recently, and has only spread on a large scale during the last ten years. Its emergence is attributed to several factors such as not allowing unmarried girls to attend the traditional "Tafrita" sessions, the common condition of women working out of their homes at public/private institutions, and the increasing number of literate women and their introduction to Western society. All these factors motivated a substantial segment of the new generation of women, literate girls, female employees, and the educated and wealthy elite class of women to think of a modern convenient alternative to the traditional "Tafrita" Sessions. The closed qat-chewing sessions, with many of their characteristics, are different from the traditional "Tafrita" sessions. In the closed sessions, qat represents an essential element, unlike the "Tafrita" sessions. These sessions start at about 5:00 PM, and end at about 9:00 to 10:00 PM. The most common guests of such sessions are girls, young married women (employees and students), the elite educated class, and those women who are influenced by Western cultures. The closed qat sessions take place regularly and without the need for a special occasion. They are known for the fact that they are held mostly with the aim of providing rest and entertainment, while the traditional sessions include several functions, both social and psychological. Also, in most cases, the closed sessions are distinguished by being attended by a specific and limited group of guests who have intimate relationships with each other. This type of session began to spread conspicuously, and in a manner that competed with the "Tafrita" sessions. This was especially true in the major cities, after previously having been held in complete secrecy, as qat-

chewing by women contradicts the prevailing social values and the traditional roles of women inside and outside their homes.

The most common day for women to hold this closed type of qat-chewing session is Thursday, though some prefer to hold them on Mondays. Researcher, *Najat Al-Sa'im*, noted "there are social differences, in terms of classes and education."

Also, it is noted that these types of sessions consolidate social distinction within the women's community, where every group is sure to stay restricted to itself. As a result of the criteria of binding a specific group, women who are from a different social group are restricted from joining it. Such groups are established on different bases, among which are age, class or profession.

Such sessions give a woman a suitable environment to practice her freedom and to escape the daily concerns of life, and commitments and pressures of a community dominated by men.

British scholar, *Shelagh Weir*, states "The qat-chewing sessions were, before the 1970s, an urban phenomenon of the upper class only."<sup>10</sup>

However, currently, this type of session has become widely spread throughout Yemen, and qat-chewing is not restricted only to wealthy urban individuals anymore, as it has extended to include the middle social classes, which is one of the factors behind the widespread phenomenon of qat-chewing among women.

The closed women's qat sessions are known for lack of necessity to reciprocate invitations, reciprocity being only voluntary. It is noticed that the chewing women are allowed to choose the company that they enjoy, preferably those of the same social status and of the interests close to theirs.

Also in this type of women's qat session, described by Sana'anis as "Inter-socialization Sessions", are individual sessions confined to a limited number of chewing women (about four to five women), primarily associated with enjoyment. In this type of session qat has a secondary role due to the multi-

ple enjoyment, amusement and entertainment sources.

At the "inter-socialization" sessions, neither official nor traditional roles and functions of the "Tafrita" exist, since the aim of the guest is amusement and enjoyment, rather than association or practicing certain functions or roles. Therefore, attendants try to avoid debating serious topics. In addition, it is difficult to isolate oneself from one's friends in order to indulge in individual contemplation, in which case it is hard to speak about the common psychological phases which a "model" qat assembly demonstrates.

### Characteristics of Women's Qat Sessions:

The anthropologist, Thomas Gerholm, in his analysis of the qat session, in its environment as the "city drama", explained the significance of the social content and the social functions performed by women's sessions. Within this context, we find that the social functions of women sessions, and the urban sessions in particular, are concentrated on certain social functions such as entertainment, social communication, and psychological functions such as proving oneself, escaping male domination and daily work pressures. This is different from men's qat sessions, where the functions are multiple and different from one geographic area to another and from one type of session to another. It is noticed that the qat sessions of the black races known as the "Akhdam" who come from the Tihama area, are made up exclusively of one class, and they do not participate in the qat sessions of other social classes.

Also, the age factor seems to be of essential significance in identifying the participants in women's qat sessions. The closed qat sessions are often made up of girls in their twenties, while the traditional "Tafrita" sessions are made up of married women of many different ages.

As a summary, we can underline the main differences and similarities between these two major types of

women's qat sessions and the distinctive features of each of them, as shown in the comparison table below.

Interactions among women during the qat sessions of both types provide the

## PART II in a series

avoiding frustration and the feeling of inferiority that she may experience in her environment.

To the extent that the qat session has become a central institution for the

Table of Comparison between Women's Qat Sessions

"Tafrita" Sessions	Closed Sessions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional and existing in the past</li> <li>Qat is only a secondary element</li> <li>Numerous functions</li> <li>Open</li> <li>Attendance does not require invitation</li> <li>Large number of attendants</li> <li>Occasional and irregular</li> <li>Obligatory attendance mostly</li> <li>More public and spontaneous</li> <li>Varied and non homogeneous attendance</li> <li>Promoting intimacy &amp; social equality</li> <li>Including married women or those having been previously married</li> <li>Preferring smoking Mada'ah</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have only emerged recently</li> <li>Qat as a basic element</li> <li>Entertainment and fun</li> <li>Closed</li> <li>Attendance requires invitation</li> <li>Limited number of attendants</li> <li>Periodic</li> <li>Voluntary attendance</li> <li>Selective</li> <li>Homogenous attendance</li> <li>Consolidates social distinction</li> <li>Often includes unmarried girls and the elite of the educated class</li> <li>Preferring smoking cigarettes and hookah</li> </ul>

opportunity for participation of all women. Thus, we can say that such sessions contribute considerably to women's life from a psycho-sociological point of view, as they create social support and a place where a woman can find someone to listen to her and give her advice and caring guidance. In some cases, a woman can satisfy some of her needs such as the need for belonging and the need for communication with others in the qat session. The social environment sometimes leads to what sociologists call "functional idleness."<sup>11</sup> In her psychological study, *Najat Al-Sa'im* concluded that "by going to qat-chewing sessions, women accomplish self-realization and self-assurance because there are still many impediments that face Yemeni women, depriving them of effective productivity, which leads to gaining a feeling of belonging through participation in the sessions."<sup>12</sup> The qat session performs its functions as a psychological group where the relations among the individuals in the group are very straightforward and improve the woman's self-confidence and provide her with temporary satisfaction of her need of communicating with others and achieving self-security, in addition to enjoying herself, lessening her social burdens and

men's community, it is also no less important to the women's community. A woman's life is restricted and has limited activities outside the home. These qat sessions are almost the only means for entertainment and amusement allowed for women outside their homes. This applies to the majority of the female population, except for a very small segment of women, who can not be considered a reliable sample.

In addition, there is a complete lack of means of entertainment and of cultural innovation opportunities for women. Even men's activities are restricted to four main areas: their work, the market, the mosque and the qat session.

In conclusion, we can say that the women's qat sessions represent an opportunity for self-expression and the broad social participation of women. For these reasons the women's qat sessions have met with wide popularity within the female community and this system has begun to be incorporated into the social system of Yemen.

### Footnote:

• Due to the difficulty of attending the women's qat sessions we relied, in this study, mainly, on the assistance of

some female scholars from the Sociology Department and female informants who have attended such sessions. This is in addition to the past studies touching upon the same subject, especially the valuable study by the Yemeni scholar, *Najat A-Sa'im* published in "Al-thawabit" magazine, 8th issue, Jan.-Mar. 1997.

### References:

- 1- "Akhdam" A marginal social category of the Yemeni society having certain distinctive inherited features distinguishing them from the rest of the population and linking them to East Africa where it is believed they originated from. Due to certain unknown historical circumstances, they live on the margins of Yemeni society, occupying the lowest level of the social scale.
- 2- "Al-Wasi'y", *Abdul-Wasi'*, Yemen History, named "Farhat Al-Humoum wlahuzn fi hawadeth al-Yemen" Yemen House for publishing, Sana'a, d.t. Page 136.
- 3- Kennedy John G., *The Flower of Paradise: The institutionalized use of the drug qat in North Yemen*, REIDEL Holland 1987, p. 156.
- 4- Hejazi Ezzat and others, *Qat assembly: a social study*, Sana'a University, Faculty of Arts, 1981, unpublished study, p. 1.
- 5- Makhlof, Karla, *Veil Change*, London, 1979, p. 18.
- 6- Al-Jawhari, Ismail, *Al-Sehah Taj Al-Lughah & Sehah Al-Arabiah*, Beirut, Dar Al-Ilm Lilmaalayeen 1985, p. 13.
- 7- Kennedy, J. op. cit, p. 157.
- 8- Makhlof Karla, former reference, p. 23.
- 9- Sa'im, Najat Mohamed "Yemen Woman and Qat", *Al-Thawabit Magazine*, 8th issue, Jan.-Mar. 1986, p. 160.
- 10- Shelagh, Weir, *Qat in Yemen: Consumption and social change*, British museum Publications, 1986, p. 110.
- 11- Gerholm T., *Market, Mosque and Mafraj: Social inequality in Yemeni Town*, University of Stockholm, 1977, p. 183.
- 12- Look: Sa'ad Jalal, *Social Psychology, Qat*, Younis University, Benghazi 1989, p. 351.
- 13- Sa'im, Najat Mohammed, former reference, p. 163.



