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## Suspected Terrorists Tribunal Kicks off with Press Harassment

# Suspects Admit Plot to Murder US Ambassador

MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Amidst intensified security measures, the Sana'a Criminal Court specialized in considering issues of terrorism and kidnapping started the first hearing of the tribunal of a group of 15 suspected terrorists charged with several terrorist operations and plots. The prosecution charged the fifteen suspected terrorists with blowing up the French Oil Tanker in Mukalla in October 2002, carrying out several bombings in Sana'a, killing one soldier and plotting to blow up the US, UK, French, German and Cuban embassies in Sana'a as well as plotting to kill the US Ambassador to Yemen Edmund Hull. 14 of the accused were present at the court, although the 15th, Yasser Ali Salem, has yet to be arrested. When the prosecutor said the name of Limburg, the suspected terrorists shouted "Allah Akbar,



File photo of French oil supertanker Limburg after the blast incident occurred on October 6, 2002. The oil tanker had been attacked by a small speed boat as it waited to be tugged to Mina al Dabah, near Mukalla, 500 miles from Sana'a



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Allah Akbar," a tone showing happiness of victory.

The prosecutor Saeed al-Akil said before the court judge Ahmad al-Jermuzi the suspected terrorists rented a house in Hadramaut to store explosives and another to get the boat prepared; he said the boat cost was \$20,000. They also bought two tons of explosives where they stuffed the boat with an amount ranging from 1150-1250 kilo of TNT and 20 kilo of C4 plus a num-

ber of flashtubes. The operation against the tanker left one dead and caused, according to the prosecutor, an environment catastrophe. He also accused some of them, mainly Fawaz al-Rabee of firing against the helicopter owned by the US Oil Company Hunt wherein one of the crew was wounded. He said seven rockets were launched against the plane in addition to over 150 bullets fired by Hizam Mujali.

Continued on page 13

# Saleh accuses opposition of plotting to take over power

President Ali Abdullah Saleh harshly criticized some of the opposition newspapers, accusing them of plotting for taking over power and showing their enmity to unification.

The speech of the President came as a response to some reports and articles the opposition media published against

the political succession, demanding real political reforms.

Saleh accused, in his speech before a military brigade conducting military exercises in Hodeidah governorate last Thursday, those members of the opposition and their newspapers of planning to take over power not through elections but malice, working for reforms in the American style in Iraq and Afghanistan. "At the end, we will be obliged to carry out their demands of political reforms and what the US has imposed in Iraq and Afghanistan; this is to meet their demands as they go to embassies, calling for reforms in the American style," he said. "The American style in Iraq and Afghanistan is well-known; we have fought against

racism, sectarianism and regionalism, our people despise such sentiments but still they talk about them," he emphasized.

Saleh ruthlessly attacked the writings of some of the opposition newspapers on the military institution. "These try to market themselves through newspapers as heroes, wishing that we would put them in jail. We respect democracy, human rights, the constitution and the rule of law and will not allow them to market themselves in this way. They can say whatever they want," he said.

Saleh told the military men that these opposition forces are hostile to the military institutions because it abolished the monarchical system, established the republican system and thwarted the secession attempt in the 1994 civil war.

"You in the military and security forces have a long history with these hostile forces and thus you should not expect them to thank or praise you. On the contrary, they doubt the national unification and your faith in the nation," he addressed the soldiers in a tone the opposition leaders understood as an attempt to instigate the enmity of the military against them.

He said that there are some members and wolf voices in some of the opposition papers that are not responsible but work to harm the national unification and the military institutions and are rabble-rousers. Saleh praised the efforts of the military forces and their role in fighting against the monarchy, bringing the victory of the unification against what he called "the Agreement of War and Destruction," meaning the Oath and Agreement Accord signed before during the political crisis prior to the 1994 civil war which, according to him, caused the deaths and casualties of 10,000 and cost the budget over a US 1 billion. "It is, therefore, natural that they show enmity to you and your leadership and call for the change of power, not through peaceful means and ballot but malicious plot," he stressed. "Do not care about such nonsense," he addressed the soldiers, suggesting that these opposition forces suffer some sort of psychological disturbance that is not easily cured.

There is currently a media barrage between the opposition and state-run newspapers over the question of the succession of power set up by the central political figures, who have paved

the way before their sons and relatives to take over key positions in the military, security and civil service. Al-Shoura opposition weekly was the first paper to release a report on this question; this agitated the anger of the ruling party whose media as well as state-run papers counterattacked against the opposition parties, accusing them of being royalists and secessionists. The

opposition media continued to criticize such behavior, despite the threats al-Shoura editor received, demanding a real and substantial political reform in the country.

Some political observers show concerns over the media barrage attack and counter attack between the two sides, comparing the situation to that one prior the civil war of 1994.

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**Q: Do you have new untraditional or unorthodox tourism ideas that you plan to implement?**

**A:** One of the things that concerns me, is that tourism can have a negative affect on a society, and this has been proven in many regions of the world particularly in developing countries. In Yemen, I encounter children in mountain villages begging for pens from tourists. I realize that it is the tourist who has caused this problem. I know that clients always want to bring something to the country they are visiting. They want to help and they think that by bringing pens they are doing well. Instead it causes a problem for those tourists who come after, as those are the tourists who suffer.

All tour operators and travel agencies should ensure that the tourists coming into the country do not give pens to anyone unless they choose to visit a school and in this way give pens and notebooks.

In the past, my clients would visit a school. We would find out who is the best student in English, then we would sponsor one or two thirteen or fourteen year olds for 3 months of

computer classes. He learns excel, word and outlook express applications. It is a win-win situation, and this encourages the other children to study their English. This is one idea or suggestion where travel agencies and tour operators could advise incoming clientele on what they can do to help local children and communities. It costs about \$40 per student for 3 months of instruction. This would leave a more positive image of the tourist in the community, and the tourist would come away feeling like they really did help. The expatriate community as a way of helping local communities could also implement this.

**Q: What should be the priorities of tourism in Yemen (e.g. ecotourism, desert cruising, etc.)?**

**A:** Ecotourism is very important, and particularly to a country like Yemen which has such natural diversity from mountain to desert terrain and areas like Socotra and Al Mahra in the far east of the country. Ecotourism benefits local communities, putting something back into that community and having that community involved in the decision-making and plans for

their specific region of the country.

Trekking has not seriously been tapped in Yemen, and this could be developed with local communities. Nepal is a trekker's paradise, and most tourists these days want active soft adventure. Yemen is ideal for this type of tourism. In my opinion, Yemen is the Roof of Arabia. If you picture Nepal and the Himalayas with terraced farming and crystal clear skies, then picture Ireland or Scotland with round stone towers and castle style houses, and you put the two together - you have Yemen. Desert tourism is also extremely important and has not been developed as yet. Using local tribes to take tourists on camel safaris is extremely successful in West Africa and in Morocco, and this could be developed in Yemen in time by recreating the journey of the old frankincense route on camelback. Diving, snorkeling, and deep-sea fishing in the Red Sea and off-shore islands could be developed with the right investment. The government should be actively seeking companies to invest in Yemen's tourist industry as the possibilities are endless where tourism in Yemen is concerned.

**Q: What about advertising? Why doesn't Universal start a massive advertising campaign on TV (international networks) and the press? Why not do it in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture?**

**A:** Internationally we are advertising and marketing in conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture at trade shows, which is the main source of business for all tour operators. But tourism the world over is suffering these days, and even more so in the Middle East. The Universal Touring Company is actively participating internationally, but it will take time before we reap the benefits. One must recognize that marketing is what makes a company like Universal successful today.

However, if you are willing to give me free advertising space, then you make me very happy. Maybe you could set a precedent whereby I can actively pursue the same from Al Yemenia, the TV networks, Yemen Observer

and local radio? A collaboration of this caliber during these lean times would help us, as we will be there for you in the future. It is you who reap the benefits from us when tourism rebounds and the tourist dollar is spent in country.

**Q: What about your ambitions concerning the use of the internet? We know that massive numbers of tourists gain do a lot of research online before coming to countries in the Arab world, including Yemen.**

**A:** The internet, and e-mail, is an incredible tool at our disposal that sadly is not utilized to its full capacity in this region. I did not grow up like the children of today, who are computer literate at an extremely young age. Computers have been around for some 20 odd years, and I can understand why those who are of my generation can be somewhat afraid of computers if they have not had the proper training and if they have not been exposed to how powerful

a tool it is in the workplace. Frankly, I could not function without computers.

One of the marketing goals is to ensure that all staff are computer literate to a level that increases productivity and that helps sell our products. Training will be implemented for those that need it along with other programs. Our website for the Universal Group will be redone in due course, as it is indeed a very important marketing tool for tourism.

**Q: Any other comments you may have?**

**A:** Suffice to say, that I couldn't be happier than to be here living in Yemen and working for Universal. Yemen is my favorite country in the world, and I don't say that lightly as I have traveled to more than 60 countries. I have had a long healthy business relationship with Universal for many years, so it is an easy transition for me as I feel part of the Universal family group. In sha'allah, I will be here until I am old and gray!

**Erratum** We would like to notify our dear readers about the original colors of Suzuki's logo, which is as shown below, not green as per last issue. Thank you.

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# New Iraq PM works on government team after confusion

BAGHDAD, May 29 (Reuters) - Iraq's prime minister-designate Iyad Allawi began the process of forming a government team on Saturday, meeting U.S. and Iraqi officials, aides said.

Confusion that surrounded his surprise

A senior U.S. official in Baghdad later insisted, however, that the choice was final and said Iraq's new president and two vice presidents would probably be named on Sunday with the rest of the 26-member cabinet line-up to follow in a day or two.

of Allawi.

Faced with a barrage of sceptical questioning from Iraqi journalists — "We see no democratic process, we see no voting," said one — the senior U.S. official said Allawi was selected from dozens of contenders in a process driven by Brahimi.

"The United States did not pick anybody," said a White House official, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

Ordinary Iraqis know little of a man who spent more than 30 years abroad, first as a medical student in Britain supporting Saddam Hussein's Baath party and later as a wealthy exile who founded the Iraqi National Accord with funds from the CIA.

**ASSASSINATION**  
Aides to Allawi said he was meeting various fellow members of the Governing Council, which will give way on June 30 to the interim government. One said he also expected to meet Paul Bremer, the U.S. administrator in Iraq.

A spokesman for Brahimi said the envoy would now work with Allawi to form a government. Its main task will be to organise Iraq's first free elections in the new year amid widespread violence from sectarian militias and al Qaeda-linked Islamists.

In the northern city of Kirkuk, where rival ethnic groups are competing for a share of Iraq's oil wealth, a prominent Kurdish politician was killed on Saturday in a drive-by shooting — the third assassination of a Kurdish official this month.

Colonel Mohammed Hamid, the head of Kirkuk's fire department as well as a senior member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party, was killed with his wife, sister and another relative when their car was strafed by gunmen in another vehicle.

Arab, Kurdish and Turkmen groups are all at odds in Kirkuk.

