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# YEMEN TIMES

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## POLISH AMBASSADOR KIDNAPPED IN SANAA CITY: Kidnapped Ambassador Released



The kidnapped Polish ambassador Krzysztof Suprowicz has been released at a late hour Sunday March 5, 2000 after he had been taken for the past five days by a group of tribal men from Al-Yamanyatayn / Khawlan / in the city of Sana'a at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, 2000 while he was visiting a dentist clinic in one of the main thoroughfares in the city. The kidnapers were demanding the govern-

ment to release the Sheikh army Colonel Khalid Mohammed Al-Giyari who had been arrested by political security men at the Sana'a airport, five days before the ambassador's kidnapping incident, while he was back home from Jordan. After his release the Yemen Times visited on Sunday the ambassador in his residence where he gave an extensive exclusive interview published on page 14.

## Violence Hits Donor Supported Projects



Last Thursday, the Small Enterprises Project, a project funded by multi-donor support and the Yemeni Government became the latest area to be hit by the violence that has racked the country. The project includes various components involving Technical Assistance support, some of which are provided by bilateral donor support. A Dutch Advisor, Mr. Jan Bol along with the Deputy Director of the project, Mr.

Mohammed Haider were shot to death last Thursday, the Third of March, sometime before noon. The assailant named Abdul-Razaq Ibrahim, working as a messenger, at the main headquarters of the project, is said to be a mentally deranged person. Eyewitnesses claim that he was also searching for other victims as well, but for luckily for them, his pistol had run out of ammunition. The assailant surrendered himself immediately after the attack and was taken to criminal investigations for further criminal proceedings.

## US Human Rights Report on Yemen: Security Officials Seek to Influence Press Coverage

The U.S. Embassy in Sana'a, in cooperation with the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, issued a report on Human Rights Practices In Yemen For 1999. The report covers all aspects of human rights practices in Yemen.

The report says that it gathered its information from a variety of sources including government officials, journalists, human rights monitors, jurists, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and academic experts.

The report was submitted to the U.S. Congress on February 25, 1999 by the U.S. Department of State. Such reports are usually meant to assist the Congress in the assessment of legislation pertaining to financial and other assistance to other countries. The report included accusations that security officials in Yemen sought to influence news coverage through harassment, threats, detentions and other coercive measures.

Full Text on Pages 8 & 9

## Israeli Sources Assert Yemen to Arrange Israeli Tourist Visits

Israeli diplomats asserted last week that there was a Yemeni-Israeli agreement sanctioning Israelis' visits to Yemen, though the Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdul Kader Ba Jamal denied this in a report to Al-Shark Al-Awsat newspaper.

Israeli Newspaper Yidaout Ahnranaut, reported that some top Israeli officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs paid last week secret visits to Yemen, UAE and Bahrain. The newspaper said that officials agreed with Yemeni authorities on

allowing Israelis of Yemeni origin to visit Yemen. The Yemeni foreign minister Ba Jamal had earlier denied the existence of such an agreement.

A source at the Israeli foreign ministry confirmed to the Israeli newspaper that the agreement was reached but date was not fixed and that it seems there is a political sensitivity preventing Yemen from carrying it out.



## SCANDAL at Sana'a Municipality

Hundreds of Sana'a Municipality cleaning workers gathered last Monday in front of the Presidency Office Building demanding to have their overdue wages and salaries paid to them. Security forces were surrounding the area ready to control any acts of violence. The workers were protesting against their horrible conditions. They



chanted slogans requesting the President to do justice to them and order their officials to pay their overdue three-month salaries. Besides, they have not received even their Ramadan premiums. Day laborers in street cleaning are also greatly worried about their wages and employment. Their daily wages do not exceed three hundred riyals, which they have to accept or get sacked.

In fact, these garbage collectors are living in a state of neglect by officials of Sana'a Municipality (the Capital Secretariat). The Workers' Protest lead the President to issue his orders to the Minister of Construction and Urban Planning and the Mayor of the Capital Secretariat which set a three-day time-limit to settle the matter. In the meantime the Government has insisted that such demonstrations will be no longer tolerated or allowed.

More on page 12

## Prime Minister Confirms Next Dose of Reforms: Price Increases From 4-5%

In a press conference, Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani confirmed that the next dose of price adjustments is due within the next two months. He clarified that this is part of an already agreed upon schedule as part of the government's Economic and Administrative Reform Program, with the World Bank, the IMF and other donors since 1990 and that price adjustments was included on the agenda of the Fiscal Year 2000 State Budget, which is already approved by the parliament. He stressed that they were necessary if Yemen was to successfully complete the restructuring of the economy to meet international parity. He also pointed out that these adjustments were subject to discussions with all the political parties and a final decision on its timing has yet to be taken. He said that the price rise envisaged is within the range of 4-5%. On another note, Dr. Iryani noted that the government is conducting negotiations

with the World Bank in Washington to obtain a loan of US \$ 30 million to support administrative reforms. On the other hand sources of the Ministry of Supply and Trade continue to insist there will be no significant price increases. It is worth noting that many people are angry at the persistence of the government to pursue price increases, especially in the wake of rising oil production (450,000 barrels) and rising oil prices, which the public regards as being sufficient grounds for them to feel some relief from continuing economic pressure, which seems to only hit the general public. The opposition has threatened that there will be mounting public discontent expressed by peaceful marches and other non-violent forms of public expression. The government has suggested that any forms of public reactions will be met with severely.

## Jordan and Yemen: Continued Growth in Mutual Relations

The Eighth round of the Joint Yemeni-Jordanian Committee was convened the First to the Third of March. The meetings were co-chaired by Dr. Abdul Karim Al-Iryani, Prime Minister of Yemen and the Jordanian Prime Minister, Dr. Abdul Raouf Al-Rawabedha.



continued on page 15

## Largest Gathering of Foreign Dignitaries in Yemen Yemen Times Celebrates Its 10th Year Inauguration

Monday evening, February 28th, Yemen Times celebrated its 9th anniversary at the Taj Sheba Hotel. The event was attended by a number of senior officials, diplomats, journalists, prominent social figures and others from various segments of the society.

He then highlighted how Yemen Times has achieved progress through its short journey, despite the many challenges, pointing out to the highly up-to-date technology adopted by the paper and its site on the Internet. The Editor-In-Chief did not miss the chance of this occasion to count the remarkable feats of the newspaper's founder, Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf, throughout the past nine years and the great journalistic achievements realized by his hands as leader of its young staff.

In his opening address to the audience of the evening, Mr. Walid Al-Saqqaf Editor-in-chief of Yemen Times, wel-

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## Words of Wisdom

"While the political parties demand a democratic structure in their relations vis-a-vis the system, not one of the parties has a real and objective democratic process of internal cadre promotion and decision making."

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



## Editorial

Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf  
Chief Editor

### When Facing the Moment of Truth: Problems Can Never Solve Themselves

The last kidnapping incident of the Polish Ambassador that happened last Wednesday signals a dangerous development. It is the first time in the history of History of Yemen that a diplomat in the rank of ambassador is kidnapped. This gives the impression that action is required. Enough talk, more work is required. This has shocked a lot of politicians and security officers who have been drifting in their illusions that everything is OK, and there is nothing left to do.

The incident confirmed that Yemen is indeed facing a moment of truth that requires bringing law and order to a country that has been lacking them for so long. However, it is easy to see that today, law and order are as difficult to achieve as ever. What made the country reach such a level of lawlessness? Why have kidnappers begun to take serious key figures hostages? Why has "law and order" become a rare commodity that is not secured for everyone? Who is responsible for this? To where is the country heading?

These are some of the questions that rise as a direct result of such incidents like kidnapping, armed conflicts, explosions, and other extreme events in the country. Why can't security be guaranteed to the locals and foreigners? Why is the government unable to confidently say that there will be no more kidnappings?

I said it once in a previous editorial about the same issue (Kidnapping), and I want to say it again: "The solution must not be temporary. It must be a solid, concrete, and lasting solution." With misery and disappointment, I can say that the government has not been able to provide lasting and efficient solutions or even proposals for this chronic problem. It is partially the government's fault, and partially the fault of years of neglect of the rising phenomena of arms carrying and arms trade. It is an issue that developed in time through the years. Long before unity, tribes and even normal citizens have become accustomed to buying and using weapons of all sorts. The government did wake up; but too late, as the average rate of arms today is 3 for every Yemeni, which means that getting rid of them without a civil war is almost as difficult as getting rid of qat. Part of the solution is to improve the economy, as I always say, by getting rid of the corrupt figures that have been eating away the country's resources for so long. Today, the country cannot stand more corruption, simply because its economy has become extremely weak.

The commitment has been shown by the president to punish the kidnappers, and the ones who cause instability in the country. However, does the president really see the true danger? Does he feel that the country is slowly heading to a disaster if the insecurity conditions caused by mismanagement and corruption continue? I hope and believe the answer is "Yes". But that is not enough. He also needs to fight the mismanagement and corruption starting from the ones close to him to the government clerk who asks for bribes every now and then. He should begin realizing the dangers that such crooked figures can cause in the long run. The country's resources are drying up. We are running out of money, we are running out of honesty, we are running out of ideas, but are we running out of future? I hope not.

To have the hope renewed, we need our leadership to think wisely about the future and about Yemen of tomorrow. We should not keep the illusion that things would get better on their own, but we should rather think about saving our country from the worst expected to come. As Yemenis, from the president down to the normal citizen, we should realize that today we are in a critical period in which we should decide the path to choose: the path towards transparency, modernization, development, security, and efficiency, or the path towards more ignorance, corruption, deficiency, and backwardness. Choosing the right path is not enough, but we should also work on getting there, and working on getting there requires a lot of hard work, honesty, and strong will.

Will we be able to face the moment of truth courageously without falling into the same old illusion that problems would solve themselves? I hope so..

## In Brief

### Al-Jifri: Scrambling for Authority, Not Our Objective

Yemen Times has asked the Yemeni prominent opposition leader Mr Abdul-Rahman Al-Jifri on whether he was offered a senior post in the government and the possibility of his accepting the offer, as some people are presently saying.

To this question Mr Al-Jifri responded by saying "I have not been offered any post, neither today nor yesterday. For me the question is not a high-ranking post or another, but rather how to reform the system of political action in our country. Our objective is not to scramble for authority at any price, otherwise we would have done that long time ago. We are after coalescence of efforts to realize comprehensive reform covering the entire system of government and including all political and economic fields in our country. And I do not think that anybody would advise us to such participation without certain bases, for the question as we view it is bigger and more serious."

Mr Al-Jifri added that, "undoubtedly the influential forces consider any reform whatsoever contradicts their interests. But I would like to say that we all have to realize, including the brothers within the government system, that time is moving on and the world will not wait for us. Unless the situations are put right they would lose everything and the country would lose everything. He who attempts to possess everything would lose all. All of us must profoundly understand this stage and to comprehend that it is a stage when reforms included the entire world, our country is part of this world. If we do not speed up reforming the situations in our country we would not be able to catch up with the world's advancement, prosperity and stability. Our country is need of complete stability and security, without them we can not achieve any success. We have to begin depending on the power of reason and introduce comprehensive reforms, beginning with the system of government, otherwise everything we be lost."

### Journalists Syndicate in Solidarity with Jamal A'amer

In a gesture of support for journalist Jamal A'amer, the Journalists Syndicate Thursday, March 2, called on all journalists to express solidarity with A'amer against whom a judicial sentence was passed banning him from writing. Many journalists gathered at the syndicate headquarters and sent a letter to the president requesting his intervention for the stay of execution of the verdict against journalist A'amer and Al-Wahdawi newspaper. The letter considered the punishment as legally groundless and contradicts the freedom of the press. Mr. Mahboub, chairman of the Syndicate, made speech, reviewing the syndicate's role in defending journalists and emphasized the necessity of the sentence

annulment.

### U.S. \$ 5 Billion , Yemen's External Debts

The declaration made by an official source 3 years ago that 67% of the Yemeni external debts were written off, was not precise and far from honesty. Mr. Hisham Sharaf, Under-Secretary of the Development and Planning Ministry said in a statement published in the last issue of the 26 September newspaper, that Yemen still was still indebted 4,8 Billion dollars out of a total of 8,6 Billions. He also explained that the reason behind this decrease was that Russia has written off U.S \$ 5 Billion of Yemen's debts leaving only 1 Billion. However, he did not mention any other writing offs by other countries or other bodies and funds, recalling that the country's debts to the International Bank are ranging between U.S. \$ 500-600 Billion, not subject scheduling.

### Yemen is bid to procure Iraqi Ships

According to some sources Sanctions Committee of the UN rejected Yemen's request for buying Iraqi ships that are landed in Aden port since 1990. Some biologists warned that those ships may sink down the sea because of corrosion and holes developed in those ships. The workers on the ship could not carry out maintenance operators because of the financial constraints caused by the economic sanctions imposed by Iraq.

### Al-Akimi Arbitrates Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar

Sheikh Amin Al-Akimi, member of parliament in Al-Gawf delivered last Friday one hundred machine-guns to Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar as an indication of accepting his arbitration by Jadaan/ Nehm/ for Al-Haymah tribes in the case of the person killed ten years ago. The son of Ben Naged from Jadaan was convicted and arrested by security forces eight years ago. The court has recently passed a death sentence against him. Upon passing the verdict, his father seized three persons from Al-Haymah and insisted that he won't let them be free until his son is released, claiming that there has been three verdicts passed on his son; the first acquitted him from the case, the second to pay a ransom and the third sentenced him to death. Al-Haymah tribes have, on their part, arrested eight persons from Nehm, three of whom were Sinan Abo Lohoom's sons. Sinan Abo Lohoom called on tribes of Hashed and Bakil and gathered last week in Sana'a and signed a document confirming adherence to the tribal conventions and original social norms and to put an end to alien phenomena emerging in the Yemeni society.

### Switzerland In The Eyes Of Yemen

Preparations are on to hold a special Yemeni cultural week in Switzerland. Swiss researcher and photographer Peter Sphatser arrived in Yemen on the 1st of March to finalize the necessary arrangements for holding the

cultural week. He also invited a number of Yemeni photographers to attend a training course on photography and hold a workshop under the title of "Switzerland in the Eyes of Yemen."

### Preparations to Announce Hayel's Prize for 1999

The Board of Trustees of Hayel Saeed's Prize for sciences and the arts held a meeting on February 25 to review matters related to the organization of the competition to be culminated by the announcement of the winner of the Prize at the end April.

### Minister of State in the German Foreign Office in Yemen

The Minister of State in the German Foreign Office, Dr. Christoph Zöpel, arrived in Yemen on Thursday 2. During the visit Dr. Zöpel will call upon President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Speaker of Parliament Sheikh Abdullah Ben Hussain Al-Ahmar, Prime Minister Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani and Foreign Minister Abdulkader Bajammal to discuss Yemen relations with Germany and Europe as well as questions related to the region.

Dr. Zöpel, member of the German Parliament since 1999, has visited Yemen several times.

### A Seminar on Local Authority

The Ashoura, mouthpiece of Popular Forces Federation organized a seminar titled "Local Authority: Reality and Ambition", on March 2, 2000. The seminar unanimously resolved to establish free local authority. Mr. Ali Saif Hassan, the security general of People's Naseerite presented a paper titled "Dialectics of Local Authority and Unity". He said that whether at the humanitarian or national level, citizens have the right to choose their rulers. This is the key to all human rights. Dr. Mohammed Ali Al-Saqqaf, said that authority reiterates its resolve to establish local authority. It also violated the article (143) of the constitution, which gives the right to choose their rulers.

### Aden Hosts the 3rd Cardiology Conference

Aden is hosting the third cardiology conference which is being held from 6 to 9 March, 2000. The conference is taking place at "Al-Arosah Tourist Resort". It is expected that more than 350 doctors and specialists from different governorates will participate in this conference. Doctors and specialists from United States, France, Italy, Germany, India, Saudi, Egypt, Bahrain, and Sudan will also participate in this conference.

### A Seminar on the International Women's Day

The Women's National Committee, chaired by Ms. Amatt'elaleem Assosoa, organized a seminar on the International Women's Day at the Ministry of Planning and Development. Prime Minister, Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Eryani, and those interested in this field will participate in this seminar.

It is expected that a number of papers will be presented in this seminar; In addition, a number of senior ladies will be honored on this occasion.

### Minister of State in the German Foreign Office, Concludes His Official Visit to Yemen

The Minister of the State in the German Foreign Office, Dr. Christopher Zöpel, who arrived in Sana'a on March 2, concluded his official visit

which took place in a warm and cordial atmosphere. He met Foreign Minister, Abdulkader Ba Jamal and Prime Minister, Dr. Al-Erani.

As Dr. Zöpel emphasized, his visit aimed at further strengthening the excellent relations between Yemen, and the Federal Republic of Germany. He appreciated the successful process of democratization and of pluralism in Yemen. In this context, he assured his interlocutors that Germany will support Yemen's efforts to be included into the so-called EU Barcelona process thus giving this country better opportunities to benefit from programs of the European Commission and, at the same time, opening the way for deepening the exchange among the Arab states. Dr. Zöpel further proposed to the Yemeni Government to establish an Institute for International Political Studies, so far not existing in Yemen.

He said that there are a number of economic projects will be launched in important cities in Yemen. He added that the volume of assistance to Yemen during the year 2000 is 40 million DM.

### Sana'a Mayor Inaugurated Eid Festival at Expo

Mr. Husain Al-Maswari, Sana'a mayor and Hussain Al-Wattari, chairman of the General Federation of the Chambers of Commerce inaugurated today the Eid exhibition organized 5-14 March by Apollo for international exhibitions at Expo Sana'a Hall. Sheik Hameed Abdullah Al-Ahmar Chairman of the Board of Directors and parliament member attended this inauguration. Tawfeek Al-Nahmi, general manager of the company, said that there were more than sixty participating companies. The exhibition includes all Eid needs of clothes, food substances, beverages, juice, sweets, shoes, leather products, furniture and gifts of different sorts.

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## Workshop On' Customer Relation

Sponsored by the Ministry of Electricity and Water, the National Water and Sanitation Authority, as well as the Technical Secretariat for Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Reform, the Dutch financed Institutional Strengthening of five NWSA Branches project organized a 3-day training course/workshop 'Customer Relations' in the Hadda Hotel, Sana'a, from 27-29 February 2000. During this training the concept, importance and basic requirements of effective customer relations



as well as a draft Customer Service and relations Procedures and Refence manual will be presented to the course participants, of which large number are newly appointed Customer Relations Officers.



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# Yemeni Press Scanner

AL-JAMAHER Ba'ath Party (Syria)

**Renewal of Sana'a University Clashes**  
Several Sana'a University students were wounded in a clash that erupted inside the Faculty of Education last Sunday between a group of students who claimed they were representing the Students Union and another group of students...The dispute continued for several hours. Other sources reported that bullets were heard during the clash shot by female students of the University, which prompted the arrival of police.

These disputes have become very familiar recently because of partisan disputes by student groups influenced either by the P.G. C. or the Islam party.

26TH. SEPTEMBER  
Armed Forces Journal

**Most Arab Countries Support Yemeni Summit Initiative**

Mr. Abdul Qader Ba Jammal, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs said that the majority of Arab countries declared their support to the initiative forwarded by the Government of Yemen for a stable order for holding Arab summits... He said that although some countries have some reservations about the initiative they were from a technical and not a political point of view.

AL-THAWRI  
YSP, Weekly 2nd.