# Press Scanner

**D**espite variety of topics published in this week's Yemeni press, editorials and columns, the issue of signing the Yemeni-Saudi border treaty remains the major domineering subject. Newspapers commented on the treaty, each from its standpoint, both organs of political parties and those independent. The main Headlines Front-Paged by Yemeni press this week: are as follows:

- Saudi Arabia Starts Pullout from Yemeni Regained Areas
- President to 26 September: Jeddah Treaty New Turning-Point in Yemeni-Saudi Relations
- In Appreciation of His Efforts in Serving Yemeni-Cuban Relations President Saleh Awards Cuban Ambassador the Order of Unity
- Opposition Coordination Council, Hails Yemen-Saudi Border Treaty
- Human Right Watch Lashes out at Yemen and Other Countries
- U.S. Congressional Delegation Arrives in Sana'a
- Yemen & Hong Kong, No Entry Visas
- Cabinet Reshuffle Expected
- Jewish Delegation Arrives in Sanaa
- Court Presents Report by 2 German Experts on Serial Killer Crimes
- Aden University Employees Strike Continues
- Overland Transport Work Stoppage
- Foreign Ministry Refuses To Appear Before Court
- Al-Ayyam Taiz Correspondent, Released
- Death Sentence for Killers

- of Child Shatiri
- U.S. Delegation Sets Up Plan for Health Security
- 500 Citizens Detained in Najran
- Chechen Groups Threaten to Kill Jews Arriving in Yemen
- Saba News Agency Building in Aden
- MP: Border Treaty Removes External Excuses' Peg-Board
- Security Apparatuses Started Large-Scale Campaign to Arrest Kidnappers
- Tribal Conflict on Borders, Officers Detained in Ma'reb
- No Progress in Adam's Trial, Interior Investigations Shrouded with Secrecy
- Six Presidential Guard Officers Kidnapped
- Gunmen Attack Ash-Shumoa Weekly, Chief Editor Detained
- Sana'a University Employees Postpone Strike Due to Examinations
- Amnesty International Report of 2000: In Yemen 52 Killed, 60 Injured by Torture; 30 Kidnapped, 27 Missing
- New Price Increase In Electricity Bill

Below are selected items from some of the last week's newspaper issues:

**RAY** (Organ of Sons of Yemen League weekly, 27 June) has allotted its leading comment and analysis on the Yemeni-Saudi Arabia border treaty. RAY editorial said signing the land and sea borders treaty between our country and Saudi Arabia was a historic achievement. It has been a great victory for the ideological, historical and

fraternal ties of the two peoples. The newspaper editorial has added that following the realization of this historic accomplishment, our government is required to seriously turn the focus of its attention to domestic problems. It should seriously and practically deal with comprehensive implementation of political, constitutional, economic, judiciary and administrative reforms.

**الطريق** Tackling the same subject independent weekly Attariq published in its June 27 issue an article commenting on the treaty. The article said that undoubtedly the settling of the borders problem would put the government face to face with internal demands. The demands can only be tackled by comprehensive national program containing prominent plans for radical and actual reform, politically and economically. The paper elaborated that the proposed plans should have solutions for many failures and effect profound changes in the social structure. Now the authority can no longer advance excuses to justify continued phenomena of domestic deteriorated conditions. The current circumstances represent the touch-stone and practically put the government to the test that shows its seriousness in its declared orientations.

**AT-THAWRA** daily of 2 July 2000 published an editorial on the local authority system saying that system which Yemen is preparing to implement represents an achievement of one of great aims. The local authority system is another step in changing the popular participation in the country administration into an action and practice. This includes economic affairs, administration and taking

part in solving the citizen's problems and deepening the relationship between the government and the society.

**AL-WAHDAWI** weekly of the (People's Nasserite Organization) has in its 27 June issue viewed the treaty from a rather different angle. It has editorialized that welcoming the solutions reached in regard to the border problem reflected the volume of the issue. The support has also indicated the volume of relationship between the two neighboring countries and peoples. Al-Wahdawi editorial maintained that some of the welcome had not stemmed from keenness on the two countries ties, but rather governed by hypocrisy and special political ties. Those who had shown reservation towards the treaty before seeing its text proceeded from a view that taking certain stands should be after getting acquainted with the treaty's text. It is completely right that some of the welcome was out of keenness and was based on certain vision. That keenness was expressed out of a principled concept stipulating of welcoming the solution of border disputes between Arab countries, as such border disputes are basically meant to be part of fabricated problems.

**AL-JAMAHEER** weekly ( Ba'ath Party pro-Syria faction), 28 June issue published an article titled " Unreal Borders" saying that border disputes between Arab countries are one of the major factors of security disturbance in the Arab world. It has further said that borders between Arab countries are merely barrels dividing them from each other and the y only need a courageous decision to remove them. The article has cited the Yemeni experiment in this respect. Yemen has already embarked on removing those barrels. It has removed them from Al-Shurajja (formerly dividing the two parts of the country). It has succeeded in reunifying Yemen. Yemen has managed to settle its border dis-

putes with Oman, Eritrea and recently with Saudi Arabia. Dealing with those cases was not that difficult a process provided the higher pan-Arab interest is put in mind.

**26 SEPTEMBER** Weekly ( organ of Defense Ministry) of 29 June published an editorial on Yemen-Saudi border treaty. The editorial says after the endorsement of and completion of all constitutional measures, the historic land and sea border treaty has had a high degree of importance. The treaty is not the product of chance but came after preserverant efforts and talks extended to around 22 years. The editorial maintained that the treaty is going to be an introduction to a new era between the two peoples and countries in their interest and in favor of stabilizing security, peace and stability for the region's peoples.

**الجمهورية** An article published in Ath-Thawri weekly, organ of the Yemeni Socialist Party on 29 June, said activities of political and party opposition find spacious scope under democratic orientation. It is a right for it to practice, even if not received with authority satisfaction. Any

authority is not deemed democratically-oriented unless it practices aspects of democracy. Phenomena of the authority democratic policy are mainly embodied in showing respect towards others' opinions and existence, and freedom of press that should not be impinged on by security apparatus. The authority in our country, although it has stemmed from the laws of political pluralism and press freedom, it has not been dealing with them in the required level.

**ASH-SHUMOA** independent weekly editorial on 1 July said the phenomenon of government violence and suppression represented the worst in contemporary history. It becomes the worst in democratic countries. In our country it is also considered the worst as it contradicts the constitution and the still developing democratic pursuit. If such phenomenon does not disappear it would ruin the political life because practically it means muffling the voices and silencing and restraining public freedoms. The unjustifiable attack that took place on against As-Shumoa newspaper and chief editor last Thursday by security forces is an example of the suppressive policy of the government.

## مطلوب موظف

مطلوب مدير قسم تشغيل وصيانة لمجمع (تجاري - اداري - سكني)

كبير على أن تتوفر في المتقدم الشروط التالية:

- 1- يفضل أن يكون المتقدم يماني الجنسية.
- 2- خبرة 5 سنوات في المجال المذكور أعلاه أو في مجال مشابه.
- 3- أن يكون المتقدم حاصلًا على شهادة بكالوريوس في الهندسة الكهربائية أو الميكانيكية.
- 4- أن يكون لديه إلمام جيد باستخدام الحاسب الآلي.
- 5- أن يجيد اللغة الانجليزية تحدثًا وكتابة.

يتم ارسال السيرة الذاتية على ص.ب. 4548، صنعاء.

Continued from previous page

## GENDER: Meanings, Uses, and Discourses in Post-Unification Yemen

An external committee composed of high officials was created to investigate the Center. One of the committee members in his report cast aspersions on the Center administration and faculty. He also maligned gender, the central analytical concept and tool of women's studies, in the process discrediting the discipline itself. Meanwhile, a university committee charged to examine the case voiced a similar position. Upon recommendation there was a suspension of classes and the erasure (*al-ilgha'*) of the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center was declared. The name of the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center was changed to the Center for the Study of the Woman (Markaz al-Dirasat al-Mar'a). The acting director of the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center (standing in for the director away on sabbatical) was demoted to deputy director and a new director was installed from on high. The core gender courses: the Introduction to Women's Studies and Gender Research Methodologies were removed from the curriculum and the word gender was purged from the academic vocabulary. With the dismantling of the discipline of women's studies most of the faculty members who were previously teaching at the Center departed to be replaced by new teachers. After effecting this fundamental restructuring—and the effective dismantling of women's studies as a scholarly discipline recognizable to any knowledgeable and serious academician—the new Center for the Study of the Woman was opened at Sana'a University in the middle of April. When the more immediate objectives of the demonizing discourse had been

achieved within the academy and when the seeds of negative notions of gender had been widely planted, the shrill attacks against gender and women's studies tapered off in public forums.

The most immediate casualties of the women's studies crisis were the students of the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center, some of the finest students coming from across a wide spectrum of faculties at Sana'a University, and as well as from other universities in the country. The very least that could be said was that these students lost months of study. The fate of the Master's Degree students—that is, whether or not they would be able to take their degrees—hung in the air. Many students had invested several years. The first batch was taken in 1994-95 and there have been intakes every academic year since with a total of sixty-four Master's students by the academic year 1998-99. The twenty-five new M.A. students accepted for the academic year 1999-2000 left after the crisis. Just recently (during May 2000) the Scientific Council of the Women's Studies Center, composed of vice-deans of faculties, decided that M.A. students may take their degrees upon successful completion of their requirements, namely upon completion of their master's theses. It was declared that such students are to take their degrees from the faculties from which they originated. They need the approval of professors in these diverse faculties, most of whom have no qualifications in women's studies. Moreover, are these M.A. students now required to purge the word gender from their theses in order to pass muster? The sub-

stantive and administrative problems go on and on, illustrating the absurdity of the situation. Meanwhile the shrill attacks against gender and women's studies tapered off in public forums. What are our responsibilities as university administrators and educators to those entrusted to our care, it might well be asked?