With the top job in the hands of Allawi, a secular Muslim from the long-oppressed 60-percent Shi'ite community, Brahimi is expected to name a president from among the once dominant Sunnis and a vice president each from the Kurds and the Shi'ites.

Elections are due in January under a plan that Washington has submitted to the U.N. Security Council for endorsement.

Allawi, who has fostered ties with the old Iraqi military and whose cousin Ali Allawi is defence minister, has warned of the huge difficulties of installing democracy in Iraq when there is little tradition of free voting anywhere in the Middle East.

He has been a strong supporter of rebuilding an Iraqi army and building up other internal forces to restore order.

**little known**

He and his team will also face a big credibility test among ordinary Iraqis who knew no leader but Saddam for three decades.

"Iyad Allawi was a member of the Baath party in the past, so how do we know that he won't bring back old members of the Baath party?" said Mayadah Khudair, 30, an accountant in the Shi'ite southern city of Basra.

"That said, the Baathists were good at security and they might be able to bring it back...Allawi isn't the best, but he could be useful during the transition period," she added.

Negotiations are going on in the U.N. Security Council over how much sovereign power the interim government will have.

Some Iraqi leaders and countries such as France are pushing to amend a U.S.- and British-sponsored resolution to strengthen the government's powers, notably over the U.S.-led troops.

Allawi, born in 1945, is a neurologist and businessman. In 1990 he formed the Iraqi National Accord, backed by the CIA and British intelligence. The INA provided some of the now widely discredited intelligence on Saddam's weapons that formed U.S. President George W. Bush's prime justification for invading.

Around the holy city of Najaf, the biggest trouble spot for U.S. forces, where five Iraqis were killed in clashes on Friday, there was a new skirmish in the town of Kufa. U.S. forces said they killed Shi'ite militiamen who opened fire.

But both U.S. commanders say they are optimistic that, over the coming days, a two-day-old truce offered by militant cleric Moqtada al-Sadr will end an uprising by his Mehdi Army fighters.

# Iran officials viewing quake zone die in air crash

TEHRAN, May 29 (Reuters) - Senior Iranian officials viewing earthquake-hit areas northwest of Tehran died in a helicopter crash on Saturday, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Both the governor of Qazvin province and his deputy were killed, along with the province's head of police. The pilot and two crew also died.

"The helicopter, which was on its way to inspect earthquake damage in Alamut, Rudbar and Qazvin, crashed," said Jafar Zoliquadr from Qazvin's governor's office.

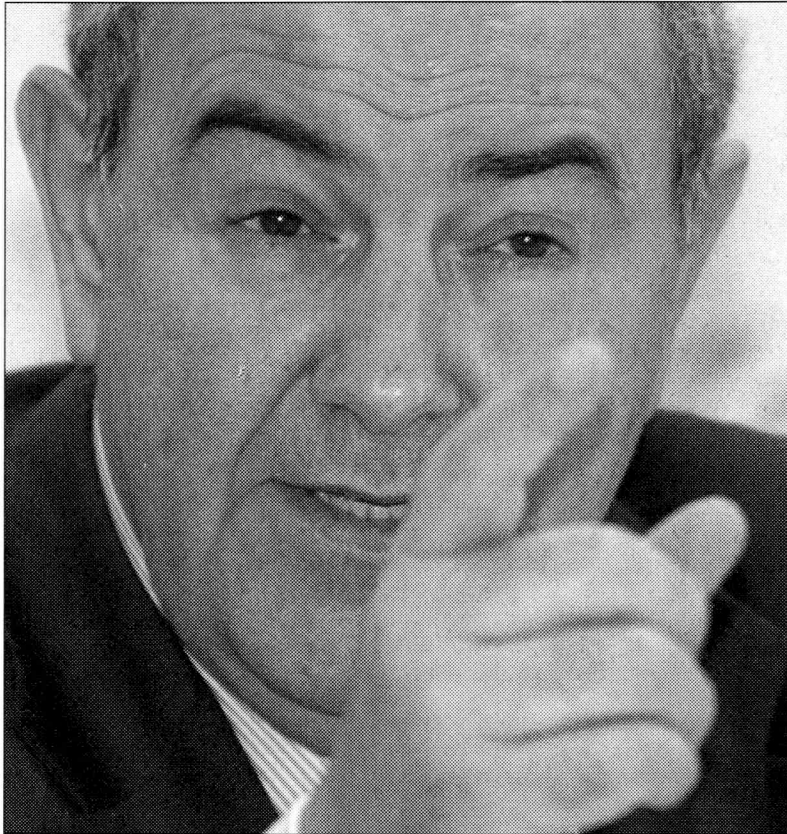
Friday's earthquake, measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale, rattled the Alborz moun-

tains that run across northern Iran, killing 25 people and damaging many villages.

Qazvin Governor Massoud Emami spoke to state media directly after the quake saying more than 80 villages had been damaged in his province. He put out a call for tents and food.

The Interior Ministry said four people died in Qazvin province, two of them in Alamut, famous for its crumbling citadel of the Assassins, a feared medieval Islamic sect.

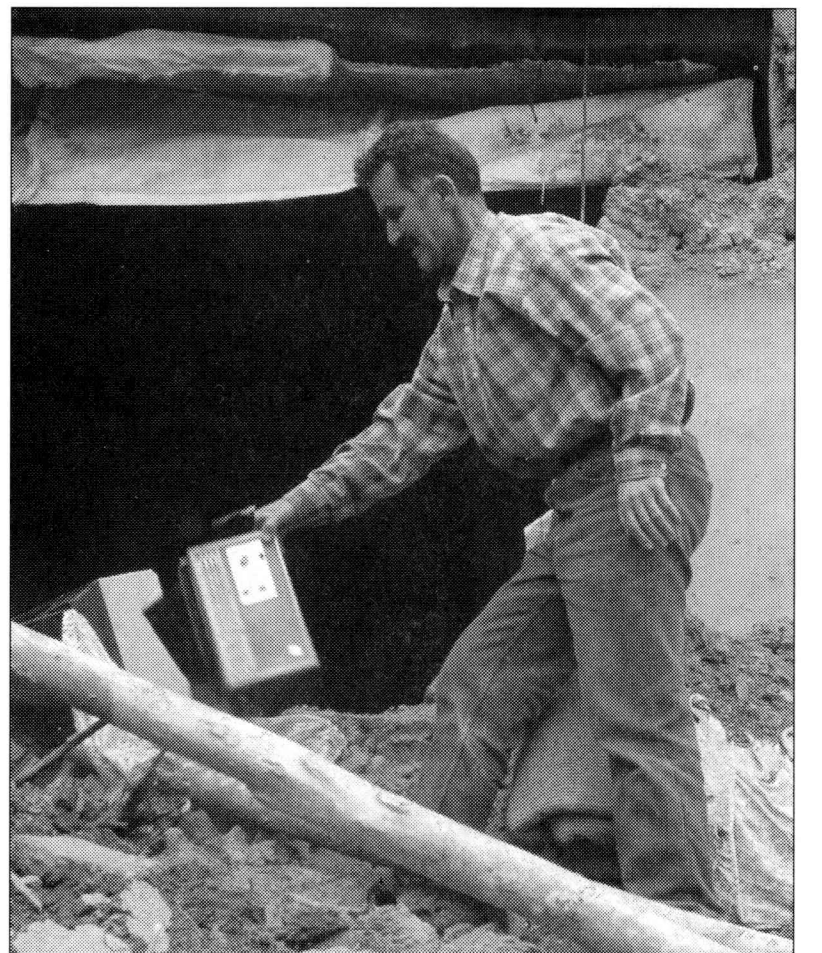
The cause of the accident was not immediately clear but Iran has a dismal air safety record.



File photo showing Iyad Allawi, president of the Iraqi governing council, during a news conference in Putrajaya, in Malaysia on October 15, 2003. Allawi, a former supporter of Saddam Hussein who then worked with the CIA to topple him, was chosen as prime minister of Iraq on May 28. United Nations envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, whom Washington had asked to form a new Iraqi government, confirmed the choice of the British-educated neurologist through a spokesman on Friday. He will head an interim government due to take over the country from the U.S. occupation authority on June 30. REUTERS

nomination by Iraq's U.S.-appointed Governing Council on Friday rippled on, with one official in the U.S. occupation authority calling him "just a nominee", despite a White House and United Nations endorsement.

U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, asked by Washington to help set up an interim government to take over from U.S. rule next month, seemed to have been completely taken aback by the way the 23-member Governing Council announced its choice



An Iranian villager in Qazvin searches for belongings under the rubble of his destroyed home following an earthquake May 29, 2004. An earthquake measuring 6.2 hit Iran's western province of Qazvin on Friday. REUTERS

# Israeli officer, Palestinian die in separate incidents

NABLUS, West Bank, May 29 (Reuters) - Palestinian militants shot and killed an Israeli army officer in the West Bank on Saturday, the Israeli army and militants said.

A local commander for the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement said the West Bank shooting was vengeance for a major Israeli raid in southern Gaza that left 42 dead this month and the Israeli killings of three Al-Aqsa leaders on May 2.

Witnesses saw medics treating a soldier lying in a pool of blood after he was shot in an exchange of fire with gunmen in Balata refugee camp, a militant stronghold near the West Bank city of Nablus.

"This is one of a series of operations planned by Al-Aqsa Brigades in reaction to Israeli crimes in Rafah, Nablus and other Palestinian territories," Khalil Marshoud, a local commander of Al-Aqsa, told Reuters.

"We want to confirm our continuation with the resistance option," against Israel, Marshoud said. "Israeli soldiers have put a lot of pressure on our civilians and fighters, and pressure leads to explosions."

The Israeli army said a captain from northern Israel was shot and killed as he was leading searches for militants suspected of planning attacks against Israel, in an early morning raid.

A commander of the Israeli force told Israel Radio that Capt. Shahar Ben-Ishai, 25, was mortally wounded while "in the alleyways of the camp as part of the mission, in a force that was covering other troops. They came under fire and one of the bullets struck Shahar." He died later of his injuries.

It was the Israeli army's first fatality in the Palestinian territories since a string of ambushes in mid-May killed 13 troops in Gaza, triggering a massive six-day raid in southern Gaza's



A Palestinian paramedic watches as an Israeli soldier arrests the mother of the senior Fatah commander Emad Akkobeih during a military operation in the West Bank city of Nablus May 28. REUTERS

Rafah in which 42 Palestinians died and dozens of homes were destroyed.

In a separate incident, a Palestinian man's body was found near the Gaza border fence with Israel. He was shot on suspicion of trying to plant a bomb, an Israeli military source said.

The source said soldiers had recovered the man's body lying near the border fence with Israel east of the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun.

Two bombs were found nearby weighing 30 to 40 kgs apiece.

Sources in Gaza said the dead man was a militant, aged 22, from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Elsewhere in the West Bank, soldiers arrested four suspected Palestinian militants early Saturday in villages near the town of Ramallah.