**Tribes of Yemen Confer on Abu Luhum Kidnapping**  
A committee consisting of more than 20 sheikhs representing the different main tribes of Yemen meet next Saturday with President Saleh to discuss suggestions for solving the kidnapping of the son of sheikh Sinan Abu Luhum and three of his cousins who were kidnapped by members of Al-Haima tribes last Saturday, so as to press the tribe of Abidah to release several people detained by Abidah because of a very old dispute.

AL-AYYAM  
Independent

**Israeli Official Visits Yemen Secretly**  
'Al-Sharq Al-Awsat' Newspaper of London reported yesterday that the 2nd. Israeli T.V. Channel reported that the government of Yemen intends in the near future to allow Israelis to visit Yemen openly. It added that contacts are being made also with Algeria for the same purpose. Algeria, however denied the report. A reporter of the Israeli TV said that an agreement was reached at Sana'a on this subject during a secret visit to Yemen by the official of Gulf countries desk at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**American Institute Announces its Endeavor to Support the YSP**

The second. Conference of the local Yemeni Socialist Party organization at Udain province, Ebb governorate began last Thursday and was attended by several party high officials and the Sana'a Director of the American Democratic Institute.

Several speeches were delivered at the opening session of the Conference. In his address, the Director of American Democratic Institute said that his Institute praises the democratic experience of Yemen and is glad to attend this Conference.

He added that, "Democracy in Yemen is based on political plurality, and the existence of a strong opposition is proof of the existence of democracy."

He declared that the American Institute shall earnestly endeavor in the coming future to cooperate with YSP within the program of the Institute.

**15000 Demonstrate Against Dhala' Arrests and Houses Destruction**

The Dhala' Solidarity People's Committee praised all those who participated in the peaceful solidarity demonstration at Dhala' from the Cinema to the office of the Governor last Saturday, whose numbers were estimated to reach 15000 people. The demonstrators declared their denouncing of all the irresponsible acts that have till now prevailed in Dhala' such as the illegal arrests executed randomly and the inhuman destruction of houses.

AL-SHUMOA', Independent

**Ministers Demand Closure of 'Al-Shumoa'**

Learned sources inside the Council of Ministers report that the Council discussed last week corruption stories published by Al-Shumoa' which are indirectly linked to some Ministers, and the possibility and bring an end to that because it puts limits on their ability to lead their ministries.

Gossips said that a number of minister signed a petition to the Prime Minister demanding the closure of Al-Shumoa' and sending its Chief Editor to court for trial by a resolution to be taken by the Council.

Other ministers however considered such a move an open breach of the constitution, which guarantees the freedom of the press. They indicated that if such a resolution is taken it shall be seen as a serious indication of reversion from the principal of free press of which Yemen has been so proud.

AL-EHYA'A AL-ARABI  
Ba'ath Party (Iraq),

**Saudis and Yemenis Tried for Kidnapping**

A judiciary source reports that the trial of six Yemenis and two Saudis accused of

forming a group for kidnapping foreigners in Yemen began last Saturday. He said that the accused were arrested last May and are accused of making money through fraud and forgery of Saudi and Yemeni official documents.

He added that only five of the accused including one of the Saudis attended the trial while three are tried in absentia. They are all accused of planning kidnappings in Sa'ada Governorate. They were arrested before implementing their plans.

The Saudis were additionally accused of illegally obtaining Yemeni Ids and weapon carrying permits. It is recalled, as the source reports that Yemen had accused unnamed foreign countries of organizing and assisting the kidnapping of foreigners in Yemen. This is the first time Saudis are linked to kidnappings openly.

**Government Takes Part in Setting Up of Sultans**

Although the Yemeni revolution is 38 yrs. old and Yemen Unity is a decade old, there are some people who still dream of the Imamate and Sultanate regimes and work for bringing them back. The proof is what was published in a local newspaper last week of setting up a sultan on 3rd. February in succession of his father who died abroad. It was reported that a big official and public festival was organized at Azzan, and was strangely attended by several Shabwa Governorate officials, led by the Governor in addition to several sheikhs and tribal dignitaries and a big number of the population.

A question to the pertinent authorities that took part in the ceremonies of setting up his highness, the Sultan, is that an indication that the grandsons of the Imamate can be dealt with on the same rule and be set up as Kings of Yemen? Did the authorities decide to transfer the Republic into Sultanates instead of the current administrative system? .... What are the powers given to his highness the Sultan, especially when the report spoke of his tours inspecting the state of affairs of government and civil projects executed there?

ATTAGAMMOA'  
Yemeni Unionist  
Congregation

**God's Mercy to Ofra**

26th. September, the mouth piece of our armed forces, was the only and outstanding Yemeni newspaper to report the death of the Israeli singer Ofra Hazzia' at a Tel Aviv hospital last Wednesday. The report was clearly sad and marked with black. The newspaper indicated clearly that the Israeli singer of Yemeni origin has a big audience in Yemen!! However, no details on this big audience or in which part of society in Yemen it exists were said!!

**Mercenary of the Sixties, Today's Hero**

The friendly entertainment accorded to the most famous French mercenary Bob Dinar aroused anger and denunciation from the political and social circles which remember the role he played with other foreign mercenaries while [Yemenis] were defending the 26th. September Revolution and the Republican system of government, when he trained the Royalist forces and took part in the fighting in many parts of Yemen, hoping to bring back the defunct Royalist regime.

It is reported that several high officials received the mercenary who didn't hide his happiness that the principals he fought for were victorious. He said in an

interview with 26th. September newspaper, "It is sufficient that Yemen is joining the ranks of the changes for which we all worked for." The visit of our (friend) Bob Dinar coincided with the anniversary of siege around Sana'a by the Royalist forces, which were trained by him and other mercenaries.

AL-BALAGH  
Independent

**Does Yemen Communicate Secretly with Israel**

By: The Most Learned, Ibrahim bin Mohammed Al-Wazir.

While traveling home I heard a report that shocked me. It was about an Israeli Government delegation that arrived into Yemen and met secretly with [Yemeni] officials. It was reported that an agreement was reached allowing Israel to visit Yemen anytime they want and that they shall not obstructed... I followed what was written in Al-Hayat newspaper on this which is in itself strange... and we don't believe it is true.. Our President has made several press statements on the issue of Palestine and he continues to deal very wisely and smartly with it. He doesn't like Yemen to be one of those who hurry to the [dining] table of the mean ones, or to bend and collect the bits.... We would like to stress to Government and the Minister of Foreign Affairs who is said the one to receive the representative of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that the people of Yemen doesn't and won't agree to such moves. Any such move shall be the responsibility of the person who takes it. The people of Yemen completely reject any such move. How can the people of Yemen agree in such a time when the Zionists bombard our brotherly Arab and Muslim Southern Lebanon? How can the people of Yemen agree when the Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs, David Levy, threatens to burn Lebanon? That is why the people of Yemen reany move of rapprochement or normalization of relations with Israel.

We would like also to confirm to Mr. Ba Jammal, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Government of Yemen, that the process of surrender for which America and the Zionists work, for the surrender and humiliation of the Muslim Arabs shall never be concluded. Israel shall never get rid of its stubbornness. Allah is more learned where He says, "And the Jews will not be pleased you, nor the Christians, until you follow their religion. Say: Surely, Allah's guidance, that is the (true) guidance." And we say: "Surely, Allah's guidance, that is the (true) guidance." And we shall not agree to rapprochement or normalization with Israel. We refuse to surrender, and we build on that. Only the sons of Islam shall solve the Palestine Issue, the followers of Mohammed 'God's blessing and peace upon him.'

**Strong Explosions at Ashsharq Mountain**

Ashsharq Mountain Province witnessed last week several strong explosions. On Tuesday, an explosion hit the office of Chairman of the local PGC organization. Two bazooka rockets and a burst of shots hit the house of sheikh Hilal Yahya Al-Miqdad. The incident left heavy material damages but no human casualties.

.... The culprits are unknown up to now, and the authorities haven't made any move.

ATTARIQ  
Independent

**American Ambassador Served in Yemen 12 Years Ago**

'Attariq' has learnt that the new American Ambassador, Ms. Marjorie Ransome who is expected to take over the Embassy by summer in succession Ms. Bodiene, the current Ambassador, had served in Yemen 'Y.A.R.' 12 years ago. She has a good command of Arabic. She had a short trip to Yemen during 1998.

**American Aircraft Carrier in Yemeni Waters**

The American Aircraft carrier J. F. Kennedy entered last Sunday the territorial waters of Yemen. Brigadier General Abdul Aziz Aththahab, Deputy Chief of Staff for Planning and Arms and Brigadier Abdulla Pasha, Deputy Commander of the Air Force paid a visit to the carrier where the listened to a short explanation of operations and observed American Air Force training on the carrier.

No Confrontations with Jihad in

Shabwa

Attariq received a comment on its story published on 15th. February under the heading: "3 killed and 13 arrested in clashes with security forces" from Director of Security in Shabwa Governorate. He fully denied that any clashes, arrests or killings happened in Shabwa Governorate, neither at Azzan nor elsewhere.

The source of the report isn't the commander of Azzan security nor linked in any way to security forces.

**African Refugees Continue Flooding into Yemen**

The flood of African refugees into Yemen continues through the coasts of Yemen. Three Somali smuggling boats landed nearly 350 multinational refugees at Al-Milhah and Dares points in Rudhom Province, Shabwa Governorate. The Director of Police for Rudhom Province told Attariq that there are several difficulties that hinder their work. He said that the location named for receiving refugees before transporting them to Gihain Camp is very far. He suggested a new location for that purpose at one of the coastal villages of the province and demanded the supply of vehicle for the provincial police command so that it can fulfill its duties.

RA'Y  
Sons of Yemen League

**Legitimate Cheating!!**

Hadhramis were shocked by a strange fatwa that was issued by a Mukalla mosque worship leader who gave students to cheat in exams of earthly sciences. He said that cheating is only prohibited only in Islamic religious sciences.

No comment! Oh God! Be kind on us!

**Unimplementable Instructions**  
On 20th. September President Saleh instructed openly that a university

female student in Dhamar Governorate be given an academic holiday in order to enable her University studies. Despite her continuous efforts these instructions were never implemented and the poor student couldn't find any official to implement them. The poor student began sending telegraphs to the President calling upon him to push for the implementation of his instructions, if he is serious about them.

AL-WAHDAH  
Official

**A French Sailor on A Yemeni Traditional Ship**

'Al-Wahdah' has learnt that there are preparations and arrangements being made for a trip on a traditional Yemeni ship from Sayhut, Mahra Governorate to Zanzibar island near the East African coast.

A poem of the old Hadhrami sailor, Saeed Ba Taya' shall be used as guide for this trip. Ba Taya' was born at Alhami, Hadhramout Governorate.

Further details on this are trip in our future editions.

AL-THAWRAH  
Official

**Handicapped Begin Journey to Arab Countries**

Three handicapped Yemeni boys start today a journey on special bicycles to a number of Arab countries. The Ministry of Youth and Sports, Aden Refinery and the Aden Office of Insurances and Social Affairs are supporting the journey which is aimed at strengthening relations between the handicapped Arabs.

The first leg of the journey extends from Aden to Sana'a through Lahj, Taiz, Ebb and Dhamar. The second leg shall lead the three to Saudi Arabia, Oman, U. A. Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Libya.

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الشيخ علي صالح العمري

تقدمه الله بواس رحمة والهم اهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان

وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الشيخ / محمد علي هيثم طماح العميد / احمد حاجب (ابو طارق) / سالم محمد حاجب ياسر علي حسين الياضي



# Natural Strawberry Yoghurt



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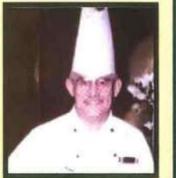
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# How Many Times the Oil Pipeline was Pierced?

By: Hassan Al-Zaidy  
Yemen Times,  
Marib

The phenomenon of blowing up the oil pipeline extending from Safer field in Marib to the Ras Essa terminal in the Red Sea started in 1993. Since then such incidents continued, the latest of which was at the end of 1999. Those blasts caused the loss of huge quantities of crude oil and large sums of money were spent to deal with their consequences in addition to causing hazardous pollution to the environment and created damage against the citizens and their farms. These incidents are in fact considered act of

precautionary measures to avoid such incidents, consequent environmental damage, major damage and losses suffered by residents of these areas.

## The first ever explosion of oil pipeline:

The first oil pipeline explosion was the eve of 22.7.1993 at Wadi Habab 110 km far away from the East of the capital, Sana'a. The explosion took place in mysterious circumstances and had led to mass condemnation, considering it to be a shameful act of sabotage. The quantity of crude oil leaking from the blown up pipeline was estimated at 20 barrels an hour and was presumed to cause great damage to the farms there especially at the falling of rain. A technical team was able to repair the damage in the pipeline in 20 hours

likely to be affiliate of certain political party.

During the secessionist war of 1994, the pipeline was exposed to an explosion in Serwah about 10 km away from the previous location of the explosion in 1993. The technical team was able to put out fires caused by the blast and repair it. The team found a Russian-made machine gun brunt at the site of the explosion. The machine-gun was tied up to the pipeline and buried two meters deep in the ground and was detonated by a remote control device. Security forces accused three residents from the area after tracing their footsteps. It was reported that the perpetrators had carried out the explosion under urging from elements from the separatist Socialist party and that the machine-gun was of the type distributed by the party at that time. However, these elements did not give clear and full confession on their responsibility for the incident. Besides, the government was not able to detain the attackers at that time and the matter was settled according to the tribal norms by taking hostage two persons belonging to the tribe however, they were set free after some time. After these two incidents the oil pipeline was exposed to other two explosions in Al-Yamenia, 50 km away from East of Sana'a by some unidentified persons from the same area.

In 1996, conflicts came to surface between the army forces stationed in the area and some residents of Serwah especially after some kidnappings, attacks against some military positions and oil tankers had taken place. The attackers demanded the government to pay the suspended salaries of a number of civilian officials and military men, damages to the citizens affected by floods and rains and settling issues of some tribal people residing in the area. Besides, so many other demands were made such as building water projects, recruiting unemployed people in the military service, employing the qualified ones in the oil companies and other jobs. All those demands and others were repeatedly asked by the people of the area. Some of them had given threats

and warnings against the state and those close to it to resort to other acts unless their demands were met. Such elements had created internal tribal feuds and in the area in general. Wrangles and quarrels began to develop certain officials in the government who are originally from the area whom the sheikhs usually describe them as trouble-makers. People response towards this situation has developed to three attitudes: The first is that of the sheikhs and those officials close to the government who think the stand of some residents in the area and the troubles they are creating with the state are meant against them and not for meeting the demands they are asking to be met.

The second group of people are of the view that sheikhs and those officials are not at all cooperative and helpful to them to get their legal demands. Instead they tend to create obstacles and fight them mainly because they want to serve their own interests. The third group of people are of the view that sheikhs and those officials are not performing their duties well and that they are not devoted to find solutions to concerns of these people. They furthermore, may venture to use force against the people, which is actually a wrong and ineffective way for this has made some individuals take the law into their hands and start conducting destructive actions to take revenge. Consequently, leading a majority of people to suffer. Therefore, the government should re-consider its policy and to tackle the issues of the area in general, giving priority to the necessary ones.

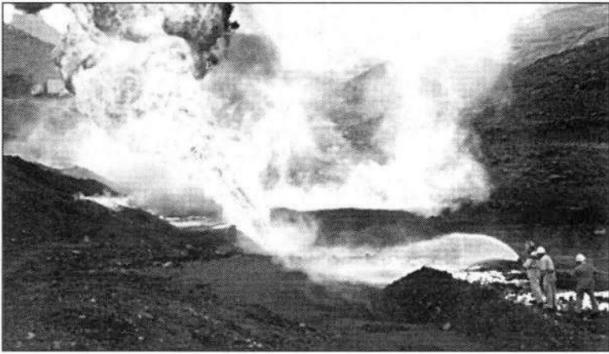
Therefore, attempts of some officials and sheikhs to suppress some elements and sever the relationship between those of the second view and the government are wrong action and will do nothing but breed violence among these elements. So the government should help them and cooperate with them to learn their concerns and try to meet at least their essential needs so that there won't be any selfish conflicts which may result in horrible consequences. However, this suggestion was not approved much by those of the first and the second opinions which have led to many tragic incidents, the explosions of oil pipeline was an example.

## The Beginning of a Series of Explosions:

The beginning of a series of explosions was early in 1998, accompanied by other incidents that took place in the Marib governorate and the demonstrations that in various governorates of Yemen as a result of increasing oil and diesel prices in the period of the third rise of prices. However, it is noticeable that the oil pipelines incidents did not occur in other governorates as well where oil pipelines pass through. They were only confined to one specific place and on a line that does not exceed 100 km from Safer district in Marib passing through Serwah, also Marib has witnessed so many incidents of explosions, and ending up in the Yamaniyatain, Khawlan, Sana'a about 40 km away from East of Sana'a. On this line about 150 km long passing through all these areas, about 37 explosions had taken place; the first of which was in 22.7.1993 and the latest in November 1999.

That has been a brief and comprehensive account of all the explosion incidents perpetrated on the oil pipeline in Yemen from the first ever explosion to the latest one. Out of this report many queries can be raised about the motives and real reasons that urged the residents of the area to commit such acts. Some of which are: What are the real motives that pushed the people of these areas to conduct such actions? What were the government's previous and present reactions to such actions? What is the volume of losses and damage of these incidents? What was the proportion of these losses if compared to the demands of the people in these areas? What is the environmental damage resulting from those explosions?

All such questions are going to be dealt with further in future reports.



NO. OF EXPLOSIONS	THE DISTRICT AND TRIBE	GOVERNORATE	LOCATION
2	Abidah tribe	Ma'areb	between Safer oil field and the governorate of Ma'areb
16	Serwah, Juhum tribe	Ma'areb	50 km the west of Ma'areb governorate
9	Wadi Habab, Bani Jabr	Ma'areb	about 10 km the west of Serwah
7	Al-Aroosh, Khawlan	Sana'a	80 km the east of Sana'a
3	Al-Yamanyatain	Sana'a	40 km the South East of Sana'a

The total number of explosions was 37, took place along the 150- km pipeline from Ma'areb to Sana'a.

sabotage whatever the motives, factors and justifications behind them were. In this article, I will try to spell out the time this phenomenon started, the major factors leading to their occurrence, the incidents so far reported; the real motives behind such incidents,

after the incident which was the first of its kind in the country and which was registered against unidentified person or persons. Nevertheless, many reports had asserted that it was politically motivated act and committed by someone from the area and very much

## Names of the winner candidates of the Canadian OXY scholarships presented to the Ministry of Education to study in Canada for the year 2000

The Canadian OXY Scholarships Committee announces to all candidates who have applied for studying in Canada that the winners of the scholarships are:

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1- Ayman Iskandar Yousef    | 6- Ahmed Mohammed Zayed        |
| 2- Layla Eisa Al-Zoba       | 7- Akram Abbass Al-Maktari     |
| 3- Majeed Hashim Shahadat   | 8- Bassam Ahmed Al-Sabri       |
| 4- Mohammed Ali Abdul-Aziz  | 9- Mohammed Hussain Al-Hammadi |
| 5- Wifaq Saa'ed Al-Shaibani | 10- Yahya Motahar Al-Shami     |

Therefore, the committee apologizes to all those who were not accepted because of the limited number of seats.

With our best wishes for success of all candidates.