In an effort to rescue themselves and the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center, M.A. students registered a *shakwa* (complaint) on December 6, 1999 with the Western Court of Sana'a protesting the uncertain fate of their degrees and demanding that they be allowed to finish their degrees. They have gone regularly to the Western Court since then and have recently been assured by the Judge that they will receive a decision soon. This was written in the middle of May and that "soon" has yet to come. In spite of all the confusion surrounding the Center M.A. students and PhD candidates independently carried on with their research. The Center staff continued to come to work throughout the crisis. The staff finally received their salaries on May 15th and shortly afterwards the scholarship students were given their stipends. The burden individuals sustained throughout this crisis hardly needs to be pointed out. Thus, students and ordinary workers have been made to pay the price for the women's studies crisis. While the funds were frozen in a timely fashion (after the crisis erupted) they were not unfrozen in a timely fashion and there are still unmet obligations.

Contradictions and absurdities relating to the "gender story" keep multiplying. I would like to revisit the

subject of gender terminology in Arabic. Earlier I mentioned how the negative discourse which saturated the press and was funneled through other public forums assured a place for *al-jandar* in the Arabic vernacular. In trying to discredit gender, or *al-jandar*, writers and speakers have engaged in imaginative morphological exploits, demonstrating the potential of the root *j n d r*. Circulating in the Yemeni journalistic print culture we see the nouns *al-jandar* (gender), *jandara* (genderism), *jandari* (male genderist), *jandariyya* (female genderist), and *janadira* (collective plural for genderists). We see the verbs *jandarahujandiru* (to gender), and *tajandarahalyatjandaru* (to make into a genderist). There is also the adverb *jandariyyan* (genderistically). With the exception of the words "gender" and "to gender" we do not have the other above-mentioned words in English. Thus, Yemeni Arabic has given English reverse loan words such as genderist, genderism, and genderistic and in so doing has enriched the gender vocabulary in this language.

An impressive repertoire of gender terminology in Arabic has been developed in the last several months. Terms include: *ansar al-jandar* (disciples of gender), *ahl al-jandar* (people of gender), *thaqafa jandariyya* (gender culture), *al-qadaiyya al-jandariyya* (gender issues), *al-wa'i al-jandari* (gender consciousness, which the UN handbook calls *wa'i al-naw*, mustaqbal *jandari* (gendered future), *quwwa jandariyat al-tarikhiyya* (historical gender power) and a rather amusing term *aja'ib jandariyya* (gender wonders). One writer, who used many of these phrases in a single article, also noted

that, in one of the Women's Studies Conference papers that the Queen of Sheba was cited as an important woman ruler in Yemen, lamenting that the genderists even go so far as "to gender her [Balqis]" ([an] yujandiruha).

Let us now return, by way of recapitulation, to the question of the three narratives of gender in Yemen, with which I began this presentation. Gender remains a fundamental concept and retains its positive meaning within the government discourse of development and democracy. However, the academic discourse of gender, emanating from Sana'a University has been silenced as an overt discourse. Even the term gender itself, as noted, has been evacuated. When the central concepts and tools of analysis of an academic discipline are evacuated the field is effectively dismantled, certainly as a recognizably credible enterprise.

While women's studies as an institutionalized academic discourse has suffered a serious set-back, women's studies as originally introduced at Sana'a University has left an indelible intellectual legacy. The academic discourse of gender has made fundamental interventions in the debates around male and female roles, and constructions of masculinity and femininity, locally and beyond. In times of crisis, persons are forced to re-examine their ideas and their commitment. People are forced to take stock. Discussions about gender go on, both as a reasoned discourse and as a destructive project. Thus, we witness the contradictory fate of gender in the first decade of post-unification Yemen.

I mentioned at the outset that there is a missing gender discourse in Yemen—the discourse of gender and

Islam—for which there is a significant and growing literature. Scholars are employing *ijihad* (by the way we have appropriated this term as a loanword in English) to analyze sacred texts in an effort to probe their implications for deeper understandings of prescriptions and guidance for Muslim men and women, that is for deeper understandings of Islamic constructions of gender. This is going on from Qom to Cairo to Karachi to Cape Town to Fez to London to Paris to Washington. Let me mention only three books to give an example of the growing literature in this area: *Gender Equity in Islam* by Jamal Badawi (published in 1995 by an Islamic trust in the United States); *Islam and Gender* (published in 1999) by Ziba Mir-Hosseini in which the author presents and analyzes approaches of Iranian religious scholars from Qom on gender and Islamic jurisprudence; and *Woman and Quran* by the internationally recognized Muslim theologian Amina Wadud-Muhsin published in Kuala Lumpur in 1992. There is also an international Muslim website called Islam21 where Muslim intellectuals, scholars, and activists from across a wide ideological and political spectrum engage in debate and dialogue on gender and Islam both in their general discussions and within a special section called Gender Issues. Analyzing this rapidly expanding discourse of Islam and gender produced by some of the finest scholars in the world must be the subject of another paper.

Issues of gender are sensitive and easily politicized. If in the midst of the storm the vision of some is blurred and the resolve of some is weakened, history will be a stern judge. The folly of demonizing gender as against religion and culture will be derided.



## Will It Be a Beginning Towards Marginalizing Women?



**Imad Al-Sagqaf**  
Taiz Bureau Chief  
Yemen Times

**U**ndoubtedly, the crime that has taken place at the College of Medicine, Sana'a University has had negative social as well as psychological effects on society. It is painful to hear about such an end for girls who challenged all conventions and traditions of their society by going to study in university.

Women are still surrounded by a host of tyrannous conventions created by the society. Although they form about 52% of the total population of the Republic, they form the highest rate of illiteracy and ignorance. Worse of all is the fact that they are looked upon as servants for the males.

Statistics show that women's education increased more during the last decade of the 20th century than that during the 1980s and 1970s. This has created more opportunities for women to play greater role in society. However, they are still victims of violence.

The recent crime in the College of Medicine has resulted in a wide social crack in society. Unless quick remedies are found, it is feared that ignorance might be imposed on Yemeni women on a large scale.

Our survey centered on the expected consequences of the bloody crime of the college of medicine on the education of Yemeni women. The survey included a number of girl university students, physiologists, sociologists and women's unions in Sana'a and Taiz.

There has been a unanimity on the negative consequences of the crime on Yemeni women. However, many questions arouse: Why women are always the victims of violence in society? Why were they facing acts of killing and raping at a time they have already put their first steps into university education?

We met Roaida, student at the College of Medicine who said: "No doubt the

crime will not only have its negative effects on Yemeni women and their education, but on society and their parents as well. I, as a student at the college which was the stage of the crime was shocked and I felt disappointed. I hope that this event will not be a beginning to draw the curtain of ignorance on Yemeni women who have made their first steps towards university education."

"University has become a horror scene for me. I can not stay here alone." Maimonah Ahmad Ghaleb, Taiz University said.

Amany Abdu Ghafour Al-Ariqi hoped that women could manage their affairs by themselves to develop and succeed. She deplored the sense of irresponsibility of people in charge of universities that made them disappointed.

"I had a psychological shock at the event which could have been avoided if a sense of responsibility was available with those people in charge," said Ridha Abdul Wahhab from Taiz University.

Dr. Nabeel Al-Mikhlaflay, associated professor at the Psychology department, Taiz university commented on the event by saying: "We were totally shocked at hearing about this heinous crime which was the first of its kind to happen in Yemen. In fact it is an abnormal crime that will lead parents to be more strict in regard with education of their daughters."

"This crime is one of the strangest and the most violent crimes. A lot of rumors coincided with it which was a natural result in a such crime. The crime led to a certain kind of behavior which agree with the volume of the event. The worries resulted from the news on the crime require coming back to some conservation that society and families have abandoned when they felt more safe and stable.

As a reaction to this crime some girls discontinued their studies out of fear of similar events. Such situations are related to people's expectations and fantasies about the crime.

In fact, worries are expected as a natural result of the crime, but they should not last for a long time. Parents and students themselves should be more



realistic. Hopefully, the crimes are over and the murderer has been arrested and now he is trial. This is what makes us optimistic that feelings of fear and worries will gradually fade way among parents and students," said Dr. Zaid Abdul Kareem Jaber, teacher of physiology, Sana'a University.

"However, two points are to be stressed," he continued

"Firstly, there should be confidence in the security administration and administration authority. There might be some shortcomings, however, the government will not keep silent and will address them to avoid their occurrence again.

Secondly, people who work with equipment of killing, anatomy, etc. must be always supervised and examined. Those people might some day suffer some mental diseases that push them to behave in a different way. It is wrong to make one person responsible for a place like the morgue. There should be a team or a committee for that.

I hope that the fear among girl students will soon vanish in order to continue their studies and participate in the development the society," he concluded.

Reem Al-Aghbary from the women's union, Taiz said that the fear will go on

and that should have been looked into very long go," said Dr. Khawlah Kaid, Taiz. "I just hope and pray to God that the people in charge and in positions of responsibility will take greater care for their offices and to be aware of what's happening in their faculties and how they are doing just more responsibility towards jobs," she concluded.

"We and students felt very sorry for what has happened in Sana'a. I think this will determine the number of students enrolling at the faculty of Medicine. The criminal must be abnormal because what he did with those girls was something unspeakable.

I am patiently eager to know exactly what has happened. Female students said that the crime was against female education in Yemen. The incident will definitely affect the girls, ladies and their families," said Abdul Salam Dail Amer, Taiz university. "I want to say that those policemen should not have neglected the demands and inquiries of parents of victims. However, they should have helped and investigated. They should consider it a lesson for future," he continued.

Students are still exclaiming everywhere in Yemen. From the College of Sciences we met Zainab and Suad who said that they did not expect it from a teacher to rape and kill his students. They added that the crime had given excuses to families that are used not to allow their daughters to go to university to cling to their attitude towards university education. "Unfortunately, the event has worsened even the street attitude towards women. The word Sudanese is being used to tease us in the streets," they added.

Sabah Abdul Majeed, Faculty of Information sees that the crime has completed the chains of violence against women. "Woman is always the victim. She is the victim of the family, the society attitude towards her and violence. The crimes that have taken

place at the college completed the chains of violence against her. I hope that this will not lead to keep women away from University," she said.