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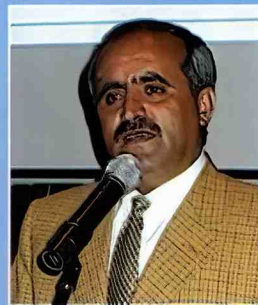
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## Yemeni Businessmen Club Inaugurated

The Yemeni Businessmen Club was officially inaugurated at its headquarters in Sanaa on Tuesday May 25 amid the presence of Minister of State for Capital Secretariat, Mr. Omar Al-Amoody, Minister of Transport, Mr. A Wahab Al-Akil, Vice Minister of Technical and Vocational Training, Ahmed Al-Kuhlani and Japanese, Indian and Kuwaiti Ambassadors to Yemen. The event was also tens of prominent businessmen from various sectors and fields.



The event signaled the emergence of a club whose aim is to carry out various social, commercial, sport, and other activities that bring about a spirit of cooperation and unity among all Yemeni businessmen in Yemen.



Mr. Ahmed Al-Kuhlani

The Club, which consists of an elected board as follows:

1. Ahmed Abu Bakr Ba Zaraa – Chairman
2. Adil Ali Ahmed Al-Hadha – General Secretary
3. Jamal Abdulwasi Hayel Saeed – Assistant General Secretary
4. Fahd Hizam Al-Jarrash – Financial Official
5. Mohamed Ahmed Al-Basha – Media Official
6. Ali Abdulhafeed Al-Yusufi – Cultural Official
7. Tariq Abdullah Sabeha – Sports Official
8. Haitham Mohsin Al-Aini – Public Relations Official
9. Ziyad Mohamed Abdulmajeed – Member
10. Shukri Abdullah Al-Furais – Member
11. Abdo Mohamed Bajjash – Reserve Member
12. Rashad Hassan Mabjar – Reserve Member
13. Khalid Abdulrahman Al-Bajja – Head of Audit and Monitoring Committee
14. Mohamed Abdulqawi H. Saif – Deputy Head of Audit and Monitoring Committee
15. Mohamed Saeed M. Al-Maysari – Rapporteur of Audit and Monitoring Committee



### The main activities of the YBC

1. Holding economic conferences and seminars
2. Organizing foreign trade exhibitions
3. Hosting foreign experts
4. Organizing specialized training programs for YBC members and employees
5. Arranging tours and trips
6. Publishing books and publications specialized in businessmen

### Mission Statement

To work on providing a fertile ground for the exchange of experiences, achieving common interests between members, and improving the knowledge base and skills of members in order to help them succeed in their businesses.

### Objectives

- Strengthening cooperation among members.
- Improvement of professional skills.
- Exchanging experiences.
- Establishing links of cooperation with similar organizations nationally and internationally
- Contributing in the development of the members' organizations.



The event included statements by the Chairman Mr. Ahmed Abu Bakr Ba Zaraa and Minister of State for General Secretary Ahmed Al-Kuhlani, in which he praised the efforts of the founders and stressed on the importance of follow-up and continuity in the events and activities of the club.

### Address of the Chairman of YBC

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of our Board of Directors I would like to welcome you in our club and wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for your kind attendance to officially inaugurate our Business Club, which we hope it will be a valuable and beneficial addition to the private sector in Yemen.

The idea of the club goes back to more than three years when a group of distinctive businessmen used to meet in some sport and recreational activities. The meetings started to be periodical and more organized, and we used to whisper why not forming a forum. Since then, lots of efforts were put until we come to this shape of the club.

The objective of this club is to finally have distinguished, educated, skillful and capable businessmen, who positively contribute in the development of this country each in his own field whether it is trade, services industry or agriculture. We are also here to promote trade with rest of the world and foster and facilitate technology transfer and expertise exchange between various partners whether in Europe or the Far East or across the Atlantic. As the world is getting smaller and as the globalization is expanding, we think that our members should think and act global.

We have realized that in Yemen, we need the businessman who has good education, and possess enough skills and competencies and enjoy high standard of business ethnics so as to qualify him or her to do well in today's economy and today's open global market.

We focus our activities on the training programs for our members and their institutions and staff. In fact, we have carried out a number of training courses and seminars in management and marketing for our members and their staff. We have also created a "Family Business Unit" which will extend its consultancies and training to all due to the importance of this sector which represent great share of our economy. We also give attention to the social and recreational side which our members need.

We are certainly at the beginning. We still have long way to go. But the thousand mile journey starts with one step. Our plans are clear. Our goals are so vivid. We are so proud of our energetic and committed members and with them we will achieve our objectives.

Once Again, I thank you and I am glad to have you here.

Ahmed Abu Baker Bazaraa  
Chairman

Tuesday, May 25, 2004

**Words of Wisdom**



The real meaning and purpose of the democratic transformation and the economic reform is to remove traditional master-client relations in Yemen's power structure, as well as market distortions in economy. Thus, the success of the nation's evolution will be measured exactly in those terms. Unfortunately, our political leadership does not understand the meaning of intended change.

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



**OUR OPINION**

World Association of Newspapers:

**Why not be part of it?**

The Yemen Times took the initiative to become the first ever Yemeni newspaper to become an associate member of the world-renowned World Association of Newspapers (WAN). The Paris-based organization has been quite active for many years in promoting the press throughout the globe. In the 11th World Editor's Forum that started in Istanbul yesterday, it was clear that there is greater commitment now to focus on an area that has long been neglected and paid little attention to, and that is the Middle East.

For many years, newspapers in Yemen were seen prosecuted, closed down, bankrupt, etc. Those developments have now made Yemeni as well as Arab newspapers more aware of the need to get out of their isolation and begin creating international links and bonds so as to get out from the smaller picture to the larger one.

In a time of globalization and common interests, we cannot afford to stay isolated. As Yemeni newspapers, we should seek aggressively to be part of the media picture around us. We must reveal the miseries and troubles that we face to our colleagues in the region and the world and share experiences to find solutions. We must never ever forget that we are all in the same boat, and by taking this into account, we should seek ways to bolster our relations and find common ground to move forward.

I also seize this opportunity to call upon other Yemeni newspapers to join WAN to share with many of its members ideas and experiences and set up potential strategies of partnership and cooperation.

I have come to know that many newspapers, especially large ones, tend to appreciate and welcome initiatives coming from our part of the world. Many of those newspapers want to find about the conditions of the press in Arab countries and want to find ways of enhancing them. A lot of what could be called 'enterprise' newspapers are thinking more about helping other emerging democracies develop their abilities in presenting the facts in a professional and accurate manner. The issue of 'commercialism' in giant newspapers in the West did not change, but at least, there is now greater margin of moving in the direction of helping others grow too.

I believe that learning from examples of others is a good starting point for us as newspapers in the Arab world. Each and every giant newspaper we see throughout the world had a humble beginning, and indeed, we can also grow as they did and become giant newspapers if we had the will, commitment and if we developed our resources adequately.

I have faith in that other Yemeni newspapers will follow in the footsteps of Yemen Times and merge into this global coalition of newspapers to create better conditions for the press in Yemen, and bring many editors and journalists out of the country's borders towards internationalism and take Yemen's press reality out of its stagnancy towards international standards on all levels.

*The Editor*



Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly  
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991  
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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- To advertise in the paper, contact the advertising department in any of the offices of the newspaper.



By Yahya Al-Olfi  
alolfi@hotmail.com

**Reflections**

**Is Berg's case a setup to divert international attention from Abu Ghraib's abuse scandal?**

In Yemen Times issue 738 I expressed my utter disgust at the sight of the alleged beheading and did mention that skepticism surrounded Nicholas Berg's incident amongst the Arab masses. I also referred to the Americans' adoption of Israel as their exclusive Middle Eastern Mentor. Hence, what happened, did happen because Israelis are habitually committing the same on a daily basis if not even more worse against the Palestinians and Arabs held in their prisons. The difference here is that the Israelis who asininely consider themselves superhumans have no Tagubas at all, nor do they ever give a damn about any international subhumans, Americans and Europeans included, because to them they are mere goyim like any others i.e. subhumans. Europeans and Americans verily deserve this Israeli classification for when it comes to Israel, America and Europe, sorry to say, just kneel submissively. Anyhow, it seems that somebody else is sharing my skepticism. The American writer Kurt Nimmo wrote an article titled "The Strange Case of Nicholas Berg" and here you are what he wrote "Fortuitously, some would say suspiciously, a grisly video turns up just in time to dampen the perilous flames of Abu Ghraib scorching the credibility of Rumsfeld and Bush. Nicholas Berg — described as an independent contractor scouting work on communications towers in war-torn Iraq — is brutally decapitated, his body found near a highway overpass in Baghdad on Saturday, May 8. Three days later a video of Berg's execution, allegedly entitled "Abu Musab al-Zarqawi shown slaughtering an American," surfaces on an "al Qaeda-linked" web site. In a matter of hours the depravity of Abu Ghraib is locked in head-to-head competition for newspaper and television space with the murder of an innocent American. "Americans grappled with shocking new images of horror, from scenes of masked militants beheading a Pennsylvania man to descriptions of U.S. soldiers torturing and humiliating Iraqi prisoners," writes Terence Hunt of the Associated Press. "After days of issuing apologies, President Bush shifted from defense to offense with a tough condemnation of terrorists." Conspicuously ill at ease with the humbling prospect of assuming responsibility for the torture and mistreatment of Iraqi detainees (apologizing is not Dubya's forte), Bush grabbed the bull by the horns and mounted up the presidential saddle to strike a pose he finds far more to his liking — that of the global village sheriff hunting down and smoking out terrorists. "The actions of the terrorists who executed this man remind us of the nature of the few people who want to stop the advance of freedom in Iraq," said Bush from the White House. "Their intention is to shake our will. Their intention is to shake our confidence. Yet, by their actions, they remind us of how desperately parts of the world need free societies and peaceful societies. And we will complete our mission." It was a godsend for reactionary radio talk show hosts and irate senators weary and angered by all the attention paid to what they consider the insignificant and wholly-overblown torture of Iraqis who they believe are criminals, terrorists, and murderers (even though the military admits many if not most — possibly 90 percent — of the Iraqis detained have done nothing wrong). "The U.S. government is committed to a very thorough and robust investigation to get to the bottom of this," Dan Senor, spokesman for the occupation, promised reporters in Baghdad. But if the troublesome details surrounding the Berg case are any indication, the Bushites may want to leave the story alone and call off the investigation before it turns into another fiasco.

How is it Nicholas Berg ended up a captive of — so were are told — Psychopathic fundamentalist Muslims? Did he simply walk into a den of vipers or is there something else behind his abduction and murder? It is now well established that Berg was in the custody of either the US military or the Iraqi police (actually a component of the US military and occupation at this point) prior to his disappearance and murder. On May 13 CNN reported that Berg "was detained by Iraqi police at a checkpoint in Mosul on March 24, under suspicion of possible involvement in illegal or terrorist activities." Berg aroused sufficient interest that the FBI decided to visit him several times while he was in jail.