## أسماء الطلاب الفائزين بالمنح المقدمة من شركة كنديان أوكسي لوزارة التربية والتعليم للدراسة في كندا للعام ٢٠٠٠

تعلم لجنة منح كنديان أوكسي إلى كافة الأخوة الطلاب الذين تقدموا للدراسة في كندا بأن الفائزين بهذه المنح هم:

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| ١- أيمن إسكندر يوسف   | ٦- أحمد محمد زايد    |
| ٢- ليلى عيسى الزبا    | ٧- أكرم عباس المقطري |
| ٣- محيد هاشم شهادات   | ٨- بسام أحمد الصبري  |
| ٤- محمد علي عبدالعزيز | ٩- محمد حسين الحمادي |
| ٥- وفاق سعيد الشيباني | ١٠- يحيى مطهر الشامي |

وعليه فإن اللجنة تعذر للأخوة الطلاب الذين لم يحالفهم الحظ لأن المقاعد محدودة.

تمنية للجميع التوفيق والنجاح



## Tolerance, Independent Judiciary and True Environment of Free Press: All What Matters!

Last Thursday, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) hosted a gathering of the Yemeni journalists to denounce the verdict of the court against Jamal Amer and the Al-Wahdai newspaper. The meeting is a good step for journalists to come together and defend the oppression of their noble mission. The participants highlighted many important issues concerning the free press drive in the country. The meeting is a civilized way to express protest against the continuous flagrant throttling of the press. Let me here try to show where the free press problem lies.

### 1-Tolerance

I believe that the concept of tolerance is one of the most important ingredients of a true democracy. It refers to the readiness of accepting the other's views and opinions. It also shows an open spirit to accept criticism. However, our rulers are still obsessed with the arch concept of totalitarian mentality which no longer has a room in our time. That is, they have not got along with this civilized democratic value. They do not have an open spirit that is ready to admit mistakes and thus make corrections. Usually, honest civil servants never feel afraid of criticism. But most of our officials are corrupt and therefore, they feel afraid of the press and consider journalists their enemies. Yes folks, some of our officials have not yet comprehended that tolerance and transparency are vital for any democracy to flourish and go ahead. In a democracy there is nothing under the table; everything is played openly. Therefore, they should understand that democracy is not merely a slogan. It is rather a practice on the ground. We can never claim to be democratic as long as we deem the difference of opinions breeds enmity and hostility. We should wake up and understand this is the time in which the free expression can no longer be oppressed and that the free press drive can never be stopped or even slowed down since it has become a global value.

### 2- Independent Judiciary

It is also civilized that the government resorts to the court to sort out its problems with the press. However, this is not enough if the whole fabric of the judicial system is not independent and fair since it is the only instrument that can set justice to the oppressed and afflicted in the society. In other words, unless the judiciary is independent, resorting to the court becomes futile. It is a waste of time and effort, isn't it? Judges do not abide by the law. They are influenced by political considerations. So, the lack of independent judiciary affects not only journalists but also every individual in the society. In this case, people take the law into their hands as it is not respected by the judges themselves, its real protectors. This is why the crime ratio is growing high dramatically. People either murder, blunder or kidnap to blackmail the government which has been so lenient with the trouble-makers and law breakers. This state of powerlessness of the state has embarrassed it a lot before its friends and virtually hit the economy of the country. The latest incident is the kidnapping of the Polish Ambassador last Wednesday. The government is seen to show muscles only against journalists.

### 3- True Environment of Free Press

Free media is also one of the indispensable elements of democracy. A society can never be democratic without functioning free press. Journalists are occasionally beat up and harassed because the current Law of Press and Publication does not grant them any legal power. The law should be amended so that journalists get their legal privileges that honor their profession. They also have to have a law that organizes their profession. This is because they are now prosecuted not in accordance with the Law No. 25 of 1990 for Press and Publication but according to the Penal Code which deems them criminals. What is happening these days to Jamal Amer is a vivid example of the oppression against the existence of a true environment of free press.

Journalists are not also respected by the policemen and military officers. They are deemed as spies and troublemakers and are even looked down upon. The journalist's mission is to search for the truth and make it reach the public. We still remember what happened to Princess Diana. She died in an accident in which she was pursued by journalist. The police did not interfere and stopped the journalists. They honor their the position of journalists. But in Yemen it is entirely different. Journalists are beat up and harassed sometimes because of trying to take photos for a particular incident.

Let me tell you what happened to me last week. I went to report the murder incident of the Dutch expert at the Small Enterprises Development Project. I could reach the murder place. I tried to take a photo for the murdered but I was not allowed by the policemen. I tried to convince them that I am a journalist and that is my job but in vain. One of the soldiers tried to confiscate my camera. Furthermore, their officer told them to kick me out not only of the room but also of the whole premises of the project. Not only that, one of the soldiers started abusing me telling his friends to throw me off the building. Accordingly, I left the place asking myself in soliloquy about what free press we are claiming to have. The press can not work well if the environment of free press is not available.

As policemen in charge of prisons should be given training courses about how to deal with prisoners, I think all policemen should also be given courses about how to respect journalists. But then, I told myself if the big guys themselves do not have this virtue, how the ordinary policemen can have it. In conclusion, journalists will not be able to do their job properly well as long as tolerance, independent judiciary and true environment of free press are available. These three elements are essential parts of any prosperous democratic system, aren't they.

<p>أجمل التهاني والتبريكات للأئمة</p> <p><b>نادي يحيى قنبر</b></p> <p>بمناسبة حصولها على تقدير امتياز للمرة السابعة على التوالي في قسم اللغة الانجليزية - كلية الآداب، جامعة تعز المهنؤون،</p> <p>الاستاذ / يحيى قنبر، أحمد قنبر، فؤاد قنبر، د. محمد النهاري، محمد حاتم القاضي، وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء</p>	<p>شركة شمر للاستثمارات السياحية والتجارية المحدودة</p> <p>تهنئ الأستاذ</p> <p><b>محمد العربي</b></p> <p>المدير السياحي للشركة ومدير فندق شمر السياحي</p> <p>بمناسبة خطوبته على الأئمة</p> <p><b>Liza Bidouet</b></p> <p>الف مبروك وكذلك بمناسبة عيد ميلاده المصادف العاشر من مارس.</p>
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# The Geological Research History Work in the Republic of Yemen (1947-1967)

By: **Mohammed Darsi\***

## ABSTRACT:

This paper is the first paper, which discusses the geological research history work in the Republic of Yemen during the period from 1947 to 1967. And it's also the second paper after my first paper on the period from 1852 to 1946 (See Yemen Times newspaper. Issue 2-January 10th through January 16 2000, Vol. IX, Culture Page). The geological research work history in the Republic of Yemen is a brief rich culture history, included information about the first and most famous Geologists.

## INTRODUCTION :

It is known that rich culture history is largely depended upon written documents, whereas the geological research history work story must be inferred from the careful study. Based on variably detailed information of hundreds publications references. I decided to divided the geological research history work in the Republic of Yemen to four stages:

First Stage: 1852-1901. I gave it two new names:

First name: The First Systematic Geological Observation Stage.

Second name: Carter's Stage.

Second Stage: 1902-1946. I gave it the following name:

The Hinterland Studies Stage.

Third Stage: 1947-1967.

Fourth stage: 1968 - until today

Third Stage: 1947-1967

This Stage must started after World War II (at the end of the first half of the twentieth century) till after independent of the two parts (North and South) of the Republic of Yemen. This Third Stage I gave it two new names:

First name: The First systematic more detailed Stratigraphic and Geological Studies Stage.

Second name: Beydoun, Z.R., 's Stage. BEYDOUN, Z. R., late 1953

One of the most famous geologists gave his time and life on studying the geology of Yemen. He died on 7 March 1998 in Beirut, at age of seventy-three. We (Yemeni Geologists) are highly and greatly appreciated him as brilliant mind, wrote many publication about Yemen, which distinguished services to geological exploration and research. THE MEN OF THIS STAGE WERE:

1. Thesiger, W., 1947. Wrote about his Journey to the Southern Arabia and the Empty Quarter.

2. Wetzel, R., 1947 - 48. The First field-based geological mapping and stratigraphic description was started by 3. Morton, D.M., 1948 - 50. He with Wetzel, R. continued the same work, which was started by Wetzel, R., when they worked for the Iraq Petroleum Company and Associated Companies (IPC). Their work concentrated mainly on the southern part of Mahra with some work near Mukalla, in Wadi Hadramaut and they also carried out work on the salt dome of Bayhan.

4. Heybroek, 1950. Made reconnaissance trips in the Shuqra and Dathina areas and also the area between Aden and Dhala.

5. Bagnold, R.A., 1951. Studied the Sand Formation in Southern Arabia.

6. Jaques, E. H., 1952. Made a reconnaissance survey mainly in the Western Aden Protectorate (former South Yemen), devoting considerable attention to economic mineral occurrences and wrote notes to accompany the Provisional Geological Map of the Western Aden Protectorate.

7. Bunker, D.G., 1953 Wrote about the southwest Borderlands of Rub al Khali.

8. Beydoun, Z.R., 1953. He is The Man of this stage.

9. Hudson, R.G.S., 1954. Published Notes on Jurassic stromatopora from southern Arabia.

10. Lipparini, T., 1954. Wrote about the geology of the South Western Arabia.

11. Geukens, F., 1955. Travelled much (former North Yemen) for the United Nations Development Programs and augmented the lithostratigraphic data obtained by Lamare and his colleagues. In 1960, wrote about Yemen geology. And in 1966, wrote a Professor Paper on the Geology of the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen.

12. Greenwood, J.E.G.W., 1958. Carried out field investigations and photogeological mapping, mainly on basement rocks in the western part of then Aden Protectorate (former South Yemen). This work has been published as two geological map sheets on 1:250,000 scale (1967).

13. Schott, W., 1960. Provided an additional observations, but of more local nature on the lithology of the strati-

graphic succession, together with paleontological / palynological age dating in connection, generally with economic objectives, for the former North Yemen, which limits for the still semi-formal nomenclature utilized there.

14. Bleackley, D., 1961. He and Greenwood supplemented field work started by Greenwood on 1958 and after that they wrote a Professor Paper on the Geology of the Arabian Peninsula, Aden Protectorate (1967).

15.16. Irving, A. and Tarling, T. H., 1961. They made a study on the Palaeomagnetism of the Aden Volcanoes.

17.18. Gass, I.G. and Mallick, D.I.J., 1966. Published a study on the Acid volcanism on the South Arabian coast.

19. Bichan, H.R., 1967. He is the first one, who concentrated his study principally on the basement rocks of the Socotra archipelago, which were reported on by him and Beydoun, Z.R., 1970.

**CONCLUSIONS :**

1. On The First Stage (1852-1901), geological observations were made by various writers, (Burr F., 1844; Blanford, W.T., 1869; Mallet, F.R., 1871; Miles, S. B. & Munzinger, Werner, M., 1871; McMahon, C.A., 1883), who published their works mostly on the lavas of Aden, but Carter, H.J., 1852 was the first man and the lonely man of this stage, who was interested in Yemen and especially in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula Coast and who made the first systematic account of observations at variety of selected locations along the south Arabian coast from Muscat to Aden. So I gave This First Stage, two new names:

First name: The First Systematic Geological Observation Stage.

Second name: Carter's Stage.

2. On The Second Stage (1902-1946). It was known, it was not till the early part of twentieth century, that some geological exploration of the hinterland made by various writers, so I gave The Second Stage, the following name: The Hinterland Studies Stage.

3. On The First stage (The First Systematic Geological Observation Stage or CARTER, H.J., Stage.) and The Second Stage (The Hinterland Studies Stage) early maps were based on photographs and on isolated visits,

generally to the coastal region so Geologic and stratigraphic relations in the region are complex and it must be realized that it was not until after The Second Stage (The Hinterland Studies Stage), that it was possible to compile of the region.

4. On The Third Stage (1947-1967), More regional, extensive and relatively detailed investigations have taken place covering most aspects of geological studies, where a great number of stratigraphic sections were measured and a considerable number of field samples collected for palaeontological and microfacies study and geological and photogeological mapping. So, I gave The Third Stage two new names:

First name: The First systematic more detailed Stratigraphic and Geological Studies Stage.

Second name: Beydoun, Z.R., 's Stage.

5. I want to draw (The Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources in the Republic of Yemen. Researchers and all who are interested in this field) their attention on the following Important Matter:

If we, really want The Geological Research History

Work in the Republic of Yemen to be easy to read and to understand, we must, make a restudy on the history of the Exploration Activities, a restudy on the history of Companies 's Work and a restudy on the history of Scientific Expedition Work in the Republic of Yemen. And. This entire things in accordance to my classification and division to the Geological Research History Work in the

Republic of Yemen to four stages. For Example:

It is known that, Egyptian University sent the First Scientific Expedition to Southwest Arabia in 1937. So, in accordance to my classification and division to the Geological Research History Work in the Republic of Yemen to four stages, it would be easy to say, that was happened on the Second Stage or on the Hinterland Studies Stage.

6. This study led to significant improvement in imaging about the geological research history in the Republic of Yemen, particularly about the first and the most famous geologists, who worked visits, and this has been key to understanding.

7. It is broad in scope so as to serve both the beginning geology major and the under graduate seeking to learn about or to make him read about the geological research history work in Yemen.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to extend my thanks to the Yemeni Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources (MOMR) and also to the

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## \*ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mohammed Darsi Abdulrahman Nedham graduated from the Russian among People Friendship University in 1991 as a Petroleum Engineer, Geologist (M.S. degree). He began his professional career by working as petroleum engineer, geologist in the Petroleum Exploration and Production Board (Aden Branch). His scientific interest is concentrated on the Geological Research History Work. Earth science software application and basin-modeling problems.

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## A GLIMPSE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN SOUTHERN PART OF THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN



**Rahmat Elahi**  
Archaeologist

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

A study of the period of history before Islam in South Arabia has for many years relied on the interpretation of the carved inscriptions recorded by early travellers. There have also been allusions to the pre-Islamic period in the accounts of later historian and in the Holy Quran. The trading fleets of Solomon are mentioned in the Bible, where his meeting with the Queen of SHEBA is also described, when she visited Jerusalem "With a very great company, and camels that bare spices, and gold in abundance, and precious stones". It was, however, Their rich merchandise that first brought the ancient south Arabian kingdoms to the notice of the outside world.

The overland Routes may have come into use when the camel was first employed as a beast of burden, probably about the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C., when it was possible for Camel Caravans to Carry merchandise from the Indian Ocean as far as Gaza on the Mediterranean. They became the middlemen in a great commercial industry, which attracted the attention of the civilizations from the Euphrates to the Nile, and Cultural influence from passing down the trade routes resulted in the growth of fine cities and temples, and vast irrigation schemes to help feed the expanding population. Thus the history

of the kingdoms and supporting tribes mentioned in the Inscriptions is most often one of conflict and conquest. Surprisingly, The Continual struggle for ascendancy does not appear to have affected trade, and this seems to indicate the existence of a very stable organization.

### INSCRIPTIONS REVEALED THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

Inscriptions in South Arabian epigraph has increased our knowledge by revealing the names of the ancient kingdoms and tribes, the relationship of relaying families, the deities worshiped and the prevailing customs, but the chronology (giving dates) of events often remains amateur for conjecture; but the work of Archaeologists and historians often considerably hoped when an external event with a verified date coincides with an internal incident. Such was the visit of the Roman legion in 24 B.C. which at the command of Augustus, penetrated the fabled southern kingdoms where, strobic states, Illusory defected Mariaba ( Marib) against the soldiers of aelius Gallus. Ilasaros has since been Identified as IlSarah Yahdud, King of Saba and Dhuraydan, whose name appears in inscriptions discovered at Marib (Mariaba). Similarly, the certain dating of the periplus will do much to settle the disputed chronology of south Arabian dynasties by fixing a date for the regions of Charibael, king of the Sabaens and Homerites, and of Eleazos, king of the country of sabbatha. This these Monarchs are mentioned in both

manuscript and they have been identified with Karib'il Water Yuhanim, king of Saba and Dhu-Raydan, and Ilazz Yalut II, king of the Hadramaut.

### Important Excavations at sites in south Arabian.

Excavations at sites in South Arabia have added our knowledge and understanding of the past. C. Rathjens, who excavated the temple at Huqqa, north of Sana'a in the Yemen, in 1932. G. Caton Thompson, who excavated the Moon Temple and Tombs at Hureidah, in the Hadramaut, in 1937 and the American Foundation for the study of Man, which in 1950-2 excavated a portion of Timna 'in Beihan, the ancient capital of the kingdom of Qataban, together with several other nearby sites. The results of such excavations have done much to enlighten us regarding the way of life in ancient south Arabia. We know the types of pottery vessels used for cooking and drinking, the methods of constructing roads, mountain passes and dwellings, and the design of public and private buildings. It has been possible to trace vast irrigation systems and to study the development of works of art in bronze and in precious metals and stones, and to relate the design motifs and architectural features. Many of the architectural refinements and the treated from of Construction reflect. Mediterranean Workmanship and the later artistry as portrayed by religious carvings, votive offerings, and so on, mirrors unmistakable hellenistic or Roman originals.

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Ministry of Planning and Development with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) are inviting applications for the following post in its Community-Based Regional Development:

**Bilingual Secretary - Ghayl Bin Yamin - Hadhramout - SL - 13.38**

**This position is open to Yemeni Nationals Only**

### Brief Description

Community-Based Regional Development is one of the four major components of the Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation Program. The aim of the regional Development is to assist local communities in five selected regions in Yemen, to participate in setting-up participatory development institutional framework as a mean of poverty alleviation within the communities. Moreover, communities will be capacitated to undertake planning, implementation and set-up of development funds within their regions.

Interested candidates are requested to contact Community-Based Regional Development office for Poverty Alleviation Program, Sana'a **for details and Job Descriptions of the posts.** Applications should indicate post title and sub-line with detailed Curriculum Vitae, and to be forwarded to:

**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAM**

**Amman St., Opposite Al-Mankel Restaurant**

**Bldg. next to Al-Nahdha School**

**Sana'a**

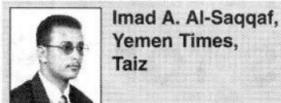
**Tel: 206 271, or 216 222**

**Fax: 400 384, 209 487**

Applications should be received **not later than 15 March 2000.**

Applications received after this date will not be considered. Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply and acknowledgment will only be sent to short listed applicants meeting the requirements of the post.

# Conjuration In The Modern Age?



Imad A. Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times, Taiz

Are there still people in the 21st century who do not believe in scientific facts and ignore what has been achieved in science in its various domains? If not what, then, makes people turn their faces away from the science of medicine and opt for charlatans to seek help in different complicated matters? Some seek cure for themselves or their relatives, others for their animals and others even visit the graves of their dead relatives with the hope of getting some supernatural balm. This is why many tombs have become hearthstones for many people who celebrate the birthday or death day of those departed souls. Such people do not only ignore science of medicine but also their religious commandments. Instead of praying to Allah for redressal, they, instead, seek the help of the dead.

Some people firmly believe that souls of well-known people, usually of religious leaders, visit them in their sleep and give guidance on different complex matters. Such stories are believed by many people who blindly carry out what is said to be instructed by those souls.