Hibah Hassan Borji blamed the greater part of responsibility for the crimes on the victims' parents who did not have confidence in their daughters. She also deplored the set of conventions and traditions that stood against the education of women.

As far as psychologists' opinion are concerned, Dr. Hamoud Al-Awdi thought that the crime should be looked upon as an exception that should not affect our traditions as a Muslim society. "We should not let the crime affect the women's education and their psychology nor we should let them crack our society. If this happens the crime will reach the goal that it might be committed to achieve," he said. "We should trust and have confidence in Yemeni women and above all we should have confidence in ourselves," he added.

All in all, the crime has also affected the girl students' attitude towards Sudanese. Concerning this, Amal said that Sudanese should not be blamed for the behavior of an abnormal person who did not represent in a way or another the Sudanese Muslim society. She strongly criticizes conventions that make families refrain from looking for their daughters if they disappeared in vague circumstances.

### WHAT NEXT?

The crime is not simple as some may think it is and its consequences might go beyond expectations. Parents have become more strict in regard with sending their daughters to the College of Medicine. This can be addressed by providing a suitable educational ground for women.

Today the victims were students, unless strict measures are taken to avoid occurrence of such an event you and I might have the same end.

To conclude confidence remains the most important thing that must dominate the future!

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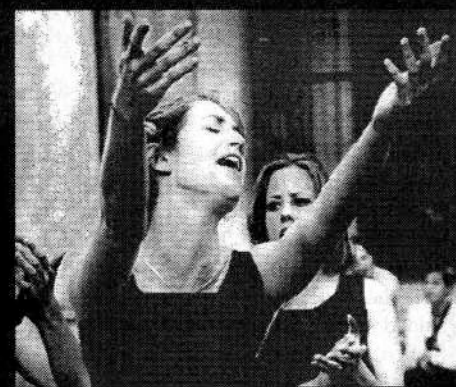
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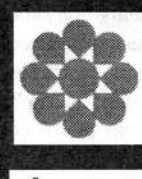
الثلاثاء 4 يونيو 2000 الساعة والنصف مساءً في دار الحجر - وادي ظهر

Wednesday 5th July at 7:30 p.m. BAB EL YEMEN (Main entrance square)

الأربعاء 5 يونيو 2000 الساعة والنصف مساءً في ساحة الباب الرئيسي - باب اليمن

Saturday 8th July at 7:30 p.m. TAJ SHEBA HOTEL (Swimming-pool area)

السبت 8 يونيو 2000 الساعة والنصف مساءً في فندق سبا - ساحة المسبح





# Holiday Travel



By Shams Tabrez  
Director Marketing  
Co. United Travel  
& Tourism, Sanaa

Who else but a tour operator can provide you with the ultimate in travel. You can enjoy the best holidays in the

world, from the deluxe to the inexpensive. They provide a chance for everyone to realize the holiday of their dreams. The delights of travel for its own sake include the famous Orient Express, luxurious cruises or round-the-world tours and many many more.

Sun worshippers can indulge in the sophisticated Seychelles, informal Pattaya or Phuket, the fantastic coral reefs of the Maldives or the atolls of the South Pacific. You can visit the great cities of the world: London, New York, Hong Kong, Singapore, Venice, Moscow, Sydney or Johannesburg and you can ask for suggested itineraries or (FITs) individual Travelers to GT group travels.

You may take Adventure Tours or go for Activity Holidays, African Safaris or trekking in Pakistan or carnival in Rio or the Sonjkan Festival in Bangkok. Whatever your interest is Tour Consultants are always there to help you, advise you and serve you.

Tour companies sell service and holidays, people buy packages and satisfaction from them. They act as the consultants and are a travel management company.

I have categorized holidays into the following:

- Beach holidays.
- Holidays in cities.
- The Classic Grand Tour holiday.
- Holidays with Grand Events.
- Activity Holidays.
- Adventure Holidays.

## a. BEACH HOLIDAYS:

Sunset on a palm-fringed beach, mile after mile of deserted white sand, turquoise water, lush greenery and bright tropical flowers.

This is paradise, but outside our dreams, does it exist? The answer is Yes: in just a few very special corners of the world.

For the great escape holiday you need more than just a beautiful beach. The most cherished of the world's resorts are blessed with calm waters, a range of holiday accommodation to suit most tastes and budgets and diversions inland which will make a day trip away from sun—lounger or surfboard more than just a duty. Those who think that beach holidays are all the same could not be further from the truth. There is the chic sophistication of islands like Bermuda and Jamaica. From a luxurious over-water bungalow on a blue lagoon in the South Pacific to a simple beach-side hut on the shores of a Thai resort island, there are many different ways of staying at the world's best beaches. Of course it is impossible to make out a definitive list of the best beaches in the world, but Tour operators do recommend Thailand, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and the Seychelles for an easy and convenient approach to the residents of Yemen.

## b. HOLIDAYS IN CITIES:

Cities: places bustling with activity, usually with some sort of town square or city focal point and steeped in history and culture.

Cities can often be seen at their best during the winter months when the tourist trade is at a low ebb and sights are not packed with jostling crowds. The exception to the rule of crowds is, of course Vienna, where Christmas time is one of its busiest seasons. Short city breaks to Europe have been popular for some time. Hopping on a plane to Paris or Venice is something which many have become accustomed to. A metropolis may be a metropolis wherever you are but different traditions, languages, highlights and attractions provide the distinction needed to make each place unique. Vancouver's backdrop of the Canadian Rockies gives the city an incomparable setting, Sydney's magnificent harbor, complete with the sails of the Opera House, cannot be rivaled by any other bay area in the world and Hong Kong's shops will provide you with a wider selection of goods than you are ever likely to find in such a small area again. These are the things which help make a city holiday enjoyable and unforgettable.

A visit to a city is all about immersing yourself in its life, so that you come away with



a greater understanding of its culture and history, spending as long as you wish in galleries and museums, dining out in anything from a five-star restaurant to a local market cafe, exploring the streets and alleys, rubbing shoulders with the locals and staying in a choice of accommodation best suited to your pocket. It is also about pampering yourself and receiving the sort of treatment and service that only comes your way on special occasions. And perhaps more than anything else, city holidays are meant for living your life in the fast lane for a few days. Their very nature makes them the perfect way to enjoy life to the full, as long or short a time as you wish.

## c. THE CLASSIC GRAND TOUR HOLIDAY

Lets see what exactly is a classic Grand Tour and what is it that transforms an ordinary holiday tour into one which can be called classic:

Two of the main factors relevant in deciding which countries or regions should or should not be taken, are the comforts of the holiday, and whether it represents good value for money, not only in itself but also in the context of the travel market in general.

The places selected should have, over the years, either earned a reputation as traditional holiday spots or have almost become revered because they should be areas of outstanding natural beauty. Indeed in many instances, they are a combination of both. Towering mountains and turbulent rivers, a strong sense of historical relevance and magnificent cultural heritage are other features common to many classic holidays. What makes these trips outstanding though, is the style in which it is possible to experience them. Comfort and quality are the main hallmarks of a classic tour and as such any traveler can be assured of more than just an average holiday. I suggest that Classic Grand Tours are the type of tours that you would like to send with your mother! While in all probability, everybody's mother would enjoy their holidays, their appeal is much wider.

## d. HOLIDAYS WITH GREAT EVENTS

The full spectacle of a great event cannot be conveyed, some world event shave to be experienced to be believed.

These occasions can be carnivals, events, theatrical productions or religious festivals, which often provide the annual cultural climax of their host town or country. It is the chance to capture the atmosphere at first hand that attracts people to such extravaganzas. All such occasions draw huge crowds from all over the world.

Great events must be one of the best ways to experience a country's traditional culture. "SONGKRAN", the new year in Thailand is an unforgettable experience partly because of its tradition, which reaches far back into Thai history and which has remained largely unchanged for hundreds of years. When you visit Thailand at this festival you find yourself drawn into the Thai lifestyle, and this experience undoubtedly provides a highlight of your holiday.

One must make allowances for the unique nature of this type of holiday, thousands of people converging on one place for a single event create certain problems. Accommodation becomes limited and often more expensive than usual. However, there are now many different packages available with reputable tour operators. A few tour operators do give advice that many of these difficulties can be removed by early booking

## e. ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

For many people a holiday needs to be more than just a week in the sun doing nothing. You have been on beach holidays; fine for a few days then boredom sets in. Something more exciting is needed; new challenges, the chance to improve at a sport or hobby, an opportunity to meet different people with common interests. All of those are valid reasons why so many are turning to activity holidays.

In the past, activity holidays tended to



appeal largely to young singles with only their own interests to consider. To a certain extent this still applies today. We call Hard Tourism; scuba-diving, high-altitude hiking and overland four-wheel drive trips are not for the unfit, families, or lovers of luxury. Golfing holidays which also offer gourmet cookery courses and health centers appeal to non-golfing partners, and certain holiday villages and resorts like club med, provide all-day supervision for children, while parents can indulge in sporting pursuits. Nevertheless, the number of specific pursuits on offer is vast.

Now you can choose between hot-air ballooning in France, skiing in Colorado, trekking in Pakistan, India, Katmandu or any of the other exciting holidays that we think are amongst the best in the world.

## f. ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS.

From the earliest times, man has had the urge to explore. Those who discovered new continents, countries and species, in their search for honor, glory and adventure, become popular folk heroes.

Let's take Pakistan; it's tourism started 4000 years ago. The first tourist groups to arrive were the Aryans, who liked the land so much that they never left. Next came the Persians, the Greeks, the Bactarians, the White Huns, the Turks, the Mongols; the list goes on and on. Some of the distinguished tourists have been Alexander the Great from Greece and Winston Churchill from England. Mahmood Ghaznavi an Afghan tourist, liked this area (today's Pakistan) so much that he spent his winter vacation here for seventeen consecutive years.