The FBI "met with him on three occasions and made their own determination that he was not suspected of being involved in any criminal or terrorist activities. But he was at no time under the jurisdiction or within the detention of coalition forces." Senor said. But why would the FBI consider Berg a terrorist suspect in the first place? Is it because his father is not only an outspoken critic of Bush's invasion? and occupation but also because he decided to sue Donald Rumsfeld for holding his son for nearly two weeks without charge or allowing him to seek legal representation? On April 5, the Bergs filed suit in federal court in Philadelphia, contending that their son was being held illegally by the US military in Iraq, according to the Associated Press. On the following day Nick Berg was released from custody. He disappeared three days later. "I still hold [Rumsfeld] responsible because if they had let him go after a more reasonable amount of time or if they had given him access to lawyers we could have gotten him out of there before the hostilities escalated," Michael Berg said in an interview on Boston's WBUR radio station. "That's really what cost my son his life was the fact that the U.S. government saw fit to keep him in custody for 13 days without any of his due process or civil rights and released him when they were good and ready ... It goes further than Donald Rumsfeld. It's the whole Patriot Act, it's the whole feeling of this country that rights don't matter anymore because there are terrorists about." But the FBI may have had additional incentive to single out Nick Berg. "The Free Republic.com website and forum has a reputation for right-wing views, fanatical Republicanism and relentless pro-war activism," writes Fintan Dunne, editor of BreakForNews.com. "On 7th March, 2004, just three weeks before the first anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, an 'enemies' list of anti-war groups and individuals was posted on the Free Republic forum ... It began: 'Here you are, FReepers. Here is the enemy' ... Among those listed as having endorsed the call to action was this entry: 'Michael S. Berg, Teacher, Prometheus Methods Tower Service, Inc.' Prometheus Methods Tower Service was the independent communications company owned by Nick Berg. Michael Berg was his son's business manager."

Is it possible Nick Berg's arrest and detention was not only ordered by the military but he was also set up to be brutally murdered? More than a few people seem to think so. Sam Hamod comments: "There is [a] strange matter to this situation that troubles me. Why was Mr. Berg picked up by coalition forces and imprisoned, so much so that his family sued Donald Rumsfeld for his release and information on him. The military says it released him, but suddenly then, he disappeared because when people went to see him at the hotel he was allegedly registered at, he wasn't there and no one there knew of him. Very strange point number two is, why was Mr. Berg in an American issued orange jump suit — the kind Americans put prisoners in, when he was photographed and killed? The Iraqis or other Arabs would have had him in Arab clothing so as not to draw suspicion to him of his being a prisoner — not an orange jump suit. Also, the way the men were standing, and their size, as a person experienced in the middle east, most Arabs don't stand that way and most Iraqis are not that tall — the men stand more like Westerners of some sort, or even Israelis, but not like Arabs or Iraqis." Alex Jones of InfoWars.com published several emails that raised additional questions about the alleged Muslims — supposedly connected to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi (said to be affiliated to al-Qaeda, although this allegation is tenuous at best):

"The picture the media is now showing of the guy the terrorists beheaded as revenge for what went on in the Iraqi prisons looks odd to me. If you look at the men dressed in black, they all seem well fed. Actually most look fat. That bothers me, because these guys are fighting a war and eating on the run. They are constantly on

the move and should be either very fit and trim or scrawny and malnourished because of the same reasons. One thing they should not be is fat like couch potatoes. If you look at all of the photos of the prisoners who were naked who supposedly were just plucked of the street, most of them are thin."

Another email sent to Jones makes a few trenchant points concerning the video: "Tape obviously spliced together and heavily edited. Goes from a) Berg sitting in chair talking about family, to b) Berg sitting on floor with hooded 'militants' behind, to c) blurry camera movement, to d) almost motionless Berg on floor as head cut off ... Audio clearly dubbed in ...

"Arab" reader flips through pages of "statement" and keeps ending up on the same page. Perhaps doesn't even know enough Arabic to recognize what page he's on? ... "Arabs" have lily-white hands and (other exposed) skin ... "Arabs" have Western-style body posture and mannerisms ... When Berg decapitated, there was almost no blood. If Berg were still alive at this point, with the cut starting at front of throat, blood would have been spraying everywhere. Berg's severed head, the floor, Berg's clothes, and even the hand of the "Arab" who decapitated Berg had no visible blood on it ... Berg's body didn't move while on the ground. Although held down, Berg would have tried to instinctively wiggle and writhe away from captor's grip ... Camera angle made it impossible to see if Berg's eyes were even open ...

Alleged "scream" from Berg sounded to be that of a woman and was clearly dubbed in. When I first looked at captures from the video — I have yet to see the actual video and quite frankly I don't want to see it — I noticed immediately a lack of blood coming from Berg's severed head. This seemed very strange to me, even though I admit I am hardly an expert on such things — even so, it makes sense that a freshly severed head would bleed profusely, as the above comment points out. I can only assume from the comments of people who have the stomach to view the video that Berg did not struggle as al-Zarqawi cut off his head with a knife. If true, none of this makes any sense. Is it possible Berg was already dead or this may not even be Nick Berg in the video?

Finally, the blogger ymphora posted an interesting — and entirely plausible — summary of what may have happened to the hapless Nick Berg: "Reading between the lines of the many conflicting reports of the beheading of Nicholas Berg, it appears that he had been in the control of the U.S. military before his death, possibly using the Iraqi police as a front. He then mysteriously ended up in the hands of fundamentalist Iraqi freedom fighters. It is very difficult to avoid the conclusion that the Pentagon arranged for him to be turned over to the freedom fighters in order that Berg's inevitable death could be used to divert attention from the George W. Bush Rape Rooms and give the knuckle-dragging Americans another reason to think of Iraqis as sub-human and thus deserving of torture, rape, and murder at the hands of the Penta-torturers. I don't necessarily buy into the theory that the US military, military intelligence, or the Israelis, either on their own or in cahoots with the above, killed Nick Berg. But I cannot discount it either, especially considering the repeated and continuous lies of the Bush administration and the blood-spattered history of US intelligence, especially the CIA. I'll end with another quote from Sam Hamod:

"We must also ask the question intelligence agencies use, 'Who would most benefit from this act?' In this case, if not Israel, then Bush and America to take the heat off of America for the brutality of the torture in Iraq and Guantanamo. This terrible act also took a lot of pressure off the U.S. Thus, it is also possible, since the killers were hooded, and thus we can't know who they were, that it could have been American counter-insurgency agents, CIA or mercenaries who did this 'heinous act' at a time when the glare of anger toward the U.S. was growing in the world. I don't know that this is true, but having worked in intelligence situations, I know it has been done in the past."

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**COMMON SENSE**



By Hassan Al-Haifi

**The Bush Administration's major failure: Setbacks in human rights and democracy**

For all the rhetoric about seeking to bring democracy throughout the world, the Bush Administration seems to be the least qualified world leadership to adopt such a campaign in a world that is seething with tyranny and oppression. In fact, the Bush Administration may have caused more harm than good to spreading the good word on democratic practice and freedom. For one thing the obvious backing that the Bush Administration gives to some notorious dictators or rulers with a notorious record on human rights and peaceful coexistence is inescapable. Surely, the removal of a democratically elected President in Haiti or the blind support of a dogmatic Zionist like Ariel Sharon have done great harm in America's image as champion and trendsetter in civilized state behavior or concern for human rights. On the other hand, the unforgivable behavior of American forces, in battle as well as in interaction with occupied civilians has often led to a poor display of superpower decorum and reflects an unwelcome arrogance that has set the fight for democratic governments and political rights decades back. Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay and the obvious use of third party regimes to do the dirty work on American prisoners surely cannot be said to be within the bounds of civilized state behavior or sincere and genuine intentions on the part of the White House to disseminate freedom and liberty for all. Even the attempted efforts to play down the seriousness of the Abu Ghraib and other prison tortures, which apparently were carried out under a systematic program, as evidenced by the exchange of personnel with more "experience from one operations theater to the next in the global network that the Bush Administration has set up to wage its "war on terror", have underscored the widespread belief that there is policy at play here and not just a few disgruntled soldiers "having fun".

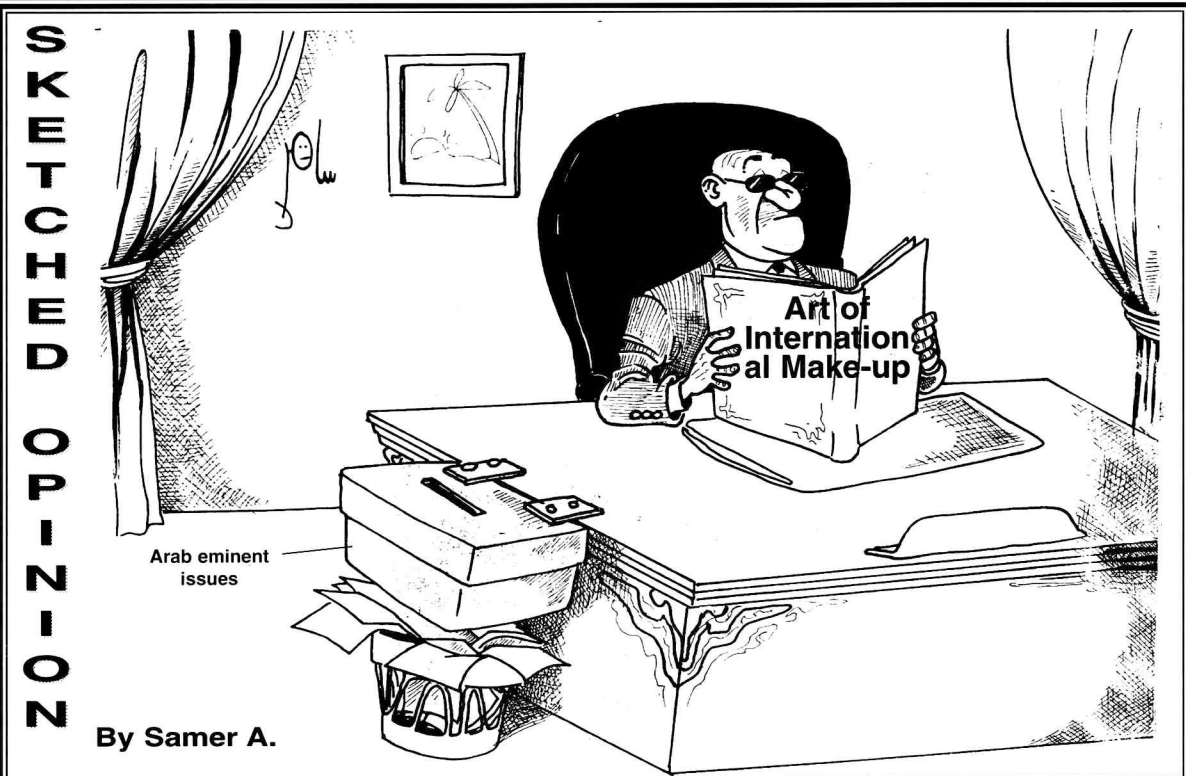
The obvious blow of the Abu Ghraib horrors to the many who have long advocated for the removal of tyranny and oppression that exists in many third world countries, in general, and many Arab States in particular can never be over exaggerated. This is what has literally allowed third world tyrants to say, "So, you see it is not just us, even so-called democracies freely engage in torture and humiliation of people". They will even add by saying, "At least we focus on our opponents, or suspected conspirators, whereas most of the American prisoners, by their own admission, are innocent victims chosen without due cause or process. For an added plus, we "minimize on sexual humiliation". Some will even boast that they respect international opinion and will often release prisoners at the first sign of international displeasure. With the Americans, the Red Cross critical reports to the highest levels of authority were ignored or reacted upon with superficial effect or simply as a nuisance. This in itself reflected a clear contempt for established international community oversight and a poor communications of adherence to the minimum humane standards of treatment that human beings have a right to expect from a democracy set out to instill human rights and moral conduct of government. Many Arabs were quick to comment that the Arab leaders voiced very little outrage at the outset of the Abu Ghraib disclosures, as they would easily be exposed also by the Americans for their own abuses of their constituent's right to humane treatment. One would have hoped that Washington would work diligently to prevent the manufacture or sale of torture gear by the many western firms that supply most of this horrific equipment to third world countries. But to actually engage in the use of such equipment or services (electrical wiring of humans, sound and light torture gear, etc, and of course hiring "interrogating" contractors), the Americans have really made the challenges facing human rights advocates so difficult.