Other people believe that they can reach a state of transcendental trance while worshipping Allah in the midst of beats of tambourine while shaking their bodies. To prove that they are in a state of transcendental meditation, they do monstrous things such as stabbing their bodies with sharp daggers or swords. Others claim that they can forecast what is in store for people and unfold their past history. So if a person loses something, such people can tell him/her where he/she can find what has been lost.

Such practices and beliefs adversely

affect people's belief in Allah. They are practiced openly, and sometimes clandestinely.

Some people practice magic claiming that it is an endowment by Allah, and that they can do it through reading some verses from the Holy Qur'an. Those people even claim that they can cure many kinds of diseases. It seems as if they are specialized in the field of medicine. All kinds of diseases are believed to be cured by such quacks by a touch or a blow of breath.

One wonders how those practices have spread, what helps them go on from generation to generation and where they are taught.

To find answers to such questions we decided to meet some of those people. In our first attempt we drove about 57 kilometers towards the west of Taiz, passing through Al-Nashamah from where we hired a guide to take us to Mrs. Nafhah, one such soothsayer. As we reached Nafhah's house in Al-Mawasit in the governorate of Taiz, we found a lot of people gathering at the house waiting for their turn to see her. We requested her family to allow us to meet her to know more about the history of conjuration, how she learned it and her ways of treatment. Unfortunately, she said that she did not want to meet any journalists nor she wanted her photos or words to appear in newspapers. We tried to make her family persuade her but to no avail. We did not like to go back empty-handed, so we turned to the people gathering there and had the following conversation with them.

We first met 25-year Aanis Yassin from Adeem Al-Hujariah, Taiz.

"Mrs. Nafhah enjoys a good reputation. She has been able to gain the respect of many people in a remarkably short time. Personally I have come to see her because I am sick. I have lost control on one of my arms because I mistakenly wore my sister's ring! I can move only

one arm. This is the reason behind what has happened. (he takes out from his pocket a silver ring decorated with a red pearl.) Some genies dwell inside this ring. Those genies were brought by the Sayyed, (a person who is believed to have control over genies is called Sayyed in Yemen) who asked patients to bring him rings in order to imprison genies inside. By this patients and genies become friends and genies never harm them patient any more. Moreover, imprisoned genies become servants so that whenever people need them to help they appear and do what is asked for. The ring belongs to my sister. She is a Sayyedah (feminine of Sayyed), too. I believe in destiny. I believe in Nafha's way of treatment, too. I know many people who have been treated by her. They are healthy now. When a patient comes to her she asks about his/her complaints. She does not forecast what is in store nor she recalls the past. Usually, she puts her hand on the patient's forehead. In the other hand she wears a ring and makes it face down. Then she starts reciting some verses from the Holy Qur'an. Possessed patients soon begin shaking on the ground. Others who are not possessed are not affected. Patients are usually prescribed with honey, black cumin and a certain kind of herbs.

I believe that Nafha has refused to meet you because she meets only the patients. She can write and read. I do not know how she has come to know all of this. Sure, it is an endowment by Allah. I have been to many doctors but to no avail. Here, I find benefit.

You can not meet my sister, too. She is holding a meeting with genies in her room. She can not go out. She has control over genies. They do whatever she wants, whenever she wants and how she wants."

We then met another person accompanying his wife. He refused to give his full name or to be photographed. His wife

would rather not mention any names.

Q: We have known you as a writer of multi-interest and aspects, could you tell us about your most important works in all these fields?

A: In short stories I have published a collection of 20 stories titled "Hamamah Fi Esh Sakr", a collection of 4 stories titled "Geya'a Fi Al-Janah", a collection of 21 stories "Wakoud Al-Sholah Al-Hamra'a", and "Al-Sawt Al-Mosafir", a collection of 15 stories. There are also other collections under publication which are: "Fi Sama'a Beirut Hamamah Hayerah" 20 stories, "Al-Shorouk" 15 stories, "Al-Kahl Al-A'ed" 15 stories and "Aboud bayn Al-Wiladah Wal Istishad" which talks about the Yemeni fighter against the British colonization in the south. In children's literature I published "A'an Al-Masrah Al-Yamani" and a play under the title "Al-Nahlah That Al-Tawk Al-

right ways to recover. One wonders how and when this woman learned what she is practicing. For the better part of her life she was unmarried and got married only a few years ago. Once, before she was married, she fell ill. Her family took her to Hagdah, a district about 15 kilometers to the West of Taiz, to a Sayyed who treats his patients in the same way. Nafhaa went there as a patient and came back as a Sayyadah! I am sure that she deceives people. If she believes in what she does, why then she refrained from meeting you."

Businessman Ahmad Mahmoud Al-Tamimi claimed to have visited many

Assyad (pl. of Sayyad). He said that such people were very persuasive. "They have a great ability to convince people by their persuasive and pliant words," he commented. "On the other hand they are very intelligent and clever, otherwise, they will not be able to allure and convince people of their claimed abilities," Al-Tamimi concluded.

Has the state of our medical services something to do with proliferation of such activities? Isn't the deplorable state of medical aid responsible for people turning their faces away from the science of medicine? The answer to those questions is: "may be." *to be continue*

## Abdulmajeed Al-Qadhi

### "As for the subject of my writings I always condemned the bad habits, traditions and circumstances"

Every human is born with a certain talent though not necessarily in art or in literature. This talent may develop along with the human's growth and his mental and intellectual development and may die in its bud. Environmental influences and readiness of one's own self are the factors of development of such talents. Yemen is full of such talents that have to be explored and nurtured. One of such Yemeni talents is the writer and story-teller Mr. Abdulmajeed Al-Qadhi. Rihwan Al-Saqqaf of Yemen Times interviewed him and filed the following.

Q: Could you give us an idea of what subject you follow in your writings?

A: In my opinion adhering to certain school of thought is no longer the necessary characteristic of success. We now live in an age where there are no restraints. I frankly say I am not the classic type who adheres to the sublimity and aristocracy of personalities and I don't believe in super natural things or the intervention of the Greek gods in our fates nor am I the romantic whose only concern is targeted to his subjectivity or flying in the sky with wings made of flowers. I am not also that naturalist carrying his camera to take a snapshot of a nude woman and present it as a picture of nature. I blend all these schools, deriving and producing out of them what is acceptable and approved by the mind, logic and beauty.

Q: What are the features of form and content in your writings?

A: In my opinion the features are only certain aspects of the picture or of the form or of the form and the content together. I usually write stories of both simple and compound plot. However, I do not let the events go in one straight direction leading to a flat ending. In addition, I use descriptive style, sometimes ironic and sometimes critical and in most cases tear-shedding description and I normally write tragedy and melodrama plays. As for the subject of my writings I always condemned the bad habits, traditions and circumstances and one can see that clear in my story "Geya'a Fi Al-Janah" which was released in 1965 as well as the other stories that came after.

Q: Beginning from your first plays and stories up to now, what is the development that you have noticed in your writings in terms of shape and subject? Tell us briefly of the order of this development and whether it was a result of suffering or education or both.

A: Literary works are just like industry. They usually begin with a try followed by an experiment then mastering. This latter is not the end of the line; it is just a starting-point for other better works. I always read all that is new and keep in developing my work and this has become my policy. For example, in stories I consider "Al-Dareeh Al-Mafkoud" a try, "Al-Moutalkah Al-Hayerah" an experiment and "Kabir Fi Al-Hadika" a masterpiece and all that is after a development.

Q: What is your most important play? And what peculiarity distinguishes it from your other plays?



A: Everyone of my plays has its own significance but the play (Bint Al-Dawdahi) has a special importance to me not just because it is realistic but also because it condemns the tyrant. In this story the tyrant is an old Sheikh who fell in love with Hayfa Bint Al-Dawdahi and tried to rape her. When he failed, he asked the hand of the girl from her father who refused his offer because she was almost engaged to her cousin Mujahid since their early childhood.

At this point, the Sheikh, who was powerful landlord, threatened to take away the lands from Al-Dawdahi and give them to others. So in fear of losing everything they yielded to his wish. Hayfa, in her turn, ran away to meet her cousin but unfortunately was followed by this Sheikh's men and was brought to the village to be punished for committing adultery. Of course, this was nothing but a lie and then Hayfa threw herself in a well and her cousin was put in jail. The Sheikh did not stop at this point but he also called singers and taught them foul songs about Bayt Al-Dawdahi which spread at their time.

Q: We can observe that portraying reality stands out in your plays production. However, the solutions you use at the end of your plays are not complete in the dialectic term. Is the reason behind this the conditions in which you wrote them or because what you write does not exceed realism?

A: As for realism, I have mentioned above that I try to tackle solve the society's tragedies, flaws and bad habits. These all are real events but still I use realism as a raw material and this yet requires purification, melting and hammering or otherwise it would not be the shape you can see now. I would not have had a main goal like fighting colonization for example. Contrary to what you said, my plays have all reasonable endings which are either dramatic or melodramatic

Q: In children's literature, could tell us briefly why did you decide to write in this difficult field?

A: Children's literature has drawn my attention because there was no one who had previously written in this field in Yemen. So I started writing in this field and as soon as I released my first work, the Ministry of Education in Aden-before the reunification-set a prize for those who would write children's stories. Many writers started writing children's stories and songs to participate in this competition and then some stopped and I

would rather not mention any names.

Q: We have known you as a writer of multi-interest and aspects, could you tell us about your most important works in all these fields?

A: In short stories I have published a collection of 20 stories titled "Hamamah Fi Esh Sakr", a collection of 4 stories titled "Geya'a Fi Al-Janah", a collection of 21 stories "Wakoud Al-Sholah Al-Hamra'a", and "Al-Sawt Al-Mosafir", a collection of 15 stories. There are also other collections under publication which are: "Fi Sama'a Beirut Hamamah Hayerah" 20 stories, "Al-Shorouk" 15 stories, "Al-Kahl Al-A'ed" 15 stories and "Aboud bayn Al-Wiladah Wal Istishad" which talks about the Yemeni fighter against the British colonization in the south. In children's literature I published "A'an Al-Masrah Al-Yamani" and a play under the title "Al-Nahlah That Al-Tawk Al-

Ahmar". I also published a youngsters' novel named "Sira'a Fi Jazeera Al-Thahab". As for plays, I wrote for TV 32 plays which were all screened since the 60s except for "Bidayah Wa Nihayah", Dima'a Wa Domo'o", "Hayfa'a", "Koblat Al-E'tiraf" and "Bariseyah Min Dar Sa'ad". In addition, I released two books titled "Bint Al-Dawdahi" and "Al-Fata Mansour Al-Mansour". As for the field of study I published a book on the study of Children's literature named "Adb Al-Tifl Min Ayn Wa Ela Ayn" and this was praised by many foreign journalists. Moreover, I wrote about the armed fighting in two books titled "Wamathat Min Nar" and "Al-Mantikah Al-Wosta Rafth Wa Thawrah". Finally, I still have a large number of short stories which I hope would attract the attention of the concerned authorities to be published.

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# U.S. Department of State

## Yemen Report on Human Rights Practices for 1999

The Republic of Yemen, comprising the former (northern) Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) and (southern) People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY), was proclaimed in 1990. Following a brief but bloody civil war in mid-1994, the country was reunified under the Sana'a-based government. Ali Abdullah Saleh is the President and leader of the General People's Congress (GPC). He was elected by the legislature to a 5-year term in 1994, and was elected to another 5-year term in the country's first nation-wide direct presidential election in September, winning 96.3 percent of the vote. The Constitution provides that the President be elected by popular vote from at least two candidates endorsed by Parliament, and the election was generally free and fair; however, there were some problems, including the lack of a credible voter registration list. In addition the President was not opposed by a truly competitive candidate because the candidate selected by the leftist opposition did not receive the minimum number of votes required to run from the GPC-dominated Parliament (the other opposition party chose not to run its own candidate, despite its seats in Parliament). The President's sole opponent was a member of the GPC.

The first Parliament elected by universal adult suffrage was convened in 1993. Parliamentary elections were held again in 1997, with the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), formerly the main party of the PDRY and a previous coalition partner of the GPC, leading an opposition boycott. The GPC won an absolute majority in the 1997 Parliament, with Islah the only other major party represented. International observers judged the elections as reasonably free and fair, while noting some problems with the voting. The Parliament is not yet an effective counterweight to executive authority, although it increasingly demonstrates independence from the Government. Real political power rests with the executive branch, particularly the President. The judiciary is nominally independent, but is weak and severely hampered by corruption, executive branch interference, and the frequent failure of the authorities to enforce judgments.

The primary state security apparatus is the Political Security Organization (PSO), which reports directly to the President. It is independent of the Ministry of Interior. The Criminal Investigative Department (CID) of the police conducts most criminal investigations and makes most arrests.

The Central Security Organization (CSO), a part of the Ministry of Interior, maintains a paramilitary force. The civilian authorities do not maintain effective control of the security forces.

Members of the security forces, particularly the PSO, committed numerous, serious human rights abuses.

Yemen is a very poor country, and over 40 percent of the population live in poverty. Its embryonic market-based economy, despite a major economic reform program, remains impeded by excessive government interference and endemic corruption. Its annual per capita gross national product (GNP) fell from \$325 in 1997 to \$260 in 1998, but rose to \$275 in 1999. Agriculture accounts for approximately 22 percent of GNP, industry for approximately 27 percent, and services for approximately 51 percent. Oil is the primary source of foreign exchange. Other exports include fish, agricultural products, cotton, and coffee. Remittances from citizens working abroad (primarily in Saudi Arabia) are also important. Remittances were reduced sharply after Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States expelled up to 850,000 Yemeni workers during the Gulf War because of the Government's lack of support for the U.N. coalition. The Gulf states also suspended most assistance programs, and much Western aid was

reduced. Foreign aid has begun to reemerge as an importance source of income. The unemployment rate is estimated at 40 percent, and is highest in the southern governorates, where, prior to unity, most adults were employed by the PDRY Government.

The Government's human rights record continues to be poor. There are significant limitations on citizens' right to change their government. There were instances of extrajudicial killing by some members of the security forces. Members of the security forces tortured and otherwise abused persons, and continued to arrest and to detain citizens arbitrarily, especially oppositionists in the south and other persons regarded as "secessionists." Prison conditions are poor and some detainees were held in private prisons not authorized by the Government. PSO officers have broad discretion over perceived national security issues. Despite constitutional constraints, they routinely monitor citizens' activities and search their homes, detain citizens for questioning, and mistreat detainees. In fact security forces sometimes countermand orders from the President and the Interior Ministry. The Government forces accountable for abuses, although it investigated three security officers, subsequently convicted them of torturing a prisoner to death, fired them from their positions, and sentenced them to prison.

Prolonged pretrial detention is a serious problem, and judicial corruption, inefficiency, and executive interference undermine due process. The Government continued to implement a comprehensive, long-term program for judicial reform, but its effect is not yet clear. The Constitution limits freedom of speech and of the press, and the Government frequently harassed, intimidated, and detained journalists. Journalists practice self-censorship. The Government at times limits freedom of assembly. The Government imposes some restrictions on freedom of religion. There were some limits on freedom of movement. Violence and discrimination against women are problems. Female genital mutilation is practiced on a limited scale, primarily along the coastal areas of the Red Sea. Although the practice is discouraged publicly, the authorities do not prohibit it. Discrimination against the dis-

**"Prolonged pretrial detention is a serious problem, and judicial corruption, inefficiency, & executive interference undermine due process."**

abled and racial and ethnic minorities, and to a lesser extent, religious minorities, is a problem. The Government influences labor unions. Child labor is a problem.

However, the Government continued to take some steps to address human rights problems. These steps included holding of the country's first direct presidential election, implementing limited political and legal reforms, displaying official receptiveness to and support for donor-funded democracy and human rights programs, and convicting three security officials for human rights abuses. In June the Government hosted the first Emerging Democracies Forum, a major international conference of 16 democratizing countries.

At the invitation of the authorities, delegations from the U.N. Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) and Amnesty International (AI) visited Yemen in 1998 to observe the human rights situation and make recommendations. One

NGO, Penal Reform International (PRI), conducted a series of prison reform-related events from September 1998 to February. The Government continued to implement a comprehensive, long-term program for judicial reform.

A campaign of bombings—the devices sometimes were little more than noise bombs—continued throughout the year, particularly in the southern governorates, although at a far lower rate than in previous years. Observers attribute the bombings to tribal disputes, religious extremists, and antigovernment political groups based in the country and abroad.

### RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

#### SECTION I. RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING FREEDOM FROM:

##### a. Political and Other Extrajudicial Killing

Security forces committed a number of extrajudicial killings. There were no reports that security forces killed or injured persons at checkpoints during the year, as had been reported in previous years. In March forces from the paramilitary police Central Security Unit (CSU) under the command of Ahmed Nasser al-Dahiri used excessive force when they intervened to settle a land dispute in the village of Sa'eed in Al-Baida governorate. The incident began after local police intervened on behalf of one party and a police officer was killed. The police claim that the officer was killed by villagers; the villagers claim that he was a victim of the police's random firing into the crowd. Later that day, heavily armed CSU reinforcements arrived and occupied the village for 8 days (see Section 1.e.).

There was credible evidence that security forces killed a prisoner in detention in late 1997 or early 1998. Wadia al-Shaibani, a 22-year-old arrested in connection with the July 1997 bombings in Aden, apparently died after suffering a beating at the Soleyban police facility in Aden. Government authorities declined to investigate; they claimed that al-Shaibani committed suicide. The 1996 case of a YSP activist who died in police custody remained unresolved. The youth had been arrested following his participation in a peaceful demonstration in Mukallah. No member of the security forces has been charged in connection with his death. The Human Rights Committee of the Consultative Council (an advisory board to the President) in 1998 investigated the death of Wadia al-Shaibani; however, it was unable to persuade the authorities to investigate the death or to bring charges against security officials.

In July a court in Tawila in Al-Mahweet governorate convicted the town's security chief and two police officers of first-degree murder for torturing to death a teenager taken into their custody on theft charges in March. All three officials were fired. The security chief was sentenced to 10 years in jail and fined \$19,000 (YR 93,000,000) in compensation to the victim's family. The two police officers each were sentenced to 5 years in jail.

In June 1998, the President established a committee to study the phenomenon of revenge killings and to make recommendations on how to combat that problem. There was no news on the committee's work or its findings at year's end.

Tribal violence resulted in a number of killings and other abuses, and the Government's ability to control tribal elements remained limited. In addition tensions between the Government and various tribes periodically escalate into violent confrontations (see Section 5). Persons continued to be killed and injured in unexplained bombings and shootings that occurred during the year. In most cases, it was impossible to determine who was responsible for such acts or why they occurred, and there were no claims of responsibility.

The Government accused southern oppositionists of perpetrating some incidents, but the opposition denied any involvement. Some cases appeared to have criminal, religious, or political motives; others appeared to be cases of tribal revenge or land disputes. In August four persons were killed in a massive explosion, which destroyed Sana'a's largest supermarket.