Then came the late twentieth century: the world shrank to the size of a global village, and suddenly everyone was hopping onto

planes and jetting abroad in their search for sun, sea and sand or wine, wonder and weather.

But like the waves that flowed and ebbed inexorably on countless package-holiday beaches, the tide of human holiday-makers eventually peaked and started to decline. Today, although such holidays still comprise a large part of the overall travel sector, tame sun-seeking trips to foreign parts are no longer as popular as they once were.

The intelligent holiday-maker of the late 90's is altogether more sophisticated and discerning. He or she is in search of an entirely different experience, hoping to capture some of the excitement of the real trade of former times, but in a safe ad controlled fashion, as part of a small and like-minded group, and often within a challenging physical and personal environment. Thus has the great Adventure Holiday boon sprung forth. The gap between rough and unpredictable independent travel on the one land, and mollycoddled, sedentary and anonymous

cheap package holidays on the other, has finally been bridged. Nowadays it is quite possible to buy an "off the shelf" trip which combines all the ingredients that go to make an adventure holiday: isolated surroundings, challenge, excitement, rugged scenery and sense of achievement. Never before has it been possible to enjoy

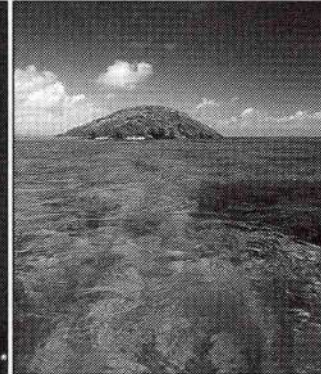
such a wide selection from within such a broad spectrum of adventure theme holidays. From "soft" trips - such as lodge "comfort" safaris - to "hard" trips - like dog - sledding expeditions to the Arctic. Packaged adventure holidays are enjoying enormous and increasing popularity today. Especially popular are safari - based trips on which you can see Africa's wilderness and wildlife on foot, horseback, by off-road vehicle, train or even hot-air balloon. Whether you opt to sleep under canvas or thatch, the choice of tour operators is yours. If your taste for adventure lies in cooler climes however, then the range of Arctic trips available is wider today than ever before.

You may not be the first person ever to set foot on a particular area, or observe a certain species. But to you each new adventure or experiment will be personal. The likelihood is that each adventure holiday you make will leave you with a host of abiding memories and the probability of making enduring friendship.

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step". What you have to do is to dial a tour operator and obtain the information and you can choose the destination of your choice. God has created this world for us to explore. So lets explore.

Emirates Holidays by Emirates Airlines, Royal Orchid Holidays by Thai International and British Airways Holidays are the few recommended packaged holiday deals offering worldwide options.

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# Improve Your English



**Dr. Ramakanta Sahu**  
Associate Professor  
College of Education, Mahweet

## What to say .....

**you are shifting your house to another city. You want to hire a lorry\ public carrier for transporting your belongings. You are at the transport agent's office enquiring about the facilities and charges.**

- \* "I am shifting my house. I am moving to ..... Can I hire a mini-truck for transporting my belongings?"
- \* "I am going on a transfer to ..... I want my belongings to be transported to ..... I want to hire your lorry....."
- \* "Is it possible to arrange transportation to .....?"
- \* "Do you have a branch office at .....?"
- \* "Do you operate a service on the route .....?"
- \* "I have a lot of glassware to be transported. Can you arrange for safe transportation of the goods?"
- \* "Do you give guarantee that the goods will be transferred safely?"
- \* "Can you arrange for loading and unloading? Are your workers professionals so that they will handle the goods with care?"
- \* "How long, do you think, it will take to reach the destination?"
- \* "What are your freight charges per kilometer? Does it include loading and unloading charges as well?"

## II. How to say it correctly .....

Correct the errors, if any, in the following sentences:

- 1) Gold is the most precious of all other metals.
- 2) Fadle is the older of the two brothers.
- 3) Of Sana'a and Rada'a, the latest is smaller.
- 4) Of Sana'a and Rada'a, the first is the bigger city.
- 5) This watch is superior than that.

## Solutions to last week's questions:

- 1) No other man of the town is as wise as Mr. Zubeiry.
- 2) He gave the few coins he had in his pocket to the beggar.
- 3) The teacher will give the students an oral test.
- 4) He got only pass mark in English.
- 5) These days people prefer coffee to tea.

## III. How to express it in one word .....

- 1) To have in great numbers or quantity.
- 2) To make shorter, especially by using fewer words.
- 3) In or to another country overseas.
- 4) Go away with something suddenly, secretly aware of having done something wrong.
- 5) Forgiveness for past wrong or guilt.

## Solutions to last week's questions:

- 1) Promise or swear on oath to give up: **abjure**.

- 2) Ceremonial washing of the hands or body, especially before prayers: **ablution**
- 3) Different from what is normal, ordinary, or expected: **abnormal**
- 4) To do away with, to put an end to: **abolish**
- 5) Causing hatred or disgust to somebody: **abominable**

## IV.

**1) Choose the correct word from the alternatives given below which has the same meaning as the word underlined in the sentence.**

As a result of the meeting, the general strike was **averted**.

- a. continued b. announced c. avoided d. begun

**2) Fill in the blank in the sentence choosing the most suitable word from the alternatives given below:**

I have long hoped to see a really outstanding film of one of Dostoevsky's novels, but so far I have been .....

- a. fortunate b. unwilling c. surprised d. disappointed

**3) Fill the blanks choosing the right verb forms given in brackets:**

a) 'Have you got a cigarette?'  
'SORRY, I ..... (not smoke)

b) 'Hurry up, we're late'  
'I ..... (come)

c) Hamid ..... while we .....  
supper as usual. (arrive; have)

d) 'What ..... you ..... for?'  
'I ..... my glasses. Can you ..... me?' (look ; lose ; help)

e) 'Sorry, I'm late. I hope you ..... long.' (not wait)

## Last week's questions solved:

### Prefixes:

**psysio-** (relating to body): physiology; physiotherapy.  
**psycho-** (relating to mind): psychology; psycho social  
**astro-** (relating to stars: astrophysics; astronaut,  
**cosmo-** (relating to universe): cosmopolitan; cosmonaut.  
**geo-** (relating to earth); geophysics; geology.

### V. Words of wisdom:

*'Thinking well is wise;*

*planning well is wiser;*

*doing well, wisest and best of all."* Proverb



**Abdullah An-Najjar**  
Professor of Education  
Dean, College of Education, Mahweet

## Dare!

Dare to try. Dare to love.

Dare to make a commitment.

Dare to take a risk.

If you don't dare to take a risk, you'll never get ahead.

You'll never solve your problems.

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool

To weep is to risk appearing sentimental

To reach for another is to risk involvement

# DIABOLIC IAGO



**Prof. Siya Ram Rai**  
Dept. of English  
University of Ibb

One cannot think of tragedy without evil. Evil creates tragic convulsion which produces suffering and death. Tragedy involves the waste of good and reveals a painful mystery. In tragedy, the animal in man forces itself into his consciousness in naked grossness. Shakespearean tragedies show misfortunes of all kinds, and in every case, evil is always there. Evil possesses a diabolic intellect, for it has to undo the "moral order" in nature. In fact, evil thrives on the innocence, simplicity and nobleness of the good.

Evil has no where else been portrayed with such mastery as in the character of Iago. Even Richard III and Edmund are less repellent, not so negative as Iago. Iago is the main source of tragic convulsion in *Othello*. He isolates, disunites and tends to annihilate the good. Evil masters his mind, destroys innocent people through him, but it also destroys him. Surprisingly, it is Iago who opens the play, like Satan who opens the story of human generation on the earth by corrupting Eve and Adam. Satan, in procuring the fall of Man, completes his own fall. Goethe's Mephistopheles is a fit companion for Iago. But, to me, it seems Iago is the father of Mephistopheles and all other evil characters. Iago is an earthly creature but he never lives on the earth. He goes so far that even Satan looks absurd before him. "Evil be thou my good" is his philosophy of life.

There is no subject more exciting than sexual jealousy rising to the pitch of violent passion, as here, where Othello finds relief only in a bestial thirst for blood. Othello is a towering personality, holding a volume of force but sexual jealousy makes him mad and brings with it a sense of shame and humiliation. Iago's plot is his character in action and it is built on the knowledge of Othello's character, otherwise, he could not have succeeded.

Iago begins to poison the mind of Othello, who is a man more acted upon than acting.

There is no parallel of Iago in any other tragedies of Shakespeare. His skill is extraordinary but his fate is also good. Iago's humour never raises a smile. It only raises sobs and sniffles, tears and tombs and leaves no one to mourn for the persons he has destroyed. It is a fact that a chance word from Desdemona or a chance meeting of Othello and Cassio or even a question which Othello is expected to ask him, would be enough to end Iago's plot. Desdemona drops the handkerchief at the moment most favourable to him. Similarly, Cassio blunders into the presence of Othello to find him in a swoon. Really it seems that fate has taken sides with villainy. Othello is to blame for never suspecting Iago or asking him for concrete evidence. He puts his entire confidence in the honesty of Iago who is an obvious villain. Iago destroys him blow by blow and never allows his victim to recover from the confusion of the first shock. Othello's confidence is shaken beyond repair and he is badly confused. It is the wreck of his faith and love. Iago first talks of "kiss in private" and then tells him that Desdemona was "naked with her friend in bed" for an hour or more but "not meaning any harm". This phrase "not meaning any harm" is Iago's dramatic skill of oratory to get the intended effect doubled. When he finds that his medicine is working well on Othello, he tells him that Cassio was "lying with her, on her" which makes him almost mad with violent passions.