In the occupation of Iraq, one does not hear of meaningful strides in governance sensed by the Iraqis, to what they had under the regime of Saddam Hussein. In fact, little consideration is given for any feedback from the Iraqis as to their state of affairs, under an American administrative authority. This authority is not even equipped with a clear legal mandate setting forth its responsibilities and the performance standards for gauging its success, especially in delivering the message of democratic rule and human rights. This was probably not oversight on the part of the Bush Administration, but a deliberate venue intended to give the Civilian Provisional Authority to set its own rules and standards as the situation on the ground dictates and to avoid any possibility of being evaluated on the basis of the legal authorizations meted out to the CPA. Needless to say, this CPA never showed any intent or desire to involve the Iraqis in any of the decisions that primarily affected them in now and in the future, nor that this American occupation was anything more than being just that, an occupation. Whatever symbolic image was there of Iraqi participation in "running their affairs", even the makeshift Provisional Government Council, set up as the Iraqi storefront symbol of the occupation must have its meetings agendas approved by the CPA before any of its topics could be discussed and dealt with by the Council. Even such matters as economic and social affairs were left to the discretion of L. Paul Bremer III, and thus little was there to show any hopes of real sovereignty for Iraq in the present and the future. Of course, the free hand of the CPA was extended to contracts for the "reconstruction" of Iraq, and very little effort was made to set out ways to enhance the Iraqi economy by engaging Iraqis in many of these contracts, not to mention the apparent lack of transparency or oversight at the way such contracts are meted out.

The domestic picture in the United States has also shown retractions under the Bush Administration on a number of fronts, thus giving little weight to the claim of disseminating liberty and democratic government elsewhere.

Accordingly, the Bush Administration's credibility, even as far as its declared aims, for all the havoc created in Iraq and elsewhere, is not worth all the ink and air of the ideological rhetoric that has been blared out. The fact of the matter is that much harm has been done to the struggle for freedom and democratic governance, not to mention the failure in eliminating global terror.

Only if the American people can show that their democratic process will be able to undo the harm that the Bush Administration has wrought, to both the image of the United States as a champion of human rights and to the genuine efforts of advocates for a democratic world everywhere, will there be hope that maybe all is not lost.



By Samer A.



# YT Business

## Aggressive moves on retail banking

BY PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIEMS STAFF

A number of banks in the Yemeni market have been developing retail banking in the last few years. But International Bank of Yemen's pace of unleashing new products and services this year may put the bank out front, taking retail banking further in the banking sector.

"We are focusing on offering a wide variety of retail products to give our customers what they need," said Ahmed Al-Absi, General Manager of International Bank of Yemen. "This should help increase our customer base."

International Bank of Yemen will be the first in Yemen to initiate a point-of-sale service. Customers will be able to use cards to make purchases at retail outlets, such as supermarkets, restaurants, hotels, pharmacies, gas stations and hospitals.

This week a team from India and Dubai has been implementing the system, and according to Al-Absi, the point-of-sale service will be up and running at 200 locations early next month.

The bank's goal is to have 1,000 outlets using point-of-sale by the end of the year.

"This will be very convenient to customers," said Al-Absi. "They will not have to worry about going to get or carrying cash. They will be able to buy nearly everything with only a card."

International Bank of Yemen is also expanding on its ATM network. Along with ATMs at some of its branches, it has placed four ATMs standing alone away from the branches in different locations in Sana'a. By mid-July, 19 independent ATMs will be operating in the capital and 10 others will be located in other major cities, such as Aden, Taiz, Hodeidah and Ibb. The bank's goal is to have up to 100 ATMs operating across the country by the end of the year.

Last month, International Bank of Yemen was the first bank in Yemen to offer services to customers using mobile phones. The Short Message Service (SMS) gives customers the convenience of checking on information without going to the bank. Information for customers includes balances, transactions, bill payments and the time to collect new checkbooks, ATM cards or credit cards.

The bank has also been aggressive in the world of plastics. It has secured important relationships with two major credit card companies: It is the Representative of



Mr. Ahmed Al-Absi

American Express and the Principal Member for Visa in Yemen. It is now the sole provider of American Express cards, and in the next few months, Visa cards issued by Yemeni financial institutions will be carried out through International Bank of Yemen.

According to Al-Absi, the development of debit and credit cards will make life of customers easier. Different cards, such as American Express, Visa and Mastercard, will be accepted at the bank's ATMs and the outlets involved in point-of-sale. The advantage of using plastics will not only be for local clients; foreigners who have cards issued in other countries will be able to use them in Yemen as well.

Although International Bank of Yemen has decided to become more aggressive on the retail banking front, branching out into new territory is not new. It has been the agent for Western Union for a few years, and it now has 60 different locations across Yemen offering fast money transfers to and from over 190 countries.

Yemeni banks have paid more attention to developing retail banking recently to help boost their fee-based income and attract more customers. Arab Bank, based in Amman, Jordan, and the largest bank operating in Yemen based on

### Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.4500	184.6800
Sterling Pound	326.3600	326.7600
Euro	220.0300	220.3000
Saudi Rial	49.1800	49.2500
Kuwaiti Dinar	625.0400	625.8200
UAE Dirhem	50.2200	50.2800
Egyptian Pound	29.8000	29.8400
Bahraini Dinar	489.2700	489.8800
Qatari Rial	50.6600	50.7300
Jordanian Dinar	260.1600	260.4800
Omani Rial	479.1200	479.7200
Swiss Franc	143.1800	143.3600
Swedish Crown	24.1800	24.2100
Japanese Yen	1.6254	1.6274

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

total deposits, was the pioneer in offering new products and services to customers in the local market.

It was the first to setup ATMs both at its branches and at public locations. Arab Bank was also the first to issue credit cards under the bank's name and offer phone banking.

When Yemen Gulf Bank was established in 2001, one of its main goals was to focus on retail banking to attract customers. Soon after it opened, it was the first bank in Yemen to offer online banking.

International Bank of Yemen is expecting positive results focusing more of its attention on offering new products. Al-Absi expects the bank's fee-based income to jump from 15% of total income to 30% and gross profits to increase from \$900 million in 2003 to \$1.6 billion this year.

And the bank is expecting the results not from just offering more products, but from offering more at a fast pace.

"Our goal is not only to develop retail products, but to get them out at a very rapid pace," said Al-Absi.

### Ramzi S. Al-Ariqi of the Yemen Association for Certified Public Accountants to YT:

## "Due to the lack of sound legislation and enforcement mechanism, the accountant profession is facing grave challenges"

BY ISMAEL AL-GHABERI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Ramzi S. Al-Ariqi is the President of the Yemen Association of Certified Public Accountants. He was elected to the presidency on October 20, 2003. He graduated from Sana'a University in 1986 with a major in economics and a minor in accounting. He also received his Master's in Accounting and Auditing from the University of Oklahoma, USA in 1996.

Ramzi is a Licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) from the State of Colorado, USA, and a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) from the American Institute of Management Accountants.

Ramzi is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the American Institute of Management Accountants.

When the Association was established?

The Yemeni Association of Certified Public Accountants was established 1992. However, since its inception, the Association has not been able to play an important role in the development of a sound accounting and auditing profession. The Association also was not able to provide for the professional development for its members. This is mainly due to the lack of financial resources, which are less than US \$ 3,000 each year, and lack of support from the related institutions.

How many members in the Association?

Currently, there are about 700 members in the Association, and 220 of them are actively involved in auditing practice.

Are there any female members in the Association?

Yes, there are few female members. Despite the fact that we are not able to attract many female members to the auditing profession, we have few female members in the associated and they also are represented on the board



Mr. Ramzi S. Al-Ariqi

of directors and in the operational management.

What is the current situation of the profession in Yemen?

Since the collapse of Enron and WorldCom in the US in 2002, the accounting and auditing profession in many countries has been facing many challenges, including shaken public confidence, new regulations and more restrictions on auditors from providing specific consulting services to audit clients. In Yemen, due to the lack of sound legislation and an enforcement mechanism, the profession is facing grave challenges in order to restore the business community's trust in auditing practices. In addition, practitioners lack the required accounting and auditing resources including continuing professional education and training. Practitioners also working in an environment without formal local or international accounting and auditing standards.

Is the Yemeni Government doing all it should do for the profession in Yemen?

I don't think so. As you aware, the Yemeni government started a successful economic reform package in 1995. It has also been enhanced by administrative and financial reform in recent years. We believe as part of this reform, greater efforts should be directed toward comprehensive reform of the accounting and auditing profession in Yemen. Such reform is essential for the development of private and public sectors. It is also impossible for current Yemeni busi-

nesses to be developed further and for the Yemeni Government to establish a Yemeni stockmarket without sound accounting and auditing practices that enhance quality financial reporting and transparency. We believe that the government is not doing enough in the development of the accounting and auditing, which is the milestone in the development of the Yemeni economy.

Currently there is mission from the World Bank performing an assessment of strengths and weaknesses of accounting and auditing practices in Yemen. We hope that the results of the assessment will help in the development of accounting and auditing practices in Yemen.

What are the services provided by the Association to its members?

After it has been elected, the Board of the Association adopted a formal annual plan. The plan calls for major reform in the profession. This includes working with other relevant supervision bodies in developing the appropriate mechanism for enforcing current laws and regulations, formation of the High Council for the Accounting and Auditing Profession and coordination of efforts in order to adopt sound accounting and auditing standards. We also started joint efforts with the Auditors Licensing Committee at the Ministry of Industry and Trade in order to introduce the first auditors' qualification exam this year. The plan also called for conducting a training needs survey.

What are the future projects of the Association?

Many. Some of our future projects are: 1) Preparation of a long term strategy for the profession; 2) Establishment of a training institute for the accounting and auditing profession, which might be established by the government or by the Association with support from the government and international donors, 3) Issuance of the Yemeni Accounting Journal 4) Joining the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

What are the main problems facing the Association?