On December 28, 1998, a group of 16 western tourists was kidnaped by terrorists in Abyan governorate near Mudiyah. The next day, government forces surrounded the area and attempted a rescue operation. Four of

**"Prison conditions are poor and do not meet internationally recognized minimum standards. Prisons are overcrowded, sanitary conditions are poor, and food and health care are inadequate."**

the hostages and three of the terrorists were killed. There were varying reports as to whether the government forces inadvertently killed any of the hostages in the crossfire. However, at least two apparently were shot deliberately by the kidnapers. The Government has stated that its decision to intervene was based on its belief that the hostages' lives were in immediate danger. The trial of the four surviving terrorists including Aden-Abyan Islamic Army (AAIA) leader Zein Al-Abidine Al-Mihdar (also known as Abu Hassan) began in January, and in May they were found guilty. Abu Hassan, who during his trial publicly and repeatedly admitted to all charges against him, a second Yemeni, Abdallah Al-Jundaydi, and a Tunisian were sentenced to death; the remaining defendant was sentenced to 20 year's imprisonment. The Tunisian's sentence was commuted to 20 years at the first appellate review, and the Supreme Court in October commuted Al-Jundaydi's sentence to 20 years as well. However, Abu Hassan's death sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court in October and approved by President Saleh. He was executed by firing squad on October 17. There were no allegations of lack of due process in Abu Hassan's trial or during the subsequent appeal process. The trial of seven additional AAIA members on terrorism charges began in October, but it had not concluded by year's end (see Section 1.e.).

Members of the security forces continue to arrest and detain citizens for varying periods of time without charge or notification to their families. Many detainees are associated with the YSP or other opposition parties and are accused of being "secessionists." Most such disappearances are temporary, and detainees typically are released within weeks or months. Following an April 1998 opposition demonstration in which two persons were killed, the authorities rounded up and detained a large number of demonstrators. The security forces released 14 of the detainees late in the next month. Other demonstrators were released soon thereafter. Later in 1998, the Hadramaut primary court announced that a trial would begin in the case of several oppositionists for their role in the violence, including Hassan Ba Oum, the leader of the YSP in Hadramaut governorate and head of the opposition coordination council; however, no trial was held. Ba Oum's whereabouts were unknown after the April 1998 demonstrations, and there were reports that he had disappeared during police custody. These reports turned out to be false. Ba Oum remained in seclusion for most of the year, communicating periodically with the press. In October he turned himself in to the Mukallah prosecutor's office. He was detained for questioning and released 5 days later without charges being placed against him.

In 1998 at the invitation of authorities, delegations from the UNHRC and AI visited the country to investigate the

whereabouts of persons who have "disappeared" in custody since unification. In 1997 the Government had promised AI that it would look into 27 cases of persons who died after they reportedly "disappeared" while in government custody during the violence associated with the civil war in 1994. In its follow-up report issued in July, AI criticized the Government for not keeping this promise. The Government claims that it responded to AI and passed the results of its investigations to the UNHRC, but that the information AI provided was inadequate for effective investigation and conclusive action. AI

publicly that torture takes place but has claimed that the use of torture is not government policy. Nevertheless, the Government has not taken effective steps to end the practice or to punish those who commit such abuses. A government prosecutor has cited illiteracy and lack of training among police and security officials as reasons for the persistence of the use of undue force in prisons.

In April Sana'a municipality police arrested Najj Saleh Al-Khowlani for his alleged involvement in a car theft ring. Al-Khowlani was held for 2 months, during which time he reportedly was tortured during regular nightly interrogation sessions in which prison officials would attempt to elicit a confession and extract information by burning him with a cigarette lighter. A medical report documented burn marks and other injuries on Al-Khowlani's body.

In July a court convicted three security force officials of murder for torturing a teenager to death (see Section 1.a.). The eight Britons and two Algerians arrested in December 1998 for possession of illegal weapons and explosives to allege that there were hundreds of unresolved disappearances dating from the pre-union period in the former PDRY, particularly from its 1986 civil war. The Government asserts that it cannot be held responsible for cases that took place within the former PDRY prior to unity; however, it has set up a computer database in the Ministry of Foreign Relations to track disappearances, including those dating from the preunity period.

Some tribes seek to bring their political and economic concerns to the attention of the Government by kidnaping and holding hostages. Victims include 21 foreign businessmen, diplomats, and tourists (12 men, 7 women, and 2 children), as well as much higher number citizens. The legal magazine al-Qistas, in a 1998 study that it conducted on 159 kidnappings perpetrated since unity, found that Sana'a, Marib, and Shabwa are the areas where a foreigner is most likely to be kidnaped. Kidnaping victims rarely are injured, and the authorities generally have been successful in obtaining the negotiated release of foreign hostages. However, kidnappings continue in part because the judiciary fails to impose sentences against accused kidnapers. Moreover, some families linked to kidnappings also are politically or tribally prominent or have links with such tribes. In most cases the kidnappings are settled out of court, with no suspects facing trial.

In August 1998, the Government issued by presidential decree a law that stipulated severe punishments up to and including capital punishment for persons involved in kidnaping, murder, and banditry. Persons charged with helping a fostate or gang in a kidnaping or theft by force face sentences of 10 to 15 years, subject to doubling if the instigators are military officers or otherwise employed by the state. The law was implemented for the first time in Taiz in late 1998, when a man was tried under the new law, convicted, and executed.

In October the Government announced the establishment of a special court in Sana'a and a Special Prosecutor to investigate and quickly try those accused of kidnaping foreigners, sabotaging oil pipelines, "carjacking," and other acts of sabotage.

**c. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**

The Constitution is ambiguous on its prohibition of cruel or inhuman punishment; however, members of the security forces tortured and otherwise abused persons in detention. Arresting authorities are known to use force during interrogations, especially against those arrested for violent crimes. Detainees sometimes are confined in leg-irons and shackles, despite the passage of a law in 1998 outlawing this practice.

The Government has acknowledged

During this period, they evicted residents from their homes, looted villagers' property and livestock, vandalized the village school and mosque, and filled a small pond that was the village's only source of drinking water with rocks. Many villagers, including the other party to the land dispute, fled into the mountains. CSU officers detained eight villagers until residents that they considered fugitives from justice surrendered.

Police also used excessive force and abused their authority in other instances. In May two soldiers were killed and several armed citizens were injured in 2 days of intense fighting between security personnel and citizens in the village of Quradah in Taiz governorate. The confrontation began when armed villagers attempted forcibly to prevent the carrying out of orders reportedly given by Colonel Abdullah Al-Qadhi, commander of the Taiz military headquarters, that well water in Quradah be shared with citizens in the neighboring village of Al-Marzah. Al-Qadhi had no jurisdiction over water allocation, which is a civil matter. Security personnel used artillery, bazookas, and heavy battle equipment to put down the armed protest.

The Constitution may be interpreted as permitting amputations in accordance with Shari'a (Islamic law). There have been no reports of amputations since 1991. However, a small number of persons who have been found guilty of theft and sentenced to amputation remain in jail awaiting the implementation of their sentences. The Shari'a-based law permits physical punishment such as flogging for minor crimes (for example, the penalty for the consumption of alcohol is 80 lashes). The law also provides for the ritual display in public of the bodies of executed criminals. The ostensible purpose of this practice is to demonstrate to the families of victims that justice has been served and to prevent blood feuds between tribes. In August the bodies of two men executed for raping and then murdering an 11-year-old boy were displayed publicly in Dhamar governorate.

Prison conditions are poor and do not meet internationally recognized minimum standards. Prisons are overcrowded, sanitary conditions are poor, and food and health care are inadequate. Inmates depend on relatives for food and medicine. Many inmates lack mattresses or bedding. Prison authorities often exact money from prisoners and release prisoners until family members pay a bribe. Tribal leaders misuse the prison system by placing "problem" tribesmen in jail, either to punish them for noncriminal indiscretions or to protect them from retaliation or violence motivated by revenge. Refugees, persons with mental problems, and illegal immigrants sometimes are arrested without charge and placed in prisons alongside criminals. Conditions are equally poor in women's prisons, where children are likely to be incarcerated along with their mothers. By custom and preference, babies born in prison generally

remain in prison with their mothers. The law requires male members of the families of female prisoners to arrange their release; however, female prisoners regularly are held in jail past the expiration of their sentences because their male relatives refuse to authorize their release due to the shame associated with their alleged behavior. Female prisoners sometimes are subjected to sexual harassment and violent interrogation by male police and prison officials. In April the chairman of Sana'a governorate's prosecutor's office, Salem Ahmed Al-Shaiba, inspected several illegal prisons operated by the Sana'a governor's office and sent his findings to the Attorney General. According to Al-Shaiba's findings, 19 individuals had been imprisoned beyond their legal sentence; several prisoners were being detained in handcuffs illegally; numerous individuals were being detained illegally in connection with civil or commercial cases or because they had disobeyed a tribal sheikh; and 43 persons from 1 region (Shibam Al-Gharas) were being detained on the same charge (shooting at a truck). Al-Shaiba informed the Attorney General that he had requested then-Sana'a governor Najj Al-Sufi to release the illegally imprisoned individuals, but that the governor had taken no action. In July Al-Shaiba reported being harassed by then-governor Al-Sufi. The Attorney General took no action on the findings of the inspection report. Al-Shaiba took a voluntary leave of absence from his post and subsequently was transferred to the Judicial Inspection Unit in the Attorney General's office. Governor Al-Sufi was relieved of his post in October (see Section 1.e.).

The Government participated in a series of events from September 1998 to February that were conducted by Penal Reform International (PRI), with support from a foreign embassy and the Taiz-based Human Rights Information and Training Center. These included a 2-day seminar on penal reform and a week-long prison management training session in which officials from five prisons participated. The final event of the program, a wrap-up session that would have brought the participants together to compare notes and evaluate progress, could not take place because of unspecified problems that arose between the Government and PRI. However, donor-government relations on prison reform remain good. The Ministry of Interior has expressed interest in further cooperation but has indicated a preference for working with experts with direct experience in prison management.

The Government tightly controls access to detention facilities by non-governmental organizations (NGO's), although it sometimes permits local and international human rights monitors access to persons accused of crimes. The PSO also does not permit access to its detention centers. The Government claims that it does not hold political prisoners.

Early in the year, the Supreme National Committee for Human Rights visited Sana'a a central prison and, after finding that minors were being incarcerated with adults, arranged for them to be incarcerated separately in two age groups, 11 to 14 years of age and 15 to 18 years of age. In October 50 juvenile inmates were moved from the prison to an orphanage run by the Ministry of Social Affairs where they are to attend school and participate in other activities (see Sections 4 and 5). The Committee also initiated a project to build, with the support of local businessmen, the country's first youth reformatory (see Section 4).

The Human Rights Committee of the Consultative Council continued to conduct spot checks of prisons and to arrange for the expeditious release of persons held improperly.

**d. Arbitrary Arrest, Detention, or Exile**

The law provides due process safeguards; however, security forces arbitrarily arrest and detain persons. Enforcement of the law is irregular and in some cases nonexistent, particularly in cases involving security offenses. According to the law, detainees must be arraigned within 24 hours of arrest or be released. The judge or prosecu-

ing attorney must inform the accused of the basis for the arrest and decide whether detention is required. In no case may a detainee be held longer than 7 days without a court order. Despite these constitutional and other legal provisions, arbitrary arrest and prolonged detention without charge are common practices.

During the year, there was a significant increase in the number of incidents in which journalists were detained briefly for questioning concerning articles that they wrote that were critical of the Government or that the Government considered sensitive (see Section 2.a.). The law provides detainees with the right to inform their families of their arrests and to decline to answer questions without an attorney present. There are provisions for bail. In practice many authorities abide by these provisions only if bribed. Defense lawyers claimed that the eight Britons and two Algerians arrested in December 1998 for possessing illegal weapons and explosives and conspiring to commit terrorist acts in Aden (see Section 1.e.) were denied their right to legal counsel. They also contended that defense doctors were not allowed to examine their clients in order to investigate allegations of torture and sexual abuse until several months later. The trial concluded in August, although according to the law, the violation of the right to counsel should have suspended the case. Citizens regularly complained that security officials did not observe due process procedures when arresting and detaining suspects, particularly those accused of involvement in the bombings and explosions that continued to occur in the south during the year. Security forces sometimes detained demonstrators (see Section 2.b.).

In August then-governor of Sana'a Najj al-Sufi reportedly ordered the arrest of Hafed Fadhl, a lawyer representing the opposing party in a case involving one of the governor's friends, to the governorate's illegal jail, where he was assaulted by Al-Sufi and detained for the rest of the day. In September governor Al-Sufi detained Judge Mohammed Saad Amer, a member of the Sana'a appeals court, for 2 days. Governor Al-Sufi was relieved of his post in October, but no legal action was taken against him. Many litigants maintain, and the Government acknowledges, that a judge's social ties and susceptibility to bribery sometimes have greater influence on the verdict than the law or the facts of the case. Many judges are poorly trained, and some closely associated with the Government often render decisions favorable to it. The judiciary is hampered further by the Government's frequent reluctance to enforce judgments. There are five types of courts: criminal; civil (for example, divorce and inheritance); administrative; commercial; and military.

All courts are governed by Shari'a. There are no jury trials under Shari'a. Criminal cases are adjudicated by a judge who plays an active role in questioning witnesses and the accused. By law the Government must provide attorneys for indigent defendants. However, in practice this never occurs; neither the Criminal Code nor the judicial budget allows for defense attorneys.

By law prosecutors are a part of the judiciary and independent of the Government. However, in practice prosecutors look upon themselves as an extension of the police. They do not receive the normal judicial training that judges do, nor do they practice their legal obligation to penalize police who delay reporting arrests and detentions.

Defense attorneys are allowed to counsel their clients, address the court, and examine witnesses. Defendants, including those in commercial courts, have the right to appeal their sentences. Trials are public. However, all courts may conduct closed sessions "for reasons of public security or morals." Foreign litigants in commercial disputes have complained of biased rulings. However, some foreign companies have won cases against local defendants and seen the decisions enforced.

In addition to regular courts, the law permits a system of tribal adjudication. The results of such mediation carry the same weight as court judgments. Persons jailed under the tribal system usually are not charged formally with a crime.

Prior to unification, approximately half of the judges working in southern Yemen were women. However, after the 1994 civil war, conservative leaders of the judiciary reassigned many southern female judges to administrative or clerical duties. Although two female judges continue to practice in Aden, there are no female judges in northern courts.

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against the Government. For example there are credible reports that during the year that the presidential appointee, then-governor of Sana'a, Najj al-Sufi, repeatedly interfered with and attempted to intimidate members of the judiciary, especially judges who made rulings that he did not like. In May he ordered police to surround the house of and arrest Judge Mohammed Bin Ali Luqman, head judge on the Haraz court in Sana'a governorate. In July he harassed the chairman of S'a governorate's prosecutor's office, Salem Ahmed Al-Shaiba, after Al-Shaiba reported to the Attorney General that the governor's office was

running illegal prisons (see Section 1.c.). In August he instructed armed guards to bring Hafed Fadhl, a lawyer representing the opposing party in a case involving one of the governor's friends, to the governorate's illegal jail, where he was assaulted by Al-Sufi and detained for the rest of the day. In September governor Al-Sufi detained Judge Mohammed Saad Amer, a member of the Sana'a appeals court, for 2 days. Governor Al-Sufi was relieved of his post in October, but no legal action was taken against him. Many litigants maintain, and the Government acknowledges, that a judge's social ties and susceptibility to bribery sometimes have greater influence on the verdict than the law or the facts of the case. Many judges are poorly trained, and some closely associated with the Government often render decisions favorable to it. The judiciary is hampered further by the Government's frequent reluctance to enforce judgments. There are five types of courts: criminal; civil (for example, divorce and inheritance); administrative; commercial; and military.

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Other judicial reform programs financed by international assistance are intended to focus on the Ministries of Justice and of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and finance training in business and commercial law for judges; a diagnostic study of judicial education curriculum; training on drafting of legislation; and a review of the country's commercial laws to identify and fix gaps or inconsistencies. At year's end, no date was scheduled for the program to begin.

The security services made several arrests, brought charges, and put on trial a number of persons alleged to be linked to various shootings, explosions, bombings, and other acts of violence that continued throughout the year. Citizens and human rights groups alleged frequently that the judiciary was not observing due process standards in these cases.

Arrested in December 1998, eight Britons and two Algerians were tried from February to August in Aden on charges of possessing illegal weapons and explosives and conspiring to commit terrorist acts. The 6-month trial did not meet minimum international standards for due process. Defense lawyers claimed that the prosecution lacked adequate evidence and that the defendants were tortured, sexually abused, and denied access to their lawyers (see Section 1.c.). In early August, the court sentenced the main suspects, the 18-year-old stepson and 17-year-old son of Islamic militant Abu Hamza al-Masri, to jail terms of 7 and 3 years, respectively. Yemen has accused al-Masri, head of the London-based organization Supporters of Shari'a, of involvement with the AAIA, which has carried out at least one terrorist act in Yemen. Five other defendants received jail terms ranging from 5 to 7 years. The seven defendants appealed the verdict. Two of the Britons received 7-month sentences and were ordered released for time served; another, for reasons of poor health, was ordered released for time served in early summer. Their release was delayed because both the defense and the prosecution appealed the verdicts. The Appeals Court upheld the verdicts, and the three were released. They returned to the United Kingdom in October.

The trial of seven additional AAIA members on terrorism charges began in October. Two of the defendants are being tried in absentia, one has admitted to some of the charges against him,

and the remaining four pled not guilty and claim that the prosecution coerced and tortured them into making self-incriminating statements and confessions (see Section 1.c.). The judge issued a ruling prohibiting the publication of details about the trial. The Government claims that it does not hold political prisoners. Local opposition politicians and human rights activists generally accept this claim; however, some international human rights groups and members of the opposition-in-exile dispute the claim. At the end of the 1994 civil war, the President pardoned nearly all who had fought against the central Government, including military personnel and most leaders of the unrecognized DRY. The Government denied amnesty to the 16 most senior leaders of the DRY (one of whom is now presumed dead), who fled abroad and who are subject to arrest if they return. In 1997 and 1998, the so-called "16" were tried in absentia on various charges including forming a secessionist government, conspiracy, and forming a separate military. All but two were found guilty, and in March 1998, a judge sentenced five of the defendants to death and three to 10 years in jail. Six persons received suspended sentences, and two were acquitted. Many opposition figures have urged the President to issue an amnesty for those who received sentences, in the interest of promoting reconciliation between north and south. The President has stated that it is up to the judicial system to pass judgment. Dattorneys have appealed to a higher court. No judgment has yet been rendered.

**f. Arbitrary Interference with Privacy, Family, Home, or Correspondence**

Despite constitutional provisions against government interference with privacy, security forces routinely search homes and private offices, monitor telephones, read personal mail, and otherwise intrude into personal matters for alleged security reasons. Such activities are conducted without legally issued warrants or judicial supervision. Security forces regularly monitor telephone conversations and interfere with the telephone service of government critics and opponents. Security forces sometimes detain relatives of suspects (see Section 1.d.).

Government informers monitor meetings and assemblies (see Section 2.b.). The law prohibits arrests between the hours of sundown and dawn. However, persons suspected of crimes sometimes are taken from their homes in the middle of the night, without search warrants.

In March security forces occupied the village of Sa'eed in Al-Baida governorate evicted residents from their homes, looted villagers' property and livestock, and vandalized the village school and mosque (see Section 1.a.). Jews traditionally face social (but not legal) restrictions on their residence and their employment (see Section 5). According to a 1995 Ministry of Interior regulation, no citizen may marry a foreigner without Interior Ministry permission (see Section 5). This regulation does not carry the force of law, and appears to be enforced irregularly. However, some human rights groups have raised concerns about the regulation.