Iago is not an ordinary villain. He is such a being who hates good simply because it is good. He loves evil simply because it is evil. His villainy is not promoted by any plain motive like revenge or jealousy. Coleridge rightly holds that his villainy springs from a "motiveless malignity". Iago is not a conventional villain. He shows the Italian form of villainy which is both clever and diabolical. Shakespeare's other evil characters look sulky and stupid before him. There is no room for doubt that any thing less than Iago on the stage will look melodramatic, for he is a well-known scoundrel. He is vulgar and blunt in his action and language both. It is in his nature to spy on abuses. He asks his wife, Emilia to spy on

To expose your feelings is to risk exposing your true self.

To place your ideas, your dreams, before a crowd is to risk their loss.

To love is to risk not being loved in return

To live is to risk dying

To believe is to risk despair

To try is to risk failure.

But risks must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.

The people, who risk nothing, do nothing, have nothing, and are nothing.

They may avoid suffering and sorrow, but they can't learn, feel, change grow, love, live.

Chained by their attitudes they are slaves; they have forfeited their freedom.

Only a person who risks is free (Schuller, 1989).

## Desdemona.

Emilia lacks refinement but she is a better human being. She loves her mistress Desdemona and remains loyal to her till the end. She knows Iago more than others, but there are things which she does not know about her husband. Iago is not what he seems to be - "I am not what I am". Emilia never dreamed that her husband was such a villain. When she comes to know the reality, she screams with wonder - "My husband!" and finally, she turns against her husband but it is too late; the worst had already happened.

Unlike Edmund, Iago is a matured man wearing his mask for years. He never feels the explosions of reality in his heart. His self-control seems to be prodigious. Iago is thoroughly selfish and malignant. He keeps on working out "giant crimes" all the time. But it is significant to note that he has never been detected in any serious offense. He lets loose the evil forces within him and is destroyed. He forgets that evil is always self-destructive.

Iago has remarkable power both of intellect and of will. His insight into human nature, his ingenuity and address in working upon it, his quick mind and wit in dealing with sudden difficulties and chance opportunities have no parallel in dramatic characters. Even in the most dangerous moments of his conspiracy, when the least slip would become fatal, he never shows any sign of nervousness. He remains unmoved when Othello catches him by the throat. Even when he is wounded, he remains unmoved. He is a shameless brute to say - "I bleed, sir, but not killed". No pain of torture can ever open his mouth. He is perfectly inhuman, relishing perverted pleasure. — a sadist with obscene intellect. He has no love for virtue because he says, "virtue! A fig!". He holds that virtue depends upon the will of man. Love is "merely a lust of blood and a permission of the will". He claims that he can change his "humanity with a baboon". In fact, Iago is destitute of humanity, of sympathetic feeling and has no trace of affection and pity. Often it seems that Iago is evil incarnate, completely devoted to himself and always burning with envy against all others. He is very sensitive to all that touches his vanity and he despises all those who are superior to him.

*To be continued in the next issue.*

## Results of Inter-College Literary Competitions, College of Education, Mahweet

### SENIOR GROUP

#### Short Story:

- FIRST:** 'He is Mine' - Aya Mohammed Amin, Level 3, Department of English, Faculty of Education, Ibb University.
- SECOND:** 'Not to be' - Nadwa Mohammed Ahmed, Level 3, Department of English, Faculty of Education, Sana'a University.
- THIRD:** 'A Night of Fear' - Khalid Ali Al-Quzahi, Level 4, Department of English, College of Education, Mahweet
- FOURTH:** 'The Dream' - Aya Ali Thabet, Level 3, Department of English, Faculty of Education, Ibb University.
- FOURTH:** 'Between Truth and Imagination' - Fadl Ahmed Abbas Ghazi Al-Mosen, Level 3, Department of English, Arhab College of Education

#### Special Mention

- i) 'Birds Out of Nest' - Fadl Ahmed Abbas Ghazi Al-Mosen, Arhab College of Education.
- ii) 'Meaningless Suffering' - Mohammed Ahmed Mohammed Ali Ghanem Al-Moshreeq, Faculty of Education, Sana'a University.
- iii) 'Is It Time To Say Goodbye?' - Mohammed Ghanem Al-Moshreeq, Faculty of Education, Sana'a University.
- iv) 'Where Hardship Turns into Happiness' - Abdu Mareesh Ali Saeed, Level 3, English Department, Faculty of Education, Taiz University.
- v) 'The Deceived Chewer' - Mohammed Dawood Mohammed Sha'aboon, Level 3, Department of English, Arhab College of Education.

#### Poem

- FIRST:** 'Please Come to My Rescue' - Ritzq Al-Sanani, Level 3, College of Education, Mahweet.
- SECOND:** 'The Beauty of Life' - Ali Al-Kaheli, Sanaa. 'Identifying Journey' - Khalid Ali Al-Quzahi, Level 4, College of Education, Mahweet.
- THIRD:** 'On The Third Mllennium' - Fahmia Taha Ahmed Al-Fotih, Level 3, Department of English, Faculty of Education, Sana'a University

#### Special Mention:

- i) 'The Lost Heart' - Fadl Ahmed Abbas Ghazi Al-Mosen, Arhab College of Education.
- ii) 'On My Life' - Adel Ahmed Yahya Al-Haddad, Ibb University.
- iii) 'Titanic' - Mohammed Ghanem Al-Moshreeq, Faculty of Education, Sana'a University.
- iv) 'How to Make a Good State' - Naif Mohammed Haidara, Aden.
- v) 'No Similarity' - Mohammed Ali Nagi Al-Ra'awi, Department of English, Ibb University.
- vi) 'Meditation' - Mohammed Kassim Al-Shormani, Department of English, Ibb University.
- vii) 'I do Love Thee' - Mohammed Dawood M. Shaa'boon, Arhab College of Education.

#### Essay: 'In Pursuit of Excellence'

- FIRST:** Khalid Ali Al-Quzahi, College of Education,

### SECOND:

- Taiseer Hamoud Hussein Rassam, Faculty of Education, Sana'a University, Sana'a.
- THIRD:** Mohammad Dawood Mohammad Sha'aboon, Department of English, Arhab College of Education.

### JUNIOR GROUP

#### Short Story

- FIRST:** 'The Moon' - Ghanim Noman Kauied Al-Warafi, Level 2, Department of English, Ibb University.
- SECOND:** 'The Day of Wedding' - Aisha Mohammed Ali Moudah, Level 2, College of Education, Mahweet.
- THIRD:** 'The Criminal' - Fawaz Hadi Ali Materah, Level 2, Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Ibb University.
- THIRD:** 'The Giant Mouse' - Ibrahim Ghanem Ali Al-Dahhan, Level 2, Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Ibb University.

#### Poem

- FIRST:** 'Rocky heart' - Safwan Yehya Al-Shwetari, Level 1, Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Ibb University.
- SECOND:** 'The Sorrow' - Samira Al-Snhanie, Level 2, College of Education, Mahweet.
- THIRD:** 'The Innocence' - Elham Abbas, Level 3, College of Education, Mahweet.
- THIRD:** 'Look in My Eyes' - Fatima Al-Tawily, Level 2, College of Education, Mahweet.

#### Special Mention:

- 'My Rhyme', 'Feeling I and II', Safwan Yehya Al-Shwetari.

**Essay :** 'Towards Building a Prosperous Yemen' Ahmad Ali Mohammad Moqbil Al-Amery, Level 1, College of Education and Arts, Khawlan

**Congratulations to winners. Thanks to all participants. Certificates will be sent in due course.**

#### Panel of Judges:

- Prof. A. K. Sharma - Head, Department of English, Faculty of Languages, Sana'a University.
- Prof. H. S. Ahluwalia - Head, Department of English, College of Education, Mahweet.
- Dr. S. K. Sinha - Department of English, Sana'a University.
- Dr. P. A. Abraham - Faculty of Education, Amran.
- Dr. S. Tripathy - Department of English, Sana'a University.
- Dr. P. Mahto - Department of English, Faculty of Languages, Sana'a University.
- Dr. R. K. Mullick - Department of English, Faculty of Languages, Sana'a University.
- Dr. P. M. Singh, Head, Department of English, College of Education, Khawlan.

Dr. Ramakanta Sahu  
Coordinator

## A Cat Sits On The Wall

**Dr. Anil K. Prasad**  
Head, Department of English  
Ibb University

A cat sits near the window, on the wall  
We watch her every day, particularly in the afternoons  
Couched in her thoughts - perhaps taking forty winks -  
Perhaps thinking about people - coming and going  
On the road,  
To Shari'a - Al-Udein, some will go to the central market,  
And some to Sabal, and some beyond Sabal,

And some will take a

detour toward Mansoub Mosque

It is calm and windy!

The woolly-ball has hidden her face

In her woolly, warm bosom

And broods on - sitting near the window on the wall,

At the change of weather -

It is calm and windy!

It is drizzling now,

And the woolly-ball gets up, stretches out and is gone

It is raining now,

People on the road are walking homeward hurriedly,

Splashing water at each other from the puddles on the road.

It has stopped raining - the woolly-ball is seen sitting, sitting again

Near the window on the wall,

And the Sun peeps through the diffusing clouds

- mildly

And the cat sits on,

And we are going for a walk,

And we have come back, and the cat winks at us with familiarity,

And we will go back home, and the cat would sit on

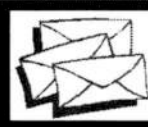
And wink at those who come and go out

And compose the cosmic rhythm

By carrying out their bags of bread and beans and books.



## YOUTH FORUM



### A message to English Language Students:

I would like to say that getting marks is not everything. You are a student of the English Language. That means, you are different from, and better than students in other departments. Different because you study a new language and it is considered the language of the world. You are better because you can speak the English language.