We have many problems. Lack of adequate financing for the Association activities, which prevent us from adopting any plans with significant objectives is our primary challenge.

However, the Association is currently working hard to overcome this problem by increasing membership fee and

looking for other sources of income. We are also facing some other problems such as a lack of formally adopt-

ed accounting and auditing standards, low awareness of the rules of auditors, etc.



### STUDY IN THE USA! MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

The American Embassy and AMIDEAST are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for master's degree studies in the United States under the J. William Fulbright Scholarship Program. Applications are for Fulbright grants beginning August/September 2005. Fulbright grants provide funding for two years of master's degree study in the U.S. in all fields of study except medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and engineering.

Qualified applicants must have:

- A Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science (minimum four-year degree) from an accredited institution awarded at least one year prior to application;
- Demonstrated ability to undertake advanced studies with "Very Good" or higher grade point average (equivalent to a B- or top five percent of graduating class);
- One-year work experience (volunteer or paid); and
- English language skills.

Applicants must also be Yemeni citizens currently residing and working in Yemen.

Excellent applicants holding bachelor's degrees in any field of study are welcome to apply. Interested individuals should visit AMIDEAST offices to learn studying in the U.S.

To obtain application forms and to receive further details, please visit or contact AMIDEAST at:

▶AMIDEAST Sana'a: Algiers St. #66, P.O. Box 15508, Sana'a. Tel. 01-400-279. Fax: 01-206-942. E-mail: [yemen@amideast.org](mailto:yemen@amideast.org)

▶AMIDEAST Aden: 162 Miswat St., P.O. Box 6009, Khormaksar, Aden. Tel/Fax. 02-232-345. E-mail: [aden@amideast.org](mailto:aden@amideast.org)

Complete application submissions must include:

1. The Fulbright application form, available at AMIDEAST;
2. Contact information, including phone number(s) and mailing addresses;
3. An International or ITP TOEFL® score of 500 (scores may not be older than 2 years from date of application);
4. Certified copies in English of all undergraduate transcripts and undergraduate diplomas or certificates of graduation;
5. Three letters of recommendation in English from individuals familiar with the applicant's achievements; and
6. Three recent passport-sized photos.

NOTE: Applicants who do not have a valid Paper-Based TOEFL® score should contact AMIDEAST immediately to arrange for an ITP TOEFL® examination.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT AMIDEAST OFFICES IN SANA'A OR ADEN NO LATER THAN JULY 14, 2004.

# مايو 22



تتقدم

شركة أسماك اليمن المحدودة

**Yemeni Fish**

بأطيب التهاني والتبريكات إلى فخامة الأخ

حفظه الله  
عبدالله بن عبد الرحمن  
رئيس الجمهورية

بمناسبة احتفالات الشعب اليمني بحول الذكرى

الرابعة عشر ليوم 22 مايو

يوم تحقيق الوحدة اليمنية

متمنين دوام التقدم والازدهار للوطن اليمني

الذي يشهد إنجازات تنموية كبيرة

في ظل راعية فخامته الحكيمة

وكل عام وأنتم بخير

المهندس / عبدالله أحمد بقشان

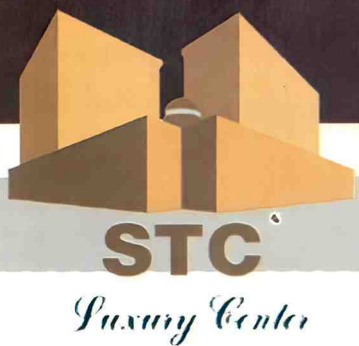
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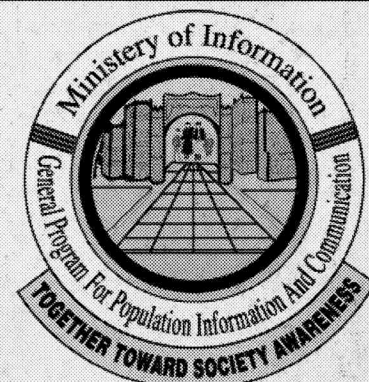


Implemented by the Ministry of Information's General Program for Media and Population Communication:

Annual and Final Report on Communication and Enlightenment Program for 2003 (RH) on

# Reproductive Health & Family Planning through Public TV & Radio Communication

All activities of GPMPC is supported by UNFPA



## Final report on the Achievements of the General Program for Media and Population Communication at the Ministry of Information concerning Project YEM/02/02 (PDS) for 2003

### First: Program's components:

TV and radio programs have dealt with reproductive health and their service elements and raised awareness about the rights of married Muslim couples to freely choose their preferred means for family planning. Such programs also informed the public about risk indicators during pregnancy and childbirth and several other important issues which were tackled in prior coordination and cooperation with the General Manager of Reproductive health Dr. Najeeba Abdullah Abdulghani

### Second: Targeted groups

The targeted groups in those communication and enlightenment messages about reproductive healthcare and family planning were identified as:

- The father
- The mother
- Young males and females
- The family
- The society

### Third: Period of broadcast and its average in the plan

The total broadcast period in both TV and radio for the plan was 1,880 minutes (approx. 31 hours and 20 minutes). On average, the same message was planned to be broadcast twice during the period from August to October 2003 for a total of 131 TV and radio programs along with radio discussions. However, the actual implementation of the program resulted in, 617 minutes which is 39.2% more than the planned period, i.e., a total of 43 hours and 36 minutes through 2003.



### IMPORTANT STATISTICS

Number of programs and the time allocated for them in TV, Radio, and other means of public communication:

Total number of activities: 57  
Total number of minutes: 3,248

Number of participants in training and workshop programs during the period from March 29 to October 21, 2003: 106

Number of pages allocated for press coverage in the Yemeni press for the program: 30 pages

### Fourth: In field of communication

Communication and cooperation with the General Administration of Reproductive Health was established through a training program as the administration in the centralized and decentralized levels have participated in training journalists in Taiz, Aden, Mukalla, and Saadah. Journalists benefited tremendously in gaining experience and skills in reporting about reproductive health related issues. The General Program for Media and Population Communication is committed to continuing such efforts in future on both the centralized and decentralized levels.

### First: In preparation, production, and broadcast of TV and radio programs based on plan

Coordination and cooperation took place with all related parties in the first and second satellite TV channels along with the first and second public radio programs and local radios in Sayoun, Taiz and Abyan in order to achieve the program. The plan included 57 TV and radio and interactive programs for a period of 54 hours for 2003 between starting in March and ending in October.

The national experiences in preparing, producing, and broadcasting the communication programs related to population issues have been enriched in its third year due to the following:

- The decentralized execution of the programs and live discussions
- Linking the annual training program with other programs in the same field and having included new cadres from both genders
- Transparently discussing the negative and positive results of the periodic meetings

### Second: In the field of training

The training activities included seven areas:

- Guiding meetings
- Workshops
- Training sessions

In the training field, more than 106 trainees from both genders were trained. In fact, with a percentage between 40 and 52%, in some occasions the number of female trainees exceeded male trainees. Sa'adah was an exception with only 22% of trainees female, which is still a relatively good indicator when taking into account the conservative nature of the governorate, especially when noting that this is the first activity of its kind in the governorate.

The training also included those involved in population communication programs in TV, Radio, and the press along with news editors in the news agency SABA. Members of the general secretariat of the National Population Council, staffers of the Yemeni family Care Association, and members of the National Women Committee along with others belonging to

concerned bodies also took part in the training activities, which took place in Taiz, Mukalla, Sana'a, Aden and Sa'adah. The training program for the year 2003 was completed with 100% effectiveness.

### Features of decentralized training:

It is worth noting that having decentralized training activities in governorates has participated positively in enrolling as many trainees as possible with the participation ratios of 95% in Sa'adah, 92% in Mukalla and 89% in Aden.

On the other hand, having coordinated on the centralized level in the capital between the general program, the general secretariat of the National Population Council, the Yemeni Family Care Association, the National Women Committee, Ministry of Endowment, General Commission for Scouts and Girl Guides, and Health Affairs offices, has made it quite easy to launch activities throughout the country with no conflicts or problems. This also allowed the emergence of creative ideas and new proposals and initiatives by the participants in the local decentralized level with appropriate considerations of the local characteristics of each governorate. Meanwhile, the training activities also included the College of Information of Sana'a University, Institute of Media Training and Qualifying, and the National Center for Media and Health Enlightenment.

### Objective of trainings:

The objectives of training activities within the program are divided to two segments according to type of activity:

#### Goals of training workshops for transcripts for Radio and TV programs:

- Training and qualifying writers of messages, TV and Radio flashes on issues of population, reproductive health, family planning, and women's problems.
- Providing those writes with scientific and theoretical knowledge on how to self-develop in writing professional and effective messages for the audience according to the targeted groups and their stance on such issues.
- Producing a complete reference (index) file on how to write flash items for Radio and TV

### In training sessions and guiding meetings for specific activities:

- Introducing the population growth problem and its negative impact on future development economically, culturally, and socially
- Introducing reproductive health care, its benefits, and its role in reducing the fertility in females and hence in reducing the overall population growth rate
- Introducing women's rights and issues and stressing on their role in development
- Explaining family planning from an Islamic perspective
- Explaining the issues of the youth and their role in development
- Unifying media's stance on issues and technical elements related to means of family planning
- Promoting news coverage on the problem of excessive population growth, reproductive health, family planning, women issues and helping journalists build and edit news items in this respect and guiding them to build momentum and influence for those news items.

### Achieved results from training so far:

According to a survey filled in by participants in the workshops on flash messages for radio and TV, the training program has indeed achieved all its objectives and has resulted in greater awareness of participants in issues of population growth, reproductive health, family planning, and women issues. According to the survey filled by 20 participants, the participants' understanding of the elements presented was very good at 95%. As for the balance between theoretical and practical elements in the training, most participants agreed that they were balanced with a percentage of 90%.

### Final evaluation of participants:

According to the views of participants in the training programs, the program was a success with satisfactory overall results, hinting to the proper preparation and execution of the program. However, several other points were also taken into account as future commitments including:

- Enhancing and developing local training programs in the future for members of

public communication connections.

- Periodic classification of talented individuals in the field of population-related media and specifically in TV and radio messages both on the centralized and decentralized levels.
- Complementing training sessions with up-to-date curricula and better attendance by ensuring the priority selection of participants who have participated in related courses that are complemented by the new courses.

### Third: Newspaper reportages

Thirty articles and reportages were planned to be published on issues of the problem of population growth, environmental health, AIDS, female education, etc. This was to be done through publishing coverage in government and private newspapers including Al-Jumhuriya (to have greater coverage for population-related issues in collaboration with Al-Thawra), Al-Balagh (for its dedication in tackling population related issues), and Yemen Times (to reach out to the donor community).

### Fourth: In news coverage

The General Program has ensured news coverage for the following events:

- World Population Day 2003 activity at the Sabeen Arena
- An activity for the declaration of the status of the population in 2003 and introductory session for journalists on AIDS. Both events witnessed great attention and coverage in the press
- Documentation of TV, Radio, and press news coverage of the events held during 2003 related to population, reproductive health, gender, AIDS, and other related issues.