An estimated 5,000 persons use the Internet and 3,540 persons subscribe to it. The Government does not impose restrictions on Internet use, but most persons find that equipment and subscriptions costs are prohibitively high. Teleyemen, a parastatal company under the Ministry of Telecommunications, is the country's sole Internet service provider. According to Teleyemen (see Section 2.a.), the Government blocks several explicit websites; however, with the exception of mowj.com, which is the website of the Yemeni National Opposition Front (MOWF), it does not block politically oriented websites. For example Abu Hamza's web page (see Section 1.e.) is not blocked. There are no indications that Internet usage is monitored by the Government, and there are no reports that it has ever taken action against Internet users.

**Section 2 (Includes Freedom of Speech and Press) next week.**

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# YT Celebrates

The Minister of Culture, Mr. Abdul Malik Mansour, lauded the efforts of the founder of the Yemen Times, late Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf. He said that the Yemen Times was the valued reference point for the people in the world seeking information on Yemen as well as for Yemeni immigrants and English speakers inside Yemen. "The Yemen Times has sustained itself as a wise messenger that reflects the truth without political bias or narrow-mindedness. It may have sometimes, or even often, angered the government, however it warms the hearts of advocates of democracy," said Minister of Culture. He further expressed the hope to see the Yemen Times a daily paper.

Diplomats, officials and media men had expressed their hope to see the Yemen Times continue as it has always been an uncompromising champion of the truth. On this occasion, the winner of the first prize of the 3rd millennium competition, Salim Mohammed Salim, was handed before the attendants a check for YRs 1,000,000 while other winners were requested to receive their prizes from Yemen Times bureau. Following this, sponsors were given away certificates of merit and gratitude for sponsoring the 3rd Millennium Competition. After that a documentary film was screened on Yemen Times and its development since its incep-

tion. Guests were then kindly invited to enjoy a delicious supper. Yemeni newspapers congratulated their sister Yemen Times on this occasion and reported the event prominently. Many congratulatory letters have also been received felicitating the staff and management of the paper for their excellent work. Therefore, the Yemen Times editor and staff thank all the people who attended the ceremony and all companies that sponsored the event. We also thank all the people who sent their letters of congratulations to the Yemen Times and its editor.

## Yemen Times Maintains its Founder's Mission



By: Jalal Al-Shara'abi  
Yemen Times

Whenever there is a festive occasion related to the Yemen Times weekly newspaper, attention is quickly and normally drawn to the late professor Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf the celebrity journalist of Yemen in the 20th century. He was an ardent and perseverant advocate of human rights, democracy and freedom of expression. The more we recall of his memory, the more we feel to be close to him and loyal to the mission he had devoted his life for.

The 10th founding anniversary of Yemen Times was marked on February 27, 2000 amid a distinguished festivity permeated with speeches praising the newspaper and the leading stature it occupies in journalism in Yemen.



What is an eye-catching matter about this memorable event, the newspaper's anniversary, is the remembrance of that great pillar of journalism in Yemen, who has established this magnificent press institution and wrung out its legitimacy out of the claws of monsters that are opposed to democracy and freedom of expression intent on muffling any voice that does not extol the ruler day and night.

Yemen Times pursues fully independent policy, whether in its performance of press profession or in its financial affairs. It is fully biased to the ordinary people's concerns and questions, mirrored objectively on its pages, unlike the official media which are dependent on funding of the state and reflect its policies or the partisan organs that idolize the stances and leaders of the political parties they represent.

Amidst all this, the Yemen Times has emerged to establish a new school in journalism in this country, siding with the right and dealing with current events and issues in an objective pursuit. Also one of the most remarkable things about it is that its founder the late Al-Saqqaf has rendered it into Yemen's message abroad, playing a role quite remarkable in portraying Yemen's reality in a manner exceeding that played by the country's embassies. This fact has been expressed by the celebrity journalist the late Abdul Habib Salem Mukbil. Thus the newspaper has acquired a forward position making it closer to the institutions devoted to defending press and expression freedom, therefore it has become too difficult to implement any warrant on trying or suspending it.

Though Dr. Al-Saqqaf has poignantly departed us for good, he is now quite contented about the press establishment he has left behind and his major concern is manifested in his worry about the conditions of the ordinary people under the consistent threat by the well-to-do and the deprivation they are suffering.

Yemen Times is nowadays celebrating its 10th birthday at a time its journalist team are entertaining much optimism and hope in the success of their message of satisfying their readers by tracing up the sources of corruption and its godfathers.

Some people thought that the paper would perish by the absence of its founder, but what happened has proved outrightly the contrary. The days and months that followed that tragic event proved that Dr Al-Saqqaf has left behind him very loyal students competent of carrying on his message. The paper is today confirming the words its founder had uttered just a few hours before his death, "The Yemen Times is not a trumpeter for the authority nor an instrument in the hands of the opposition, its actual objective is to convey the true news, deep analysis and report that disclose the defects of the corrupt and their strongholds." Any reader of the paper on the Internet can notice the increasing number of its readers, besides that its distribution has reached 100%, a matter to be proud of.

Although we consider the profession of press in Yemen is in its ABC stage of development and the authority still sees it as an enemy and it is still coming under acts of trials and facing campaigns of arrests and suppression carried out against journalists of the country, but it is also true that the Yemeni press has to exert redoubled efforts to squeeze its right to the freedom of expression. It is not easy to make for a charismatic personality like Dr. Al-Saqqaf, but it is certain that many newspapers would follow suit of his experiment embodied by the Yemen Times present approach. We are confident as well that the organizations in defense of press freedom would assess these efforts of ours and would be helping us in case we are subjected to authority harassment or censorship.

The entire staff of the paper pledge to their readers to intensify their efforts for the paper's ever development towards the better and the fulfillment of its message.



## Impression About YT

In the late sixties, a long time ago, before I joined the Diplomatic Service, I was the Deputy Editor-in-chief of the Baghdad Observer, an English Daily that is still being published in Iraq. So I feel that there is a spiritual link between myself and the Yemen Times. This feeling makes it very interesting and tempting to participate in the tenth founding anniversary of this newspaper. When I arrived in Yemen, one of the first publications I read was the Yemen Times. I found it a comprehensive newspaper with a vast coverage of international and domestic affairs. So it was a good source of information for me about Yemen as a new comer.

What gave the Yemen Times its weight in the field of Journalism, is

that it was run by the very prominent figure the late Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf whom I did not know personally, but got full knowledge of his great influence over the political, cultural and social life in Yemen.

In this occasion, I am confident that the heirs of the newspaper are very capable of issuing a daily that can compete successfully in an environment where the right to information and the access to it is considered a basic right for people.

My sincere congratulations to the colleagues in the Yemen Times in their 10th anniversary, with hopes for more success and progress.

Taha Yassin Al-Basri  
Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq

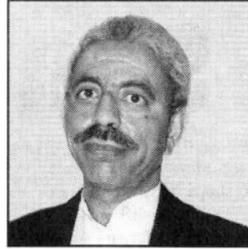


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# COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi



## We Are Born Only to Die

There is a lot in life that we, as human beings, take for granted. Yet they are real and they exact, at times, a considerable part of our very own time. However, we pass through such moments non-chalantly, as though they are not worthy of any current flow in our already overtaxed minds. Are we really being unfair by letting such moments pass, by finding little value in reflecting back on some very meaningful moments that should really be given more than just a back seat in our minds?

Perhaps the complexity of life and the large volume of information that we need to absorb to keep pace with the world around us is occupying our minds so much that reflections on any diverting matter in life could keep us away from new information, which is readily available and potentially enriching. Perhaps modern life, as it pushes nature away from us farther and farther, day by day, has also pushed away the inspirational moods that cause us to reflect on its wonders and spectaculars. Perhaps the ready-made culture we live in has caused us to forget that there is a raw source for all the conveniences that we are enjoying in life and that the factories and workshops that produce such amenities and conveniences are only a means and not a cause for our enjoyment of such amenities and conveniences.

Whatever the case, no matter how complex life may come to be and no matter how our sustenance and enjoyment of life become so easily accessible to us, in their ready-made formats, we are still not free from fairly basic phenomena that return us to the mercy of the workings of nature on our being. Such workings of nature pro-

vide fuel for thought and heavy contemplation that sometimes lead us into that very expanse of the unknown that is very much a part of us, which we often ignore. The two most significant phenomena are our birth and the inevitable end that all life must reach - death.

As much as man has learned and even sought to partake in the first phenomenon - conception, through a fairly comprehensive understanding of the mechanics of conception and the physical, chemical and biological intricacies involved in the human and animal reproductive process - with a lot, of course, still left to the unknown, it is the second phenomenon that is still very much unraveled in terms of its timing, destination and aftermath, from a metaphysical and supernatural standpoint. Once all the mechanics and physical dynamics of the human body cease to function and its control function - the mind - halts its infinite expanse of data absorption and screening, has it all really become the end of us, or are we just transformed into a different universe that has different laws and different physiological and sociological facets?

Even if one wished to delve into research on death, one would find it most difficult to determine where the beginnings of it really begin. If it is a well calculated fated event, than it would imply that its beginnings are there even before we are born and therefore are beyond our capacity to touch upon, since it entails going far deep into the supernatural, which, by virtue of our nature, is not permitted at all.

While the causes of death are various and regrettably often self-inflicted by man, the ultimate end is the same: the central organs of the human body that are the vital sources of our continued

sustainability have come to an abrupt halt thus ceasing all our bodily functions and terminating our being.

In a normal person's life, the full span of our being can be broken up into various periods that are perhaps intended to work towards the spiritual development of man, as his age progresses. By the time we reach the first half of our average age, excluding calamities and other abnormal circumstances that bring about earlier terminations of our life span, the first half (around 35 - 45 years), we have basically come to the end of completing the sphere that composes the various human interrelationships that our life has come to be evolved into: relatives (parents, brothers and sisters and other close of kin); spouse, children and grandchildren; livelihood associates (professional and occupational colleagues, trade or business relations, etc.); social relations (friends, organizational and community activities, congregational associations and goodwill efforts, etc.). All the people in the sphere form the binds that produce the life experiences that offer meaning to life and sometimes provide the rewards and punishments for our very own actions within these human connections. Of course, the degree and the attachment of the different individuals that are interconnected by this sphere differ for each person involved in the sphere, and the emotional attachment is also governed by many sociological considerations and cultural factors that are far too broad in scope to delve into here, but it is in this area where we find the greatest need for becoming so attached to life. We tend to often forget that even in this, there is tragedy and sorrow, which may have significant value in getting us to reach the spiritual maturity we need to help us

feel secure that for us life has reached its fulfillment. Then, if the end comes, we have nothing to worry about what comes next.

When the mid-span of our age has been reached, we start seeing the sphere we have built around us, or have found ourselves in, begin to disintegrate, as some of those in the sphere meet their fated end, sometimes early and often tragically. The end for these people, as it seemed to us at the start, comes too abruptly and without warning, and may trigger a signal to us that for sure life has now taken on a new course, as we realize that even for us the inevitable end is about to come. While death itself may not seem so alien to us, since we are now seeing it or hearing about it daily in the vast communication and information network that is easily accessible to us, it is when it starts to hone at the periphery of our sphere that we realize that death is surely a part of us, no matter how hard we try to dispel the thought of the inevitability of our eventual congruence with our very own termination.

When death starts to hit closer to home, especially among those who we have relied on for emotional support throughout our lives or who later entered our sphere and then became important sources of our emotional and inspirational strengths, it is then that we find ourselves really in a state of bewilderment, as such elements in our sphere are hard to replace, if they are replaceable at all. Furthermore, the times have also changed and there is a different mix of cultural and sometimes even physical circumstances that are more unfavorable to the establishment of alternative ties that would replace those who have once been so much a part of us.

Over the last decade, this observer has

seen several very close relations and friends slowly pass away from this tumultuous life we live in to go on to the more serene and static phase of the afterlife that we know very little about, except that it is an interphase in the human experience that culminates to the last accounting, which we must make with our Creator to see if we have really been worth the gift of life, which the Al-Mighty was kind enough to grant us. Slowly it started and then reached a phenomenally speedy rate. Over the last nine months alone, a brother, a sister and finally the grand lady who brought all of us to being - the mother, all reached their fated end. For the two former kin, it was truly tragic and untimely and abrupt. For the latter, perhaps the grief of losing the former had its catalytic effect of bringing about the unwanted passing of someone who has filled our life with so much passion and love. But,

this is death and there is nothing to turn it back. It can come slow and it can be fast. For the first one it was fast, abrupt and frightening: a sudden heart attack that was fatal instantaneously. For the second, it was an agonizing illness helped along with neglect by those who should have taken care to bring relief to its victim, which may have been possible. For the third, it was sudden, but not instantaneous, as those who sought to find relief out of the coma struggled exhaustingly to seek some way of insuring that the soul does not leave its container, for this person is an important pillar in our sphere. But, alas, God is the one who decides in this matter. God bless their souls, and may we follow them in peace and with the faith that assures us that we have been true to our Creator. After all, it is He who has made it clear that, in the end, we are all born to die.

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## VACANCIES

**PRIME**, a global project funded by USAID with the objective to improve the performance of primary providers in reproductive health, has reached an agreement with the Government of Yemen to assist in the improving the performance of the community midwives and murshidats in two governorates of the country. To implement PRIME assistance in Yemen, PRIME invites applications for the following positions:

### 1) Project Coordinator:-

The position provides senior level panning, management and coordination assistance to PRIME's technical assistance. She/he will work closely with PRIME regional office and PRIME staff in Yemen to assure optimum communication is established with MoPH, identified governorates and USAID field office on all PRIME technical inputs to the project. The position will organize and facilitate preparation of a 1 technical materials ad will plan, coordinate and assist in monitoring project implementation in the governorates.

### Qualifications:

Post graduate in public health and at least 5-8 years experience in training, program planning and management working with the communities in the field of reproductive health/MCH.

### 2) Project specialist:-

The position provides programmatic support to the preparation of materials and strategies designed to improve performance of the community midwives and murshidats. She/he will assist in the design and writing of materials in the areas of community mobilization and supportive supervision and work with the PRIME 's staff to orient the supervisors and mentor the supervisory teams in their orientation of the community midwives and murshidats. She/he will prepare performance valuation information according to project evaluation plans.

### Qualifications:

Post graduate degree in public health or medicine or nursing, 5-8 years of experience in training, program planning, primary health worker supervision and/or community motivation preferably in the field of reproductive health/MCH

Both the positions require strong Arabic and English writing and comprehension and capability to translate English to or from Arabic. Each position requires ability to prepare work on computer and 50% of time in country travel. A strong belief in team management is considered essential.

Interested candidates should apply with detailed CV should be sent by:-

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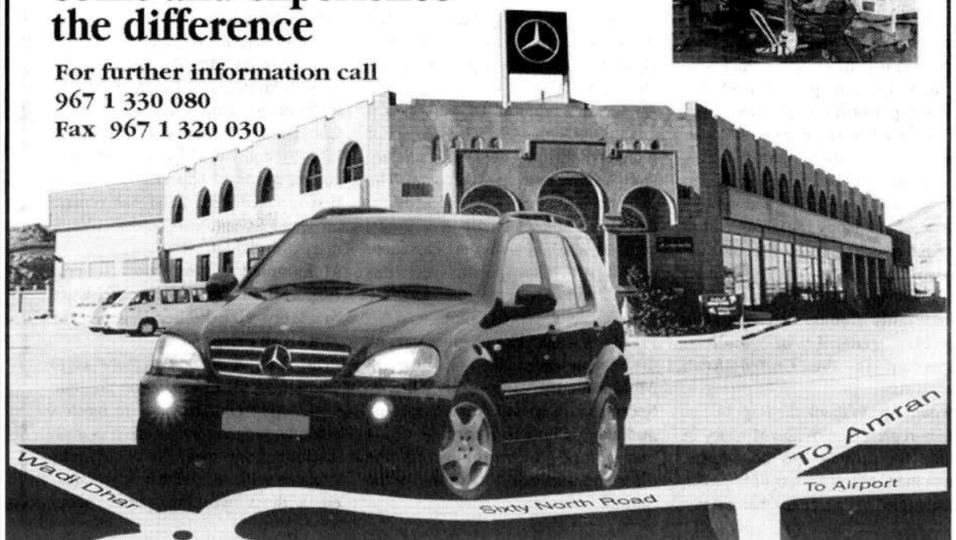
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Continued from page 1

# SCANDAL at Sana'a Municipality

Hassan S. Al-Zaidy  
Yemen Times

Yemen Times launched a field survey to Sana'a Municipality Administration in Asser, after meeting some of the demonstrators and learnt about their miserable conditions, to reflect things on the ground. We met with the director of the Project Mr. Najeb Al-Himyary at the gathering of those workers, asking about reasons behind workers' demonstration, their demands, etc, however, the only answer we got was "The acts happened



yesterday were of saboteurs." He, then tried to avoid our interview by making himself busy using his mobile set, claiming that he had to observe cleaning-up campaigns.



Mr. Abdul Kawi Al-Hosaini was the only official present in the project, though the time of our visit was at the beginning of the office hours. He is the accounting manager of the project. He said "The demonstration of workers just a made-up event for they get all their rights. Regarding the salaries as well as allowances of December 1999, January, February 2000, Accounting lists were presented two days ago to the Cleaning-up Fund which provides the project with annual budget."

Asking him about reasons behind delaying the payroll to this time, he said "The problem lies in the performance mechanism of the project, for it is a public administration related to the Fund which collects the cleaning-up fees

charged on shops and companies according to their size; Small shops have to pay a monthly YR 300, other ones YR 500, some YR 5000 and some YR 10000 such as companies." Asking about the destiny of all this money, he apologized for not being able to answer this question and said "The President has called for the minister of Constructions and Sana'a Mayor, Husain Al-Maswari and gave them a three day time-limit to settle down this matter."



Then, we interviewed some of the workers to know more about their complaints. We came actually to visualize a real misery. Mr. Mohammed Nagi Marwan, a cleaning-up car driver, spoke on behalf of other drivers, and said " We are paid a monthly YR 9000 and we have been working here for 8 months, day and night. If anyone of us had an accident or anything like that, repairs were made at his expense. Sometimes we



conduct extensive cleaning-up campaigns, however, we do not receive wages for them. We do also work overtime, on Thursday and Friday and during Eid Holidays, however, we receive nothing. When some workers asked for their allowances, some were given about YR 2000, however, they came to find that this money was deducted from their salaries. So far, we have been unable to receive our salaries for three months. If anyone protests, our officials, without any sense of mercy, kick him out at any time they want. We have families and children who need to eat, drink and wear, however, all this is ignored by these officials as if we are

not human beings. Now we highly count on the President's promise and are waiting to see the outcomes of his orders, otherwise we would go out again on a demonstration to the front of the Presidency Building until we get our rights." Then some sweepers, wearing dirty clothes, came to complain and said "Why should we be treated differently? We want to be given as they used to give foreigners."



Ali Mohammed Darwish and Omar Ahmad Ali talked on behalf of their colleagues and said "we have never been paid the attention needed. Our officials are not aware of or, in fact, ignoring the problems and diseases that we are liable to. To make our situations worse, we have never been paid for the overtime we work. Some of us stay in streets and sleep there, however, nothing is there to keep us from cold. We are not supplied with uniforms for our work.