Most students always concentrate on marks. But marks are not a sign of intelligence. Anyone can memorize the text and pour it into the answer-book at the exam. Collecting marks is easy, but what's the benefit of marks if you cannot speak even a sentence well? I know some students in higher levels who can't speak correctly. Only two months and then they will become teachers. But what will they say to their students in the class? What a pity!

Actually, the English language should be studied for speaking and not for acquiring marks alone. Permit me to ask you this question, why do you study English? We all agree that we study English to speak it. Otherwise, what's the difference between you and other students?

Once, I remember, I asked one of my class-

mates, "Why don't you try to speak English?"

He told me that he would like to speak, but others would laugh at him for his mistakes while speaking. So he keeps quiet. I told him that there is no one who was born ready to speak without learning any language. "Rome was not built in a day." Speak even if you make mistakes; these mistakes will lead you to the correct way.

There are some things that may help you develop yourself such as TV or Radio and the competitions held in the English language. For instance, participating in quiz competitions, seminars, etc. and reading Yemen Times will help you improve your English. As a matter of fact, I found the Yemen Times a good source of information as well as an appropriate means to improve my skills in English, which has been my first purpose in reading it continuously.

Finally, let me tell you, my dear friend, if you want to speak English you have to practice it by talking every day to someone and if you don't find anyone to talk to, talk to yourself. Let the people say that you are mad! Don't pay any attention to what others say about you. Tell yourself that you will learn English sooner or later. Let me tell you also that I am not against getting marks. Why don't you try

to get marks as well as speak English?

**Ibrahim Ghanem Al-ddahan**

### I Feel a Current

I feel a current pushes me away.

Leading me to where I am trying to escape,

It bothers me during the night

and the day.

It is not natural; it has a size and a shape,

They say its shape is strange,

But I find it so clear.

It has no special height or range,

But it can create the fear!

The strength of this current makes me stubborn,

Instead of making me weak,

I hate weakness since I was born.

And the hopeless people, who never speak,

But still I'm not strong,

There is a reason to make me weak.

My attempts to escape are wrong,

But others' help I'll never seek.

**Withaq S.S.**





**Boxing Champions Irked**

In their first participation in 10 years, the Yemeni boxing team, comprising 4 boxers, came third in the Arab Boxing championship held in Cairo from May 18-24. Yemenis hailed the achievement of their team which they said was 'unexpected', in view of the very short training camp in Sana'a lasting only eight days and lack of adequate training equipment. However, despite these shortcomings, the team performed well against opponents from Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Palestine and Sudan and came back home with bronze medals.

After their arrival, the athletes went straight to the Ministry of Youth and Sports complaining against the chairman of the Boxing Federation who accompanied them to Cairo. They expressed their dismay over his carelessness in organizing the team's training and his misdemeanors before the championship was held. "He was more concerned about travel than achieving good results," the members of the team reported.

The Yemen Times met with the members of the team and a member of the Federation to get the details and filed the following interviews:

**Yossef Al-Baidhani,****3rd place-63.5 Kg category**

Sport federations are supposed to improve sports, provide qualified coaches, trainers and all possible training equipment for trainers. Unfortunately, the Boxing Federation is not like that. Its only concern seems to be gathering boxers from all over the country and organizing a championship once a year ostensibly to enable its chairman to travel to any Arab or foreign country.

Just think of a Boxing Federation that has no boxing ring, no training halls, no gloves. Everything is disappointing and discouraging. It is our love for this game that has stimulated us to continue for more than 8 years in such a condition. Former Federations did not get any kind of funding from the Ministry except a paltry sum barely enough to organize the Republic Championship which is held once a year. Ironically, when funding was granted during the past two years by the Youths' Fund, the condition wors-

ened. For example, the team was selected after the Republic Championship held in Aden. Things were done rapidly. A week-long training camp in Sana'a was organized in very difficult circumstances. The equipment needed for training was brought by the team members themselves.

In addition, the officials of the federation were conspicuous by their absence most of the time. The chairman visited us only occasionally for not more than 5 minutes at a time. What is worse is that, during the stressful training week, we had to finalize our traveling formalities with the Immigration and Passports authority by ourselves, things which were supposed to be taken care of by the Federation itself.

As far as our participation in Cairo is concerned, we arrived there without uniform and gloves. We had to borrow the gloves and clothes from other Arab participants. We felt ashamed of ourselves and humiliated, too. I wonder what the responsibility of the chairman of the Federation was.

**Mohammed Al-Kibsi,****3rd place-57 Kg category**

The Boxing Federation has proved to be a failure. Its chairman exploits us for his personal interests. We organized the Capital championship on our own initiative. When the team was selected, I was asked to pay for my participation. After a heated argument they agreed to sponsor my participation. However, US\$ 50 was deducted from each member's traveling allowance to cover expenses of another participant who was chosen by the chairman of the Federation.

Let me say it openly that the present chairman does not fit his position. He heaped insults upon us in a very vulgar way while we were in Cairo with utter disregard to all canons of civilized conduct.

However, we were fortunately

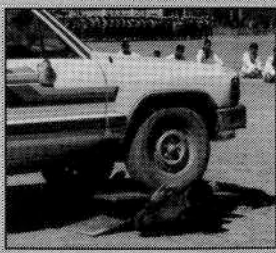
able to register a win over well-trained and well-cared-for boxers. The present Federation is not fit to be in charge of the game. Ironically, its chairman is a former wrestler. One wonders how the Ministry of Youths got confused between boxing and wrestling despite the great difference between the two. I hope that a competent Federation will replace the present one.

**Mohammed Al-Baadany,  
former boxer,  
member of the federation**

Although I am a member of the Federation, I entirely agree with what the boxers said about the irresponsible treatment by the Federation. In my opinion, the participation of our team for the first time and their excellent performance against able boxers is an achievement in itself. They achieved the 3rd place among 6 participating countries and this is good if we take into consideration their poor experience and the short period of training they underwent. Add to this the fact that they had to finalize all administrative procedures by themselves which were supposed to be completed by the Federation. In fact, I expected that our boxers would fall by knock-outs in the first rounds. However, their performance gave an encouraging account of boxing in Yemen. I am sure that if they are given their due attention they will achieve better positions in the future. To conclude, we hope that Dr. Abdul Wahab Raweh, Minister of Youths and Sports will review the condition of the Boxing Federation and try to set things right.

**Jamal Al-Awadhi****Arms, Karate Training Course**

An arms and Karate training course is going to be started on 5.7.2000 at the headquarters of the *Stallion Security and Safety Services Ltd.* Captain Ahmad Al-Rada'i, the coach, has four dan and is considered to be one of the best coaches in this sport. Captain Al-Rada'i has recently been awarded the title of 4 dan by the Japanese Karate Association. This makes him the sole Karate champion in Yemen to hold this title.

**From Court to Sky****Al-Maqaleh Flies in Search of Freedom**

Yemeni glider, Mohammed Saleh Al-Maqaleh was born in Ibb, the greenest city in Yemen. He used to work as a prosecutor but he left for something far more pleasurable. He started as the first wrestler in Yemen and then, despite its risks, turned to hang gliding.

During his career as a sportsman he has participated in exciting events. He has challenged all the difficulties and risks to practice his hobby and has not listened to those trying to warn him and his family against the possibly deadly consequences of such a perilous game.

Recently, he participated in the Hang Gliding Championships in France as the first Arab glider to fly across the Alps and came back home with a valuable cup.

He strongly criticizes the role the Ministry of Sports and Youth had in regard to encouraging sportsmen. However, he thinks that Yemeni sports are still in the very beginning of development.

His main dream is to establish a club for hang gliding, but he complained about the ignorance and negligence of the authorities concerned.

Al-Maqaleh started this kind of sport in 1986. He is married and has two children, Moad and Loai. The Yemen Times met with him and had the following chat:

**Q: How did you start?**

A: I first started as a wrestler. I was the first Yemeni wrestler and I helped to establish it as a sport in Yemen. Then I practiced hang gliding as the first Arab hang glider. So many Arab and foreign newspapers have talked about this sport and my participation in its activities.

Presently, I practice hang gliding and diving. I am also planning to fly with an engine-glider.

I started hang gliding in 1986 while I was a student at Sana'a University. At the time, I glided down the Wadi Dhahr mountain. I was awarded a certificate of merit and an amount of money from the University. I was also given a certificate as the first Yemeni glider. It is no boast to say that I was the first Arab to hang glide at the time.

**Q: What made you choose this risky sport?**

A: I always look for freedom. I enjoy undertaking hazardous and rough tasks. I used to be a wrestler while I was working as a prosecutor and now I fly in the sky. These are difficult tasks. However, hang gliding was a dream that had haunted me since I was a child. I envied birds whenever I went to the mountains and saw them flying freely in the sky. I thought of imitating them, learning their language as well as their movements. Fortunately, the dream has come true.

I could bring back the history of Abbas ben Farnas, who was the first Arab to think of flying. Hang gliding was not practiced in the Arab world in 1986. So the choice of this sport was a reminder of one of the leading Arab's attempts to fly.

**Q: What about your participation?**

A: There has been no Arab championship in this sport so far. I participated in championships in Germany and France. It was interested in moving from Yemen to Europe to practice this sport there. I have introduced Yemen to my European colleagues and I am still in the beginning of establishing this sport here.

My best performance has been the recent one in France in which I won a cup.

**Q: What are the most interesting situations that have happened to you while gliding?**

A: Hang gliding is full of interesting events. When I first glided over Wadi Dhahr, many people tried to dissuade me because they were worried about my safety. The University itself was very worried and it requested me to write a letter that I was responsible for anything that may happen to me.

I once had a very embarrassing situation with a goatherd when I landed on some of his goats. Another time I got myself stuck on a high tree and I was rescued by police.