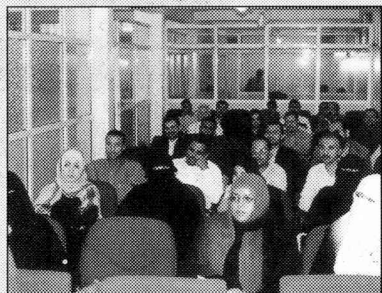
### Fifth: Political Support

The program was greatly supported by Information Minister Hussein Al-Awadi, who met directly with the organizers of the event and ensured that all the support possible is given to them. On the other hand, Mr. Hussein Omar ba Saleem, the Assistant Deputy Ministry and the Executive General Secretary of the program also provided all the help possible for the success of the program for 2003 in all levels.

## Final report on the work and results of the workshop on the radio-based dialogue book on population, reproductive health, family planning, and women issues Sanaa (10-19 June 2003)

### First: About participants

There were 20 participants working for the main and second radio programs along with representatives of local radio stations and the general secretariat of the national population council and the family care association. Among them were 8 female participants (40%).



### Second: Attendance and satisfaction of participants

All participants attended all sessions and classes without interruption. The overall assessment of the course was 95% (19 participants) was very good and 5% (1 participant) as satisfactory.

### Third: Balance of theoretical and practical elements:

The program was 50% theoretical and 50% practical. Among the participants 90% (18 participants) agreed that the balance was achieved, while 10% (2 participants) mentioned that the balance was just satisfactory.

### Fourth: Formation of groups

As for the composition of the participants, 75% (15 participants) agreed that it was very good, 15% (3 participants) believed it was satisfactory, while 5% (one participant) said the composition was not adequate.

### Fifth: About dialogue samples

As for the selected dialogue samples used for the workshop, 65% believed they were very good, 30% said they were satisfactory, while 5% did not approve the selection.

### Tenth: Financial and Administrative aspects

All participants (100%) believed that the event was handled properly in the financial and administrative aspects.

As for the amounts of money delivered to participants from other governorates to come to Sana'a - to cover daily transportation, meals and accommodation, 80% of participants felt they were very good, while 20% said they were satisfactory.

On the other hand, just 40% of those who participated from Sana'a believed that the amount -YR 2,000 daily- was very good, while 50% said they were just satisfactory and 10% said they were not.

### Eleventh: Female participation

As mentioned earlier, 8 out of the 20 participants were female (40%). When asking their opinion about the level of participation of females in the workshop, 95% said it was very good, while 5% said it was satisfactory.

### Twelfth: Overall evaluation

At the final stage of the evaluation process, the organizers requested participate to openly and frankly give a percentile score for the workshop as a whole, and the results were as follows:

- 15% said it was excellent (100% score)
- 30% said it was very good (90% score)
- 40% said it was good (between 70 and 80%)
- 15% did not give an opinion at all

## Final report on the work and results of the workshop on the radio-based flashes book on population, reproductive health, family planning, and women issues Sanaa (20-30 June 2003)

### First: About participants

There were 15 participants working for the main and second TV programs. Among them were 8 female participants (53.3%).

### Second: Attendance and satisfaction of participants

Five participants from the Satellite Channel (main channel) did not arrive on the first day, so after excessive and aggressive communication with the channel, they were replaced by five others who started attending the second day, after which all participants attended sessions and classes without interruption. The overall assessment of the course was 93.3% (14 participants) was very good and 6.7% (1 participant) as satisfactory.

### Third: Balance of theoretical and practical elements:

The program was 50% theoretical and 50% practical. All participants (100%) agreed that the balance was achieved between theoretical and practical elements throughout the workshop.

### Fourth: Formation of groups

As for the composition of the participants, 80% (12 participants) agreed that it was very good, 13.3% (2 participants) believed it was satisfactory, while 6.7% (one participant) said the composition was not adequate.

### Fifth: About flash samples

As for the selected flash samples used

for the workshop, 73.3% believed they were very good and 26.7% said they were good.

### Sixth: Extra subjects in the program

The workshop program also included extra subjects within certain extra time slots. Among participants, 80% agreed on the quality of those subjects, while 13.3% said they good and 6.7% said they were satisfactory.

### Seventh: Participants' comments

Participants also presented some comments that evaluated the technical, administrative, and procedural aspects of the workshop. Among them 60% agreed that they were very good and 40% said they were good.

### Eighth: Workshop's objectives

46.7% of participants believe that the workshop met its objectives, while the remaining 53.3% evaluated meeting the objectives as good.

### Ninth: Scientific & technical abilities of the workshop cadre

Only 6.7% of the participants believed that the staffers working for the workshop had excellent scientific and technical abilities. 80% however, said that the cadre did meet the requirements of the workshop in skills and qualifications in a very good way, while only 13.3% believed they were just good.

### Tenth: Financial and Administrative aspects

73.3% of the participants said that the event was handled properly in the financial and administrative aspects. Meanwhile, 20% said the handling was good, while 6.7% said it met the minimum requirements.

As for the amounts of money delivered to participants from other governorates to come to Sana'a - to cover daily transportation, meals and accommodation, 20% of participants felt they were good, while 80% said they were satisfactory. On the other hand, just 80% of those who participated from Sana'a believed that the amount was very good, while 20% said they were good.

### Eleventh: Female participation

As mentioned earlier, 8 out of the 15 participants were female (53.3%). When asking the opinion of all participants about the level of participation of females in the workshop, 60% said it was very good, while 40% said it was good.

### Twelfth: Overall evaluation

At the final stage of the evaluation process, the organizers requested participate to openly and frankly give a percentile score for the workshop as a whole, and the results were as follows:

- 13.3% said it was excellent (100%)
- 33.3% said it was very good (90%)
- 46.7% said it was good (between 70 and 80%)
- 6.7% said it was acceptable

Continued from page 1

## Suspects Admit Plot to Murder US Ambassador

The prosecution also accused them of carrying out several terrorist explosions in different parts of the capital Sana'a including the office of the intelligence and house of one of its directors. The charges also included a plot to blow up the US, UK, French, German and Cuban embassies in Sana'a as well as killing the US Ambassador to Yemen Edmund Hull.

Some of the suspects denied the charges but some admitted them, mainly the plot to kill the US Ambassador. Saleem al-Dallami said that they wanted to restore the dignity of the government by killing Edmund Hull and take revenge for Abu Ali al-Harithi who was killed by an American drone in the desert of Marib in November 2002. "We have gathered around as friends and plotted to kill the US Ambassador, we talked about that," he said.

The leading member of the group Fawaz al-Rabee was accused also of killing one soldier along with Hizam Mughalis when he

tried to arrest them as well as throwing a grenade at policemen in Sana'a. However he denied and refused to talk unless he gets an advocate.

The prosecutor said that such crimes have harmed the country very much and put Yemen as target in the war on terrorism. "Such crimes did not target only specific persons but went beyond that, causing horror and terrorism for citizens," he added, demanding severe punishments for the suspected terrorists. Reading the file of investigations and confessions of the suspects, the prosecutor said that they confessed that al-Harithi authorized Fawaz and Abu Bakr al-Rabee to attack the Hunt plane, providing with the necessary fund for that. Fawzi al-Hababi admitted that he met Abdurraheem al-Nasheri alias al-Mullah Bilal, who was arrested in the UAE and turned over to the US, asked him to get a forged passport and went to meet him in the UAE where he gave him \$50,000 to give it to Walid al-Shaibah to

plot for the Limburg attack carried out by Abu al-Harith al-Badwi and Naser Awadh.

The suspects appealed to the judge to give them a chance to get together and also appoint lawyers which the judge accepted and decided to run the next hearing tomorrow. The suspects seemed not to care about the trial as they were smiling and laughing during the hearing which continued for almost three hours. There was tight security measure as soldiers were heavily fencing the area round the court along with armed cars.

The trial session was attended by some people from the US embassy while journalists, except only those working for state-run media, were not allowed to take pictures of

the suspected inside the court room or even outside. Journalists were very angry because of this discrimination which they said goes against the freedom of press and is a sort of harassment for them.

The trial came after significant pressure by the parliament, international and local human rights NGOs as well as demands by the relatives of the suspects. Other 12 suspected perpetrators of the terrorist attack against the USS Cole in Aden on October 12, 2000 were supposed to appear before court along with these ones. However, the Yemeni government said that they would be presented to court later after the finish of the investigation with the newly arrested suspects. The US has several times thwarted

the trial of the Cole suspects under the pretext of collecting more information on the incident. Yemen said that two of the suspects including al-Nasheri, who is considered the mastermind, are in the US and that they should be turned over for trial in Yemen.

**List of the suspected terrorists names on trial**

- 1-Omar Saeed Hasan Jarallah, alias Ibn Hafidh, 26
- 2- Fawzi Yahia al-Hababi, alias Abu al-Shaheed, 26, jobless
- 3-Mohammed Saeed Ali al-Amari, alias Abu Gharib al-Taezi, 25, jobless
- 4-Fawzi Gharib alias Abu Musab al-Taezi, 24, student

- 5-Yasser Ali Salem
- 6-Fawaz Yahia Hasan al-Rabee
- 7-Abu Bakr Yahia Hasan al-Rabee, 26
- 8-Hizam Saleh Ali, alias Mujali
- 9-Ibraheem Mohammed Abduljabbar, alias Abu Zaid, 25
- 10-Mohammed Abdullah Ahamd al-Dailami, 26
- 11-Saleem Mohammed Ali al-Dailami, 25, teacher
- 12-Abdulghani Ali Hussein, alias Jaber al-Sanani, jobless
- 13-Kasem Yahia Mahdi, alias Abu Hurairah al-Sanani
- 14- Khaled Ahmad al-Jalob, alias Abu Muslim
- 15- Aref Saleh Ali Mujali

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**I. What to Say**  
Situations and expressions: (67)  
Felicitations on the  
Graduation Day (III)

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- A warmest note of congratulations and with lots of love. Your tremendous sincerity, integrity enabled you to make your dreams come true. May you progress and prosper beyond measure and enjoy the rewards of success with pleasure.
- Heartiest congratulations! May each beautiful tomorrow bring you lasting happiness. May you meet each goal your heart is dreaming of. May you know how many others share your pride and your joy today.
- Best wishes graduate! Every wish you make today is certain to come true since the future looks wonderful for a graduate like you.
- Special thoughts will be with you on graduation day, along with wishes that the best will always come your way. Congratulations on your graduation.
- For a very special graduate with best wishes. Graduation – a time, too, to look back with satisfaction on all that's become a special moment, a time to look forward with anticipation to all the wonderful possibilities that lie ahead of you. Keep this day for ever, some place deep inside your heart, this happy, hopeful, golden day when you'll see the start of all the dreams you cherish, – and, all along life's highway, keep the special day! Congratulations!