When there used to be foreigner sweepers, the ministry and our officials used to pay them in dollars reaching to more than \$ 200 for each worker. Besides, they used to make available for them residence, food, allowances, clothes, special uniforms, free health care etc., However, we are exceptions. Some workers could hardly find some tea to eat their loaves of bread. So where is the sense of responsibility that our officials boast to have upholding. To add insult to injury, we are driven either to prisons or streets in case of any protest." Nagi Al-Koraimi and Ahmad Omar, Ahmad Obadi, Khamis Ahmad and Shawee shouted "If we are black, we are also Yemenis like these officials who every time and then boast of serving the country. We want to be officially employed instead of receiving daily wages. They, furthermore, deduct what and when they like from the so called salaries. Yesterday, Al-Marzoki, chairman of syndicate, was arrested and kept in prison as he voiced up and called for our rights."

## Fourth Conference for the Arab Judicial Inspection Chiefs Concluded



Yasser M. Ahmed  
Yemen Times

The fourth conference for Arab Judicial Inspection Chiefs was held in Sana'a recently. The Yemen Times had in its last week's issue published a brief account on the conference and its final statement. Following is a report on the interviews the paper has conducted with participant delegations. The interviews are meant to shed light on meetings of the conference and the working papers presented there and also present the readers with an account on the progress of the judicial process in the respective countries.

Ibrahim bin Yahya Bin Hamdan Al-Arabi, Assistant Director General of Courts at the Omani Ministry of Justice and head of his county's to the conference.

"First of all I am pleased to visit my country Yemen. I have not submitted a working paper on behalf of the Omani delegation for I consider the working paper of the Arab Center for Legal and Judicial Research in the Arab League, ratified in Beirut as sufficient. We have discussed this working paper titled "Judiciary Independence" as well as others presented by participating delegations. The discussions were

ers large numbers of heads of judiciary inspection well experiences in this field.

have submitted a working paper centered on the importance of judicial inspection activities and its role in activating the recommendation of the previous conference held in Khartoum. I have also mentioned certain premises among them the role of judicial inspection in the UAE's experience regarding technical inspection of courts, general prosecutions and judicial inspection since 1983. As for the judiciary system in the Emirates, it is divided into three categories:

First, primary courts followed by appeal courts and finally the High Court. These categories are warranted by the constitution and the laws. The law of the Judicial Authority was passed in 1983 and has only been amended slightly since then. This law includes a whole chapter on "judicial inspection and measures related to it" and members of prosecution. We in Emirate have an honest judiciary which we all respect even in the high leaderships.

**Dr. Akram Mosa'aedah, Courts Inspector in Jordan:**

"I attended this meeting with a recommendation from the government to support each recommendation that shall strengthen the Arab agreement especially in the judicial field that is more technical than it is political.

"The large number of participants in this conference is a good signal that all Arab Countries are interested in this matter. The Judiciary matter is very critical for it's the third power of the state. Therefore, whenever the judiciary is strong and stable, the government also becomes strong for the strength of the state lies in the power of judiciary, it safeguards the state as well as the citizen. That is why judiciary is very important.

During the meeting we discussed one of the most important working papers which was presented from the Legal Center. This paper was discussing the independence of judiciary in the Arab World from the intrusion of Executive Authority.

As for judiciary in Sudan, it is completely different from that in other Arab countries because it is completely independent. Most of the Arab Countries have the system of the Minister of Justice which is a political position whereas in Sudan the Supreme Judiciary Council is headed by a judge to which all specializations belong. However, the independence of judiciary does not give the right to the judge to wrongly use his power.

**Hussain Mokhtar Al-Bawashi: Supreme Court Consultant & Chief of the Judicial Inspection in Libya**

"I participated with a working paper on the identification of judicial authorities and the role of Inspection Administration and its main task of

Morocco's experience in the field of judicial inspection. I shall not also forget to mention that we benefited from other working papers that were presented in the meeting. As for the recommendations they can be directly applied if they do not contradict local legislations.

Now, regarding judiciary in Morocco, there are two types: legal and modern judiciaries as well as other types like the regular, specialized (Administrative) and criminal judiciary. Judiciary in Morocco separates between each type such as legal, personal, real estate or social (work disputes). We have 67 courts of first instance, 21 courts of appeal and 1 appeal court in addition to several

administrative and commercial courts.

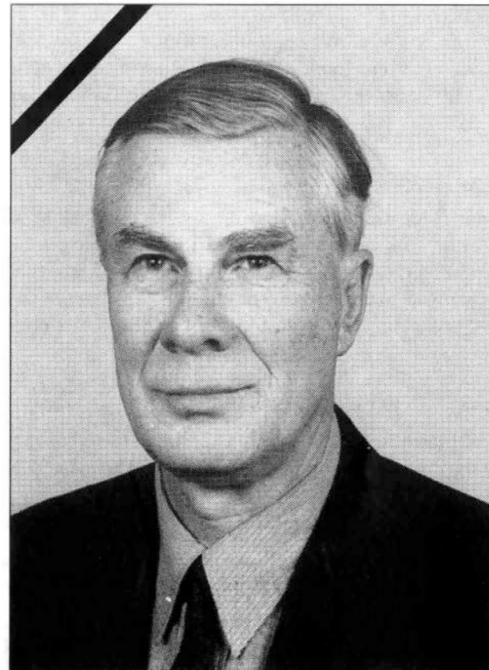
The judicial inspection in Morocco does not aim to audit and control judiciary members. Its role is to guide and unify all work approaches and know the task of the court and the number of cases registered in it.

The inspection includes all courts' activities, how far the law is applied and the production of courts and

judges. In addition, the judicial inspection provides courts with all its requirements of substances and cadres.



## CONDOLLENCE



With deepest grief we condole His Excellency Ambassador of Royal Dutch Embassy in Yemen, the Staff of the Embassy, and to Jan Bol's family for the death of Jan Bol, who murdered at the SEDU office.

We wish all the patience for his loss.

**Chairman of SEDU  
General manager of SEDU  
and all staff of SEDU**



Ibrahim bin Yahya Mohammed Al-Mala Mohammed Idrees Akram Mosa'aedah Hussain Al-Bawashi Mohammed Mosleh

good and focused on the role of the Judicial Inspection process. Undoubtedly, Arab countries need such meetings in the judicial field and also between judges and Judicial Inspection members as judicial inspection is considered a cornerstone for the function of judicial work and its development for overcoming negativities and keeping pace with developments of contemporary age. Discussions with other participant delegations has given me a good impression and I am happy for taking part in this conference. Finally, I would like to thank the Yemeni government for its good hospitality.

**Consultant Mohammed Al-Mala, director general of Judicial Inspection in the United Arab Emirates:**

"I would like to thank the Republic of Yemen represented by the Ministry of Justice for hosting this conference. We, in the UAE, place lots of hopes on this conference especially that it gath-

We had many suggestions concerning the recommendations that were ratified in the third conference in Khartoum. We have also commented on each working paper presented there. In addition, one of our proposals was on the control on the judicial inspection.

As for the progress of the judicial process in Jordan, there two types of judiciary: Just Systematic Judiciary and Administrative Judiciary. The Systematic Judiciary includes different courts like Conciliation Court, court of appeals and court cassation, each of which has specific specialization. There are also the Military Courts, and Criminal Courts.

Finally, I would like to greatly thank the Yemeni leadership **Mohammed Idrees Ahmed, Secretary General of Supreme Judiciary Council, Supreme Court Judge and a member of the Supreme Judiciary Institute in the Sudan.**

clarifying and guiding all judicial authorities as well as performing technical inspection for all administrative bodies. The most important subject that was discussed in the meeting was the independence of judiciary and the final recommendation would be sent to Arab Ministers of Justice to be ratified and modified if necessary.

Concerning the judicial system in Libya, it consists of 3 courts: supreme courts, courts of appeal and court of first instance. This latter has general prosecutions and also courts of summary jurisdiction.

**Mohammed Mosleh, General Inspector in the Ministry of justice in Morocco & head of the Moroccan delegation:**

"The goal of this conference is to study the judicial inspection program in the Arab countries and to reach a common program and specify its goal, disciplines and means through which it can be achieved. We have participated with a working paper about



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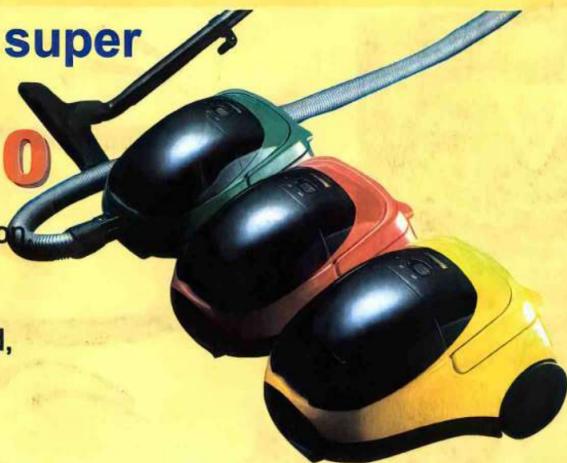
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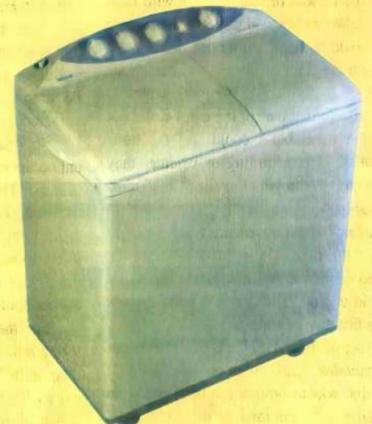


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Continued from page 1

# Polish Ambassador to YT: Never in my wildest dreams have I ever thought of being kidnapped from the center of the capital city

**Q: How long have you been in Yemen?**  
A: I have been here for three years and a half.

**Q: Please describe your family status.**  
A: I am married with two daughters. I will be 47 in October this year.

**Q: Will you please tell us about the circumstances leading to the incident?**

A: Everything happened very quickly. First of all I believed that these are the normal conditions for any kidnapping operation: the use of force and unexpected attack. These two factors do contribute to an eventually successful operation. It so happened that roughly around 7.30 in the evening in the Haddah region on the way to Shahran Hotel, I was waiting with my wife inside the car for our daughter who was attending a dentist and we had in front of us maybe half an hour's wait.

Suddenly a Toyota Land cruiser stopped next to the doors of my car and six men armed with Kalashnikov left the Toyota and opened the door on my side. I think that two of them went from the other side at the same time. One of them opened the rear door and tried to take my wife by force out of the car. The second one opened the front right door of the car trying to grab the switch. Later I remembered that the switch was in my pocket. They dragged me out of the car and two of them reloaded the guns threatening me of the usage of their weapons. They did not listen to me trying to tell them: "I am an ambassador. Don't do it. Its against the law." They forced me into their car. I wouldn't..... maybe let myself be pushed into the car had not I had seen that my wife was in a way of being harmed. But when I saw that she was released and she was screaming at that time, I decided that the best I can do for my wife and my daughter is to enter myself into the car and to leave this place as soon as possible. I can add that immediately when we started with high speed they asked me whether I wanted them to go back for my wife because I told them that my wife is there and my child is there. Then I asked them to release me immediately. So they told me, "Look, if you want, we'll go back and take your wife and your child." Of course, they did not.

The driver was driving the car with high speed. We were speeding towards the way as I could imagine, sitting behind the front seat on the floor of the car and being surrounded by five armed men who were sitting also in that part of the car. I could not see the street but I could feel the turns when they were turning or whether they were going straight. I realized that most probably we were leaving on the road to Dhamar. I also noticed my wrist watch to check the time. I also tried to guess the speed of the car by listening to the sound of the engine. The car was being driven very fast all the time.

Just before the first check point, they put *Mashaddah* (kaffieh) on my head and told me that was to protect me from the wind because both windows of the front doors were open. I can imagine that this was for the purpose of simplifying the eventual usage of arms. Just before the check point they pushed me inward to the floor. They didn't tell me anything specific at that time. I believe that they were worried and anxious themselves of what may happen. But the car never stopped at the check point. At the second check point as I do not remember very well, anyhow we did not stop.

A few kilometers after that the car suddenly stopped and turned left and from then the graveled road started. From the time that I could see in my wrist watch and from the speed of the car I imagined we might have passed or covered some twenty to thirty kilometers. Then for the next rough-



ly 50 kilometers we were driving on a dirt road. Later I found out this was the only road to their village.

The car was speeding in spite of the bad conditions because it was night and visibility was very poor. But the driver was very skillful, so thank God we avoided any accident. We arrived at the village, to the house of the Sheikh. They showed me in to the *Mafrash* and many people gathered there. Immediately they offered me food. I refused for the first time and this was the beginning of my hunger strike. They started talking among themselves and then tried to explain to me the whole situation. Of course, in very harsh words I told them whatever the reasons were behind the kidnapping, there is no explanation for the fact they are kidnappers. It is against the law. It is against any sort of behavior in any country. They were apologetic and were trying to tell me that they are sorry and that it was by chance; by the will of God. Then I told them for the first time, yes if the kidnapping was by chance but what you are doing now is on your will and not on the will of God. So you can reverse the whole situation now. It is your choice. You may send me back or you keep me. It is your choice, not the choice of the God. Then after, may by half an hour, they took me to another house which was to be the place of my captivity for the next two days.

I have to emphasize strongly that from the very first moment the kidnapping operation was very brutal. I have no doubt about it. But it is part of the operation. One has to be brutal, I understand it, in order to enforce upon other person his own will. Later on I asked several of them on different occasions, what would they do if I tried to resist. They told that they agree among themselves they will never use weapon against any person. What they could do is to try to scare this person by shooting in the air and then grabbing him by force into the car but they would never harm the person that they were kidnapping. I am not trying to relieve even the smallest portion of their guilt. They are guilty. This is a criminal act. This is a terrorist act and there is no explanation for it. But I can tell you that the moment we arrived at the village they always behaved for the next three days in a very descent and honorable way. They never abused my personal dignity as an ambassador or the dignity of my country. On the contrary, they were expressing themselves in very friendly terms about Poland and Yemeni-Polish relations. They were also expressing their sorrow and grief that for some reasons they thought it was the only solution to their problem. They told me also from the very beginning that whatever I wish to have, they would fulfill immediately. I requested them for medicine and water. They even asked which water I preferred, Haddah or Shamlan. I also requested them for possibility to connect the embassy and my wife. I asked them for a Mobil. They promised me that next day they would supply it to me and they did. They were astonished with my stubbornness and decisiveness since I decided from the very first evening that I would be on a hunger strike. I will not be taking any food. They were astonished with it and believe me they were worried about it because I told them it was to show them even though they believe that they have mastered my body, but in reality I am the

only master of myself. First of all and secondly that pronouncing a hunger strike they should realized that my time as a captive is limited. It is limited to the physical abilities of my body only and that I could not resist for one month definitely. On the second day when they again saw that I reconfirmed my position that I refused to take any food they realized that the matter is going to be very serious because they realized that my general health condition from day to day will be worsening. THEY Told me that they would be doing whatever is possible to reach an agreement. I have to emphasize again that never and ever they behaved in a hostile way towards me or towards Poland or Polish people with the exception of the kidnapping operation itself. This is, of course, again not an explanation for the fact that such things can happen and do happen in the center of city. In the center of the Capital of the country

**Q: What about food ?**

A: No I didn't. For the three days I never took anything into my mouth except water. - But I think that food was sent to you? Yes and I told them that if they respect me they should distribute it among children and they did it several times because I received three parcels. They were always insisting on me to take some food and each and every hour they were coming with some new proposals whether I wanted apples they brought me a box of apples, bananas, oranges but I told them please do distribute them among the children in the village, I also told them look you can not change the situation, it is my decision. If you have any feelings for me and if you do not want to harm me by force please accept my decision; I will not be eating.

**Q: Have you found any difficulty in talking to them?**

A: No never.

**Q: Have you ever thought that you could be kidnapped from the centre of the Capital city?**

A: Never in my wildest dreams! I have always considered Sanaa as a safe place. I am trying to avoid with my family any trips outside the city. Very rarely we go to Aden and otherwise I was surprised as I have said before seeing near to my car a Toyota land cruiser with the registration

plate which was proving that it belonged to the government and seeing later the armed crew of that car I felt that they might be security police. But since they were armed, since the car they were using was belonging to the government and knowing the law which forbids Yemenis to use and to enter the city with arms, I could not imagine possibly that these were kidnappers

**Q: Do you think that such incidents will affect Yemen's relations with other countries? What about Poland?**

A: The subject is too fresh to give any first opinions about the possibility of influencing the relations of my country and Yemen at this moment. It is very immature and I would like to keep myself the right not give any comments on that. Wherever they happen in the world whether in South America, whether they happen in Europe or in Yemen, I have no doubt that this sort of activity should be strongly condemned and that it is an obligation of governments in those countries to do whatever possible to try to avoid such situation.

**Q: Have you thought of having some days off?**

A: No way. Business as usual.

**Q: What are your present feelings?**

A: I wish to confirm and emphasize one fact only that whatever has happened will have no implication and will not burden my appreciation of the possibilities of fulfilling my mission to the successful, let's hope end. I do not feel myself as influenced by the memories of the past three days and half and I am very sure that I will keep on being as objective as possible taking into consideration the positions that I do occupy and I want to add that I Hope that I will be given a chance to continue my mission as I was doing it for the past three and half years whether it will be a few months, two years or more, I will gladly and as much as possible professionally fulfill my mission without any subjectivity.

**Q: Any final remark?**

A: I would like to add that from the point of view of the Polish government what has happened shall not and should not influence upon the bilateral relations

and cooperation. This embassy upon decision from the Polish government will continue its mission with same tenacity and

devotion as it used to be working during the past years. There is no change there is business as usual.

## C.E.W 2000 Products in Yemen

Sole agent of C.E.W, Engineering and Trade World headed by Nabil Al-Jirmouzi inaugurated yesterday morning the shop of new C.E.W products. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Mr. Ahmad Al-Odaini, Vice Minister of Constructions, Eng. Mohammed Al-Qassos, Director-General of the General Authority for



Telecommunication and a number of businessmen. During the ceremony, Mr. Nabil highlighted the new modern telecommunication devices the company offers. In addition, there were a number of different activities, including delivering lectures.



يونسيف

منظمة الأمم المتحدة للطفولة

## Dr. Zein Ahmad Zein

With deep sorrow, the UNICEF family in Yemen announces the passing of Dr. Zein Ahmad Zein, on 4 March of a sudden heart attack.

Dr. Zein was chief of UNICEF'S Health Programme in Yemen. He was an outstanding professional whose studies and articles in public health and nutrition were recognized and widely published in international professional journals.

His personal efforts contributed to making significant improvements in health and nutrition for the people of Yemen. He was gifted with a thirst for knowledge, a warm and friendly personality, and a great sense of humor, always a friend in need.



Dr. Zein is survived by his family in Yemen, and by his wife Alemitu, his son Haikal and his daughter Fairuz

May God surround him with mercy and compassion.

- Dr Zein joined UNICEF in Yemen as a Health Officer as of January 1997.
- He worked as consultant to UNICEF in Yemen and UNICEF in Kenya between 1992 and 1994.
- Before joining UNICEF, Dr. Zein acted as a chairman of the Department of Community Health at the Gondar College of Medical Sciences, Ethiopia.

Dr. Zein is a medical doctor and he graduated from the Medical faculty, Leipzig, Germany with distinction. He is also a holder of a Master degree in Public Health with honors from the American University of Beirut.

The Unicef Family accepts condolences on Sunday, 12th of March 2000, from 9-1 a.m. at its office off Zubeiri St. near Plaza Suites.