I had another interesting experience when I once glided down the mountains of Ibb. It was about 6 o'clock in the evening and it was a little bit dark. When people saw me flying over their heads they thought that I was a genie. As I landed in one of their fields they started looking for me with torches and sticks in their hands.

**Q: What about the reaction of your family?**

A: My wife is well-educated and considerate. But the problem is with my parents who are mostly influenced by the warnings of society telling them that I might die. My mother used to fast for the whole day praying to God that nothing bad would happen to me whenever I flew.

**Q: How do you evaluate the role of the Ministry in encouraging sports and sportsmen?**

A: It is well-known amongst sportsmen in our country that support and encouragement for sports and sportsmen are very weak. I depended on myself when I started and it took me a long time to succeed.



Encouragement from the Ministry of Youth varies according to the culture of its staff. It needs a long time until people in general and those of the Ministry of Youth and Sports realize the importance of sport.

The problem with the Ministry of Youth and Sports is that its staff want to be everything. This means that hang gliding will take a long time until it becomes popular.

**Q: What about establishing a club for hang gliding?**

A: I have offered the Ministry the idea of establishing a club for this sport, but so far I have not got any response.

**Q: How is your relation with the Ministry?**

A: I do not work at the Ministry of Youth and Sports. I work in the Judicial system. However, my love for sports motivated me to establish wrestling and hang gliding as a service to my country. All these were sponsored by me and it was me who helped bring these sports in Yemen to light.

**Q: What about your recent participation in France?**

A: I flew for a week in France. Then I flew over the Alps. I was the first Arab glider to do that. I would like here to thank Yemeni TV who covered the event and is now preparing a program about me.

**Q: What are your future plans?**

A: I am planning to fly with an engine glider. This is a new sport not only in Yemen but in the Arab world. I am planning to establish a federation for this kind of sport in Yemen. I feel optimistic about it and I think that it will prosper. I will travel to Jordan and Saudi Arabia to participate there in the near future.

**VACANCY**

A graphic designer is required. The candidate should be well experienced in the advertising scope, has a good command of English Language and have worked on Apple Mac with the following programs: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, the Publisher. CVs to be sent attached with samples of designs to

**Fax no: 02 258872**

**منح دراسات وبحوث في أمريكا**

منح دراسية مقدمة من السفارة الأمريكية، مكتب أمديست باليمن، وجمعية خريجي برنامج منح الفلبرايت اليمنية

The Public Affairs Section at the American Embassy, AMIDEAST, and The Fulbright Alumni Association of Yemen (FAAY) announce the availability of a limited number of scholarships for Yemenis wishing to study and do research in the United States. Scholarships are as follows:

**\* The Fulbright Program:****1. Masters Degree:**

There are scholarships for a master's degree in the U.S. in all fields excepts medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and engineering. Applications must have:

- International TOEFL score of at least 550.
- A bachelor's degree from an accredited anniversary with an excellent academic record.

For more information and application forms, please contact the AMIDEAST office no. 66, Algiers Street, Sanaa. Telephone # (206-222 or 400-379). **Deadline: August 16, 2000.**

**2. Post Doctoral Research:**

The requirements for this program are as follows:

- The applicant must be a Ph.D. holder and wish to conduct further research in his/her field.
- A precise and detailed research proposal for a project that requires being in the U.S. For more information and application forms, please contact PAS at the American Embassy. Telephone # (238-819/20). **Deadline: August 16, 2000.**

**\* The Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program:**

This is a one year fellowship program for professionals in applied fields that combines academic training in an American university (non-degree program) and field experience. Requirements are:

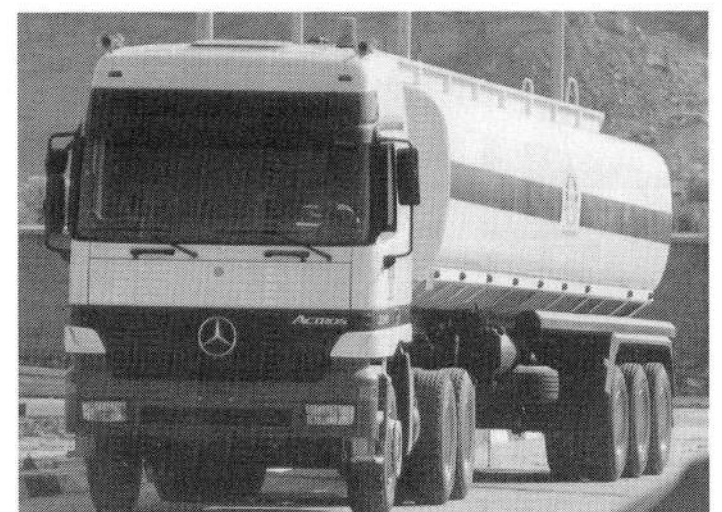
- International TOEFL score of at least 550.
- Applicants must have 5 years of work experience in public service fields such as economy, journalism, banking & finance, public health policy, natural resources management, public policy, human resources, education planning, and urban planning.
- A bachelor's degree from an accredited university with an excellent academic record.

For more information and application forms, please contact PAS at the American Embassy. Telephone # (238-819/20) **Deadline: August 16, 2000.**

**YPC TAKES DELIVERY OF ACTROS TRACTOR HEAD UNITS**

Yemen Petroleum Company have recently taken delivery of four Actros truck tractors from United Engineering & Automobile Co. Ltd., The General agents for Mercedes - Benz's Automobiles in Yemen.

apart from luxurious delivered together with comfort for the drivers. 50000 l Jet fuel tankers. The tractor heads were



The new generation Actros units assure the customers with long service intervals, lower maintenance and operation cost, reduced down time thereby increased availability ,



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## Ayoub Tarish Forgotten by the State, Honored by People



Jaial Al-Sharabi,  
Yemen Times

**T**he Afif Cultural Corporation gave a party last Tuesday in honor of artist Ayoub Tareh, one of the most outstanding singers in Yemen throughout the past three decades, who has left strong impressions on an emerging genre of singing i.e. the Taizi school of singing.

Colors and schools of Yemeni songs vary as cities and districts do. For example, there is the Al-Sharh school in Lahj, characterized by the light paces of dancers, and the Hadhrami school which is close to that familiar in the Gulf countries.

The event was attended by a crowd of people including a number of Ayoub's colleagues. Abdul Basset Absi, one of the well-known singers who has sung about life in the countryside and touched upon many social problems such as immigration of Yemenis,



After this wonderful song by Absi, Ayoub Tareh presented two of his best songs. These were "Dhow Al-Kholood" (The Light of Immortality) and "Tair Am Gharb" (Migrating Bird) which was written by Ali Abdul Rahman Jahaf in the Tihama dialect.

Ayoub has sung for everyone. He sang for unity before it came to light, the revolutions of September and October, etc. It was no surprise, then, that one of his patriotic songs was chosen as the national anthem of Yemen.

It is sad to feel that this great singer has not received due support from the authorities concerned.

Chairman of the Al-Afif corporation, Mr. Ahmad Jaber Al-Afif welcomed the participants and expressed his gladness in honoring

took the recorder to the teacher and the rest of the students. It was an embarrassing situation for Ayoub who decided not to show his face again to his teacher. So he ran away from Al-Hussainiah to Taiz," he said.

Mr. Al-Afif spoke highly about Ayoub's songs saying that the audience present at the event was a natural result of the popularity of his songs. He expressed his love and deep respect for him. He also welcomed Ayoub's colleague, Abdul Basset Absi, pointing out the intention of the corporation to honor him



in the future.

"This corporation has committed itself since its establishment 10 years ago to honor great people while they are alive to show them how they are loved and respected.

It is very painful to see great and creative people who can not afford their living are not cared for," he added. At the end of his speech, Mr. Al-Afif presented his warm thanks to Ayoub's wife who has accompanied the singer during all his artistic career. Then he honored Ayoub Tareh amid the applause of the participants.

Another speech was given by Alwan Mahdi Al-Jilani, a Yemeni poet, in which he praised the singer's taste in the choice, diction and rhythm of his songs. "He has captured every color by his eyes, every sound by his ears, every sweet smell by his nose and our hearts by the movements of the strings of his Oud," he said. "Ayoub has sung for his country, immigrants, love and changes in the city and

the countryside," he added.

When Ayoub sings, he does not only reveal what is in his heart but also what in our hearts as well. Lovers can feel deep emotion and passion in his every song. They live all the feelings of happiness, sadness, etc. which the songs convey.

Many great poets and composers have appeared in Ayoub's career with whom he has managed to achieve the best quality of diction and rhythm. However, he was mostly in close relationship with the passionate poet Abdullah Abul Wahab No'man who wrote most of Ayoub's songs.

Whatever is said about Ayoub, nothing will give him his due rights. He deserves more. We hope that the Ministry of Culture will be awakened by the initiative taken by the Al-Afif Corporation and do the same. It was very surprising last Tuesday to find no representative of the Ministry, as if they were angry at the event.

Ayoub is a unique singer. The words of his songs are intermixed with the soil of his country. Despite his great and numerous works the last words he mentioned last Tuesday were: *I am still thirsty.*



presented one of his famous songs portraying the problem of immigrants who leave their loved ones in pursuit of better living conditions. The song was "Wa ammati monoh shogol li Masoud." The song is sung in the voice of a woman whose husband has left the country seeking a better job opportunity. The wife sings for her and her child's bad economic and social condition, as well as her dire need to be close to her absent husband, Masoud.

Ayoub Tareh. He highlighted how Ayoub first began to sing. "He was one of the students of Al-Baihani, one of the great Muslim instructors at the time. Once, while the students and the sheikh were having a picnic in Al-Hussainiah in Aden, a student took Ayoub aside. He had a tape recorder, and he asked him to sing, wanting to record his voice while he was singing. Ayoub sang some songs by great Egyptian singers thinking that he was away from his teacher. However, his friend

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