## VACANCY

APPLICANT: YEMENI

POSITION: MARKETING

REQUIREMENT:

a) MECHANICAL ENGINEER OR PETROLEUM ENGINEER.

b) FLUENT ARABIC/ENGLISH.

c) EXPERIENCE IN OIL FAILED OR HEAVY

EQUIP. IS AN ADVANTAGE.

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CLOSING DATE: 31/3/2000



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زينة  
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أطيب منه؟ مستحيل!

## Improve Your English



A weekly Education Supplement presented by:  
**Dr. Ramakanta Sahu**  
Associate Professor  
College of Education, Mahweet

### What to say....

#### THANKS GIVING

You are at the end of a tea party hosted by you. The guests are leaving. You want to thank them. You can say any of the following on this occasion:

- "Thanks a lot for coming."
- "Thank you for attending the party. It was a nice evening and we enjoyed your company. And thanks for the gift."
- "You made the party lively. I should like to thank you for that."
- "It's so nice of you to have spared your time for us. You brought charm to the party."
- "Thank you for making it. Though it was a last minute invitation, it was so nice / thoughtful of you to have taken the pains to make it."
- "It was so nice of you to have brought your family. It was a nice evening."
- "It was a nice evening. We all enjoyed it."
- "You brought color and life to the party."
- "But for you I would have found it difficult to manage the whole party. Thank you again and again."
- "The guests are very pleased. The whole credit goes to you because it is you who looked after everything."
- "Thank you all for making it to the party. Even though the weather was bad, you cheered up the spirit of the evening."

#### II How to say it correctly Can you correct the error, if any in the following sentences.

1. He prefers coffee more than tea.

2. She resembles with her father.
3. I have bought the book in Aden.
4. Never before I had seen such a nice picture.
5. I sympathize to you for your misery

#### Answers to last week's questions

1. Tea is a popular drink
2. This way the game came to an end
3. I lost a watch that my brother had given me.
4. Make him stand by the car.
5. I was born on the twenty-third July 1947.

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

1. Something unlawful or forbidden.
2. Bringing into, taking out of, a country goods contrary to law.
3. That which cannot be penetrated.
4. Person pretending to be what he is not.
5. Of marks, stains, ink, that cannot be rubbed out or removed.

#### Answers to last week's questions

1. That which cannot be conquered - **Unconquerable**
2. That which cannot be heard - **Inaudible**
3. That which cannot be read - **Illegible**
4. That which cannot be seen - **Invisible**
5. That which cannot be recovered - **Irrecoverable**

#### IV. Choose the correct spelling of words from the choices given

1. judgement, gudzement, zudgement
2. disise, diziz, disease, dis-eaze
3. craddle, craudle, cradle
4. gramar, grammar, gramaar
5. justice, jasitce, justise

## His Excellency The Ambassador of India Talks to Yemen Times Long live Indo-Yemen Friendship

**Y**emen has traditionally maintained a special relationship with India based on the principles of friendly cooperation and mutual enrichment. India has been a major support to Yemen in promoting her economy, education, culture, technology, tourism, trade and so forth. Both the countries are committed to work towards ushering in an era of meaningful partnership ensuring sustaining growth and development in the new millennium.

Ambassadors of India in Yemen have all along played a key role in promoting the mutual relationship. The present Ambassador of India in Sana'a, His Excellency Mohinder Singh Suman, since his assumption of office, has made pioneering efforts for taking the Indo-Yemen relationship to greater heights. In fact, his vision and futuristic outlook has been the cornerstone in a rapidly unfolding, fruitful comradeship between the two countries. With a view to finding out the contours of his vision, the traits of the present scenario, and outlines of the future dimensions of this relationship, Dr. Ramakanta Sahu of the Education Supplement, Yemen Times met His Excellency, Mohinder Singh Suman, Ambassador of India in Yemen and filed the following:

#### YT: How do you evaluate the existing relations between India & Yemen?

**Mr. Suman:** Indo-Yemen relations are quite historical and friendly. During 1999 a very significant and important visit took place from Yemen to India and it was that of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Yemen Mr. Ali Abdullah Saleh. During this visit which took place in March 99, His Excellency had a very useful meeting with India's Prime Minister Mr. A.B. Vajpayee. During this visit, though short, many matters of mutual interest were discussed. After this VVIP visit to India, an Indian delegation visited Sana'a to take part in the third session of the Indo-Yemen Joint Committee for Technical, Scientific and Economic Cooperation in July 1999. During this session further possibilities for cooperation in

numerous opportunities for higher education in the fields of humanities, agriculture, science, technology, medicine etc. India has 229 University level institutions. Out of these, 34 are agricultural Universities, 18 Engineering and technology Universities, 14 Universities of Medical Sciences and 8 Open Universities. Speaking of Colleges, there are more than 8000 colleges affiliated to various Universities. Out of these colleges, 151 offer MBBS and higher degrees in medicine, 78 in Dentistry, 126 in Pharmacy, 170 in Agriculture and allied courses, 438 in Engineering and 305 in Management.

So far as the grant of scholarships by the Government of India is concerned, the GOI grants 30 scholarships, administered by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations



various fields-technical, economic, scientific, cultural and educational were identified. Also two agreements, namely cooperation in cultural matters and agreement on cooperation in civil aviation were also signed at the conclusion of the JCM.

#### YT: Kindly mention the educational opportunities in terms of scholarships etc. available in India for Yemeni scholars.

**Mr. Suman:** So far as the educational opportunities are concerned, India offers

(ICCR), which is a wing of the Ministry of External Affairs. 23 Scholarships are given under the Cultural Exchange Program and 7 under the General Cultural Scholarship Scheme of the ICCR. Besides, Yemeni students wanting to pursue higher education in India can also do so through the self-financing scheme of the Government of India. The Ministry of External Affairs is responsible for administration of the self-financing scheme for Yemeni as well as other foreign students.

In addition to these, the GOI also provides 25 scholarships annually to Yemeni professionals for short term professional courses in various technical and other fields such as banking, small scale industries development, rural development, rural employment, agriculture production etc. The Government of India also pays for the airfare under this scheme in addition to the allowances for board and lodging and payment of training fees.

#### YT: What are the major fields or priority areas in which the Government of India encourages pursuit of higher studies in India by Yemeni scholars?

**Mr. Suman:** All areas of higher education in India are open to Yemeni students. Those in the academic field are aware that the distinctiveness, flexibility and quality of higher education in India have been attracting more and more students from other countries to come to Indian Universities for higher studies in contrast to the expensive Universities in the USA, the Western Europe and Australia. Higher education in India is subsidized and therefore, affordable. This is a big advantage for students under the self-financing scheme. Yemeni students who have the same social and cultural values as Indians, feel a greater sense of belonging and confidence to pursue higher studies in India.

#### YT: What role can the Embassy of India in Yemen play in this regard?

**Mr. Suman:** The Embassy of India which represents the Government of India would like to see more and more Yemenis receiving higher education in scientific and technical fields. This country needs manpower with higher order skills. Besides, with a view to further raising the standards of local

colleges and schools, the country needs more and more teaching staff with higher qualifications such as Doctorate or Masters degree. This is needed in scientific/technical subjects and in humanities also.

#### YT: What is the current state of English Language Teaching in Yemen and how do you assess the contribution of Indian professors in this regard?

**Mr. Suman:** English is a foreign language for India and Yemen also. But since the world has become a global village, the knowledge of English is an important component for pursuing higher technical and scientific education. India has, in fact been offering a lot in this respect. We are happy at the enthusiasm and sincerity that the Yemeni students have shown in their pursuit of higher education.

#### YT: In the past, several get-togethers in the Indian Embassy, Sana'a have been organized for Yemeni Returned Study Fellows. What benefits are purported to be achieved by such events?

**Mr. Suman:** Such get-togethers of the Yemeni Alumni from Indian Universities are arranged annually on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who was among the greatest luminaries of the Indian freedom struggle, a great educationist, India's first Education Minister and Founder-President of ICCR. Hence, this is a good occasion for a get-together of students who study in India at various points of time. For us also, it is an occasion of renewal of friendship with the Yemeni alumni from India. This event is held on a large scale in India, particularly in New Delhi where a large number of foreign students are studying. The occasion also coincides with International Students Day. Cultural programs of various countries are presented by the foreign students on this occasion for the domestic as well as the international students community in India. It would not be an exaggeration to call them Ambassadors of friendship and goodwill.

#### YT: Are there any proposals to further expand academic and cultural exchange programs between India and Yemen in future?

**Mr. Suman:** Yes, very much so. We have requested the Government of India to increase the number of scholarships to Yemeni students. Also NIIT, a prestigious Indian computer teaching institute has opened a branch in Sana'a for the benefit of Yemeni students. At the same time we are working on a proposal to open a Sana'a chapter of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in Sana'a which will further offer openings for technical, scientific and English studies.

#### YT: Thank you very much your Excellency for very illuminating views. We hope our readers, particularly a cross section of young Yemeni scholars would feel encouraged to prosecute higher studies in India and the Indo-Yemen comradeship would go from strength to strength in years to come.

**Mr. Suman:** Thanks.

**Happy Eid**

**Eid Package**

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### CONTINUATIONS FROM PAGE 1

#### Israeli Sources Assert Yemen to Arrange Israeli Tourist Visits

He added that Yemen is interested in Israeli visits more than Israel because it wants an organized tourism and the agreement was reached as a result of many contacts conducted in recent months by the Israeli former minister of interior security, a Yemeni-born person and an Israeli businessman from a Yemeni origin now living in the U.S., the Israeli newspaper reported.

Reliable sources told Yemen Times that there are about 450,000 Yemeni Jews living in Israel and whom Israel wants to facilitate their visits to Yemen. It is said that they will reach Yemen via Jordan; 10,000 Jews will come in a month.

On the other hand, the Yemeni government denies any secret contacts with Israel, besides the President of the Republic viewed that normalizing relations with Israel will begin following Saudi Arabia agrees first to do so. It is also reported that Jews' visits to Yemen have started some months ago when two rabbis along with Hayim Al-Tawil visited Yemen. It is also expected that a delegation of three rabbis headed by Mossa Al-Shara'abi are going to visit Yemen next April to discuss Yemeni Jews conditions living in different parts of Yemen. The new delegation may also discuss how to carry out Jews' visits to Yemen.

#### Jordan and Yemen:

##### Continued Growth in Mutual Relations

Over three days of its present session the higher joint committee discussed a host of topics leading to the strengthening of ties in economic and trade areas and enhancement of cooperation in the exchange of expertise. The meetings also discussed activation of aspects of cooperation between the Yemeni and the Jordanian private sectors. Meetings of the committee were attended by a number of representatives of the private sectors in countries, as well as businessmen and investors from both countries. The joint committee also discussed the implementation of former cooperation agreements signed by the two countries and ways of activating them. Discussions involved increased cooperation in the area of security and military affairs. Dr. Al-Iryani and Dr. Rawabeddah held a joint press conference

During the press conference, Dr. Abdul Raouf Al-Rawabeddah talked about the democratic experiment in Jordan, asserting that Jordan had made progressive strides and that it still needs time to achieve more and more. "Democracy is an and educational and behavioral process to be sown inside the souls of people so as to be practiced in all walks of life. What it needs is time. Elections' results by themselves are good for them, in course of time, will be practiced in their proper meaning. A continuous and unwavering struggle and practice of it achieve democracy," he added.

Regarding the attitude of Jordan towards the peace process, Dr. Abdul Raouf asserted "There is no future for the region without the desired peace process, the peace that is fair, comprehensive and ever-lasting. Therefore, all the concerned powers whether Arab or others should join forces to accelerate the peace process and bring back negotiations to their track because the alternative is more ruin. We in Jordan stand by our brothers in Lebanon in their fight against the Israeli outrageous aggression.

In the meeting a number of protocols in health, educational, industrial and cultural areas were signed.

## YOUTH FORUM

#### At the Airport

We have come here all  
Seeing you off is our goal  
Because it is the last day  
To have fun and play  
But we want to cry  
How venture you try  
To leave us alone  
Like soldiers with no gun  
Sky with no sun  
But anyhow, anyway  
Be happy today  
And remain so everyday  
After a deep sigh  
We will have to say bye  
Good-bye .....  
Good-bye.

**Fuad Abdul Karim Al-Sabri**  
**Taiz**

#### Modern Thoughts: The Theory of Monotheism of the Universe

As we know now, different elements of the universe have originated from the same source, but they differ in character and features. These differences are due to the variation of quality and arrangement of the elements they are composed from. i.e. electron, proton and neutron. So the elements of the universe naturally differ qualitatively.

The Einstein Equation that describes the relation between energy and mass with respect to the velocity of light is as follows:

"Energy is a matter of high velocity which we can sense, but not see. On

the other hand "Mass is the matter of a relatively low velocity which we can sense and see."

The theory of monotheism of the universe gives further credence to the Einstein Equation. It is stated that "All the representatives of the universe are just different modes of frequencies." According to the Wave theory of light, velocity of light has two variables: frequency and wave length. These variables are multiplied by each other. If we square them and substitute them by the velocity of light at the Einstein Equation, we will have a new equation. This equation satisfies the theory of monotheism of the universe.

Now we can apply a new definition for energy and mass as follows:

"Energy is a matter of a certain frequency which we can sense, but not see. While mass is a matter of a certain frequency which we can sense and see."

**Adil Mohammed Ameen**  
**Hodeidah**

#### Death-in-Life

I can never forget you.  
I can never live without you  
Birds continue singing.  
It is time to bid  
The sun to stop shining.  
It's the fire which eats  
All the flowers  
That you planted smiling.  
Don't you know  
That darkness has hurt my living?  
That my heart can not stop bleeding?

If your heart is dead,  
If your mind is closed,  
You better leave me  
and let me have death in life.  
**Zeyad Taqi Al-Ddin.**

#### The Letter

An old letter  
Has just reached me, from you,  
Full of longing of the years rolled by.  
I recognized from your handwriting right away.  
My heart overflowed with love .....  
O, My God! she did not forget me !!!  
The letter I opened was full of longing.  
There was all missing years' shadow  
In the lines.  
Believe me ! I kissed every line.  
Your letter is my prized possession  
It caused my hopes to leap out,  
And my loneliness vanished  
I profusely thank you,  
And kiss your eyes ...  
**el bi erbigi@yahoo.com**

#### My Thanks For You

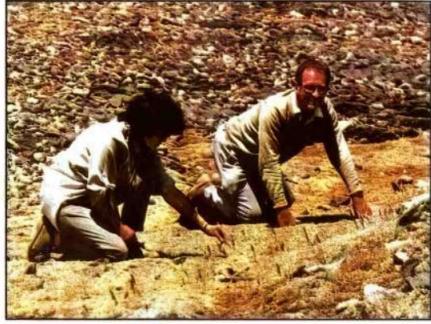
To the one who cheers me in my loneliness  
To the one who makes my vision more keen  
You are my truest friend in this world  
Hats off to you, my book.  
You're the worthiest friend, I have ever known  
o are the one who nourishes my brain  
I long for your company ever after.  
**Nassmah Rabea**  
**Taiz High Institute**

# Orchids in Yemen Part 1

Barbara Evans

The word orchids conjures up, to the average person, image of colorfully attractive flowers, brought from distant lands and grown in the hot-house of the seriously wealthy or in botanic gardens. These images relate to the kinds of orchid which are epiphytic, growing upon a host plant being on the whole symbiotic with it, aerial in nature, and therefore not having a terrestrial habit. They are the orchids which have gained tremendous popularity in the world of flower cultivation, breeding and hybridization.

Astonishingly, these epiphytic make up only half of the world's orchid population; the other half, the terrestrials otherwise known as ground orchids are probably less well known only because they have become masters of survival through camouflage. Yet this is hardly true, for orchids as a family are relatively young in the evolutionary scale of things and their means of survival are innovative and unbelievably varied; the gorgeous coloring of the epiphytes in just as wonderfully exploited by many ground orchids, whether they are in Africa or tropical Pacific islands. Indeed the coloring is of



vital importance in every case and in one genus, *Habenaria*, which is very close to my heart, the colour green is exploited with such subtle effect that camouflage is total, whether the orchid is on a wind-swept rock in Greenland, or a grass-clad mountain top in Yemen.

To find one orchid in Arabia would be reason enough to marvel, for until now only twenty two have been found. To find nine in Yemen -that dusty dry old place, biblical, controversial Yemen, land of incense,

myrrh and myth! - would seem a miracle. To have found them only in time snatched from all-consuming work and life in the capital, Sana'a, during the years 1981-1989 would make the endless and almost hopeless unless one lived there forever.

The first orchid we found or rather, almost

so ancient as to longer used, grazed over by flocks of sheep and vulnerable only to the weather; they are thus almost invisible at first glance for they are part of the broader terracing and pastureland. Of these orchids, others will describe the intimate botanical detail, but those who have seen them on occasion covering only stony graveyards in shallow drifts, following in ones and twos the narrow water channels on the next terrace, will never forget the alarming, demoniacal little face each presents if it is closely examined -at ground level. Two little horns and a goatee beard, a tiny face within little more than an eighth of an inch, is a startling shock to the most ardent orchid lover who lies prostrate to take a closer look. It is one of my favorites for its sheer audacity. Little guardian of the graveyard.

If any orchid we found in Yemen could be called flamboyant, then *Habenaria macrantha* was that. *Habenaria* on the whole are the green ones; green in a green world, whether in grassland Savannah, on a mountainside, or in woodland, they are well disguised. This one is no exception and was found in more than one location. It is an exuberant eighteen



inch high orchid, growing lustily and quite plentifully for example, at nearly 10,000 feet on precipitous thought grassy mountainsides, north of Taiz on the Sumarra, and also Maswara passes. The single stem emerges from the broadly sheathing leaves and bears the inflorescence of up to nine whitish-green flowers on its top third; it is its nature for the flowers to face in the same direction, towards the sun, and as in many of its genus, the softly narcissus-like perfume emerges towards evening. A girl of about our interest in the flowers and thought she admired them with us, she did not pick them to give as a present, which would be the normal and present instinct of the average Yemeni, and so we inferred that either the plant was of some intrinsic value to her family, or that it simply was not the custom with these rare plants.



Just after Ramadhan in 1983, we happened to be travelling around Yemen during the Eid and were slowly wending our way back to Sana'a, with two days to go before work started again. Climbing Jebal Taaqa, near Jiblah was a pleasant afternoon occupation before finding a campsite somewhere nearby for the evening. Imagine our delight and surprise when near the very top, at about nine and a half thousand feet, we discovered a little stand of *Habenaria lefebureana*, an orchid which is in habit very like the lily-of-the-valley whose entrancing perfume is legendary witness 'Muguet des Bois' by Houbigant, now unobtainable -the aroma from this tiny six inch orchid is evocative of chocolate and almost! Once more we were in company with very young shepherds and shepherdesses, four or five in all, whose brilliant Eid clothes of purple and red (the girls) and shepherdesses, four or five in all, whose brilliant Eid clothes of purple and red (the girls) and new gentlemanly sportsjackets and futahs (the boys) gave an even more celebratory atmosphere in the sparkling afternoon air, as they ran chattering barefoot, alongside us, they suggested we wish to drink, yes? We looked all around and saw no water, though by now our thirst was great. From under a grassy overhang, a secret place, scooped water from a pool- a tiny spring. It was crystal clear and cool. No king could give a sweeter gift. Their little faces watched gravely every movement as we each in turn received the tin and dark, whilst we almost held our breath lest we should spoil the gravity of this magic moment, of their most courteous gesture and manners.

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