**Composition**  
Expand the central idea contained in the maxim  
**69: HE WHO NEVER CHANGES HIS MIND HAS NO MIND TO CHANGE**

**Last week's topic**  
**68: HABIT IS SECOND NATURE**

Habit is 'an example of customary behavior' or 'somebody's settled practice, especially so melting that it cannot easily be given up.' In so far as a habit is a condition of mind, it determines our attitude, perceptions and the world view. In fact, it won't be an exaggeration to say that we are as our habits are. As Aristotle says, 'Men acquire a particular quality by constantly acting in a particular way.' And Ovid rightly observes "Habits change into character." Man is an animal of habits. Great, indeed, is the power of habit, as Cicero remarks. Therefore, Elbert Hubb says "Cultivate only the habits that you are willing should master you." R.H. Benson tells us "Form small habits, and make them laws." Undoubtedly, habits have a great potential to crystallize as our second nature.

**Pearls from the Holy Quran**

"But if ye do good And practice self-restraint, Allah is well-acquainted With all that ye do."  
S4:A128

**VI. Words of Wisdom**  
"For love is heaven, and heaven is love."  
—Sir Walter Scott

# A Grand Celebration of the Cultural Week

During the last few years the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, University of Sana'a, has been organizing an inter-university contest in eloquence and this contest has been in the form of an inter-university debate and an inter-university competition in reciting rhetorically powerful passages from Shakespeare's plays. But this year, the Department did something much broader: it organized a cultural week. Sana'a, as we know, has been declared to be the cultural capital of the Arab world this year. This declaration created a great deal of enthusiasm, a great deal of excitement and a great deal of joy all over, particularly in academic circles in the country. The Department of English responded appropriately to this enthusiasm and excitement, and decided to organize an inter-faculty speech competition on Sana'a's distinctive qualities. The actual topic of the speech competition was "Sana'a is not just a part of the Arab world; it is a part of the Arab world with a difference, a city with its own distinguished personality." The topic evoked a lot of appreciation all around and students from Sada, Hajjah, Amran, Mahweet and the Faculty of Languages and the Faculty of Education in Sana'a competed with students from the Department of English in the Faculty of Arts. People were not all that curious to know who would come first, or who would come second in the competition. Most people could guess that in view of the standard of excellence exhibited in the past, a student from the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, would, in all probability, be the winner. But they were all curious to know what the standard of the speech competition would be on the whole.

Such an event had never been organized earlier, neither by this university, nor by any other university in the country. People thought that students from Faculties in far away places like Sada'a and Mahweet would be cold, shy and indifferent. They thought that students from such Faculties in the remote parts of the country will, because of their faulty accent, their rural background and their lack of exposure to such events in the past, find themselves victims of an inferiority complex, but the most exciting feature of this speech competition was the enthusiasm, the confidence and the level of preparedness with which all the participants, whether from a rural or an urban area, participated in this competition. The real purpose, as the Chairman of the Department conceptualized it, was not to find out who was better or who was worse from the point of view of his/her speaking ability, but to create and develop in the students in all Faculties a love for the gift of speaking, a desire to influence hundreds of people in the audience with the qualities of one's speech. In his welcome speech, Dr Thakur, the Chairman of the Department, said, "I have a dream. I have had this dream for all the twenty-three years I've been in Yemen as a Professor of English. This dream has become stronger, richer and more intense with the passage of time. My dream is that one day a student taught by me and my Department, or by any other Department of English in Yemen, would speak so well in the United Nations and in other celebrated international forums that the whole world watching this speaker on the TV, or listening to him on the radio would clap excitedly and say, 'Here is a wonderful speaker.'" In his welcome speech, he said that however humble, small and



(L - R) Dr. Al-Bakry, Dean, Faculty of Arts; Dr. Al-Kipsy, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Bassura, President, Sana'a University; Dr. Muttahar, Vice Minister for Higher Education; Dr. Tamim, Vice President for Students' Affairs; and Mr. Karuppaiyah, Ambassador of India in Yemen

insignificant in itself, the beginning for that training, for that awakening, for the fulfillment of that dream had already been made in the form of the inter-university debate and recitation that he has been organizing every year, and the speech competition that he has started this year.

One of the activities included in this cultural week celebration by the Department was a competition in writing poems. Thirty-five poems were selected and published with minor editing in the form of a mini-book. The Department has had the distinction of being the first in starting so many new academic activities in the past. It was perhaps for the first time, that a University Department of English in Yemen could find as many as thirty-five worthwhile poems by undergraduate students good enough to be anthologized and published in the form of a book. These poems were selected not by people in the Department, but by people of proven ability outside the Department, and these referees were heard saying that each of these thirty-five poems had enough of poetic merit to justify their inclusion in a book. Next year, the Department is planning to have this competition on a national scale.

Another ingenious type of competition, a competition certainly worthwhile but perhaps never organized so far by a Department of language and literature in Yemen, or perhaps anywhere else outside Yemen, was a competition in a perceptive selection of quotable quotes. Students were advised and encouraged to consult all possible dictionaries of quotations, to recollect in tranquility all that they had studied in prose or in verse and to explore extensively all that was available on the Internet, and ultimately to select the quotations that they considered to be the best of all that they had come across. The strategy of the Department was that the student should, during this selection, be exposed to and be enriched by the ideational wealth and variety and also the vigor and elegance of expression in powerful statements made by great geniuses all over the world. The idea of this competition created a great deal of enthusiasm and excitement among students and about one hundred and fifty students took part in the competition. The student who got the first prize in this competition was, interestingly enough, a newly admitted student of level one. The quotable quotes selected by the students were so many and so good that the Department decided to compile and edit them and bring them out in the form of a book. By doing this, the Department added a new feather to its cap. Once again it made itself the first Department of English in Yemen to have started this academic activity. Next year, the Department is planning to organize on a nation-wide scale a competition in selecting worthwhile anecdotes.

The last day of the three-day celebration was the day earmarked for the inter-university debate and recitation.



Dr. D. Thakur, Chairman, English Department, welcomes the guests. Dr. Sarori, Vice Dean and Dr. Al-Bakry, Dean, look on



Mr. Karuppaiyah being cordially welcomed to the celebration

The topic of the debate was "What the world needs today is not nationalism but internationalism." The audience was amazed, in fact astounded, by the overall standard of performance of the participants, the facts that they had gathered, the cohesive framework in which they presented those facts, the rhetorical flourishes that they used in order to beautify their debate and the vigor with which they presented themselves.

When welcoming the guests and introducing the topic of the debate, the Chairman of the Department, traced the history of debates to the city states in Greece during the pre-Christian era while citizens had to defend themselves and their relatives before a jury consisting sometimes of as many as five hundred members. The modern institution of lawyers, he said, and the modern phenomenon of one-sided debates have their origins in the defense and accusations argued out in those city-states more than two thousand years ago. The West has given us the phenomenon of debates and the institution of lawyers as they have learnt from the ancient philosophers, mystics and visionaries from the East. The East with its philosophical preoccupations was less interested in arguing against others and more interested in the debates and arguments that take place in the psyche of an individual, particularly against negative and destructive emotions. Kahlil Gibran

when echoing this debate in the inner psyche once said, "Oh God, let me have no enemy, but if I have to have an enemy, let his strength be equal to mine so that truth alone is the victor." The Chairman said that although debates in the East these days are no less interesting than those in the West and particularly in Greece, we must not forget the ancient origin of debate in the world. He expressed the wish that the bright young boys and girls in the East, in Yemen in particular, will give to that ancient tradition a new life, a new vigor and a new healthy personality of its own.

The distinguished personalities who were present on the occasion as guests were Dr Mohammed Muttahar, the Vice-Minister for Higher Education, Dr Saleh Ali Bassura, the President of Sana'a University, Dr Ahmed al-Kipsy, the Vice-president for Academic Affairs, Dr Khalid Tamim, the Vice-president for Student Affairs, Dr Tawfiq Sufiyan, the Vice-president for Postgraduate Studies and Research, Dr Hussein al-Bakry, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and Mr. Karuppaiyah, the Indian Ambassador to Yemen. Dr Saleh Ali Bassura, the President of Sana'a University, in his speech praised the efforts of the Department of English in organizing the cultural week and said that the activities included in the cultural week were a welcome addition to the routine teaching in the university.



Dr. Thakur addresses the audience. (L - R) Dr. Sarori, Dr. Tamim, and Dr. Al-Bakry



Dr. Hussein Al-Bakry, Dean, presenting the trophy and certificate of merit to Ahlam Al-Silwi (1st in English debate)

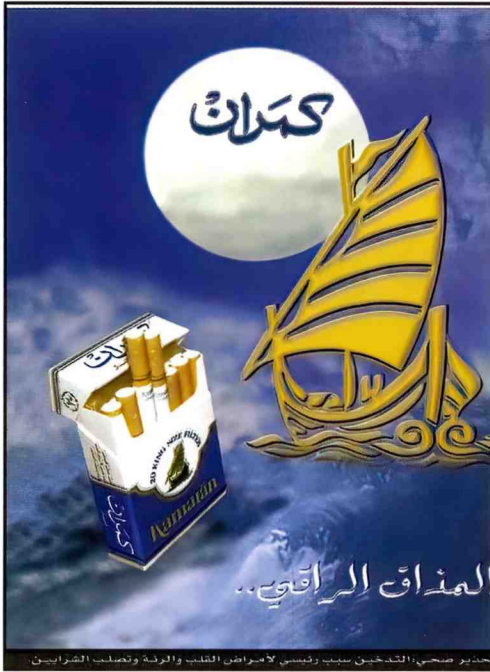


Dr. Khalid Tamim, Vice President; Mr. Karuppaiyah, Indian Ambassador; Dr. Bassurah, President, Sana'a University; Dr. Muttahar, Vice Minister of Education; Dr. Kipsy, Vice President, Academic Affairs; Dr. Al-Bakry, Dean, Faculty of Arts



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**Yemen's participation in World Congress against Child Labor:**

# Spectacular participation

Report by Akram Al-Junaid

**F**lorence – Yemen's participation in the first ever World Congress against Child Labor was truly spectacular. With the representation of Yemen by former child worker Zamzam Qassim, the country was respected for its courage to unveil this major problem and for seeking cooperation and assistance from other countries.

**Zamzam gives speech**

During the conference, which lasted from 10 to 13 May, the 14-year-old Zamzam along with her chaperone presented statistics and facts about the situation of child labor in Yemen. In her statement to the congress participants, Zamzam said, "Statistics reveal the frightening and miserable status of child labor in Yemen. According to a 10-year-old survey, around 340,000 children were working children. The major disaster is the fact that the rate of increase in the number of work-



Zamzam taking the lead in the march in the streets of Florence

ing children has also increased since then."

"Around 70% of those children end up working for economic reasons, 20% for educational reasons, and 10% for social

reasons," she added.

Furthermore, Zamzam, who studies at the Sanaa-based Center for Rehabilitating Working Children, said that her center has worked on raising awareness about child labor and its hazards, and in cooperation with the International Labor Organisation (ILO) and its representative on the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), which is the organization that founded the center from the beginning.

"This congress is a small step towards informing the world of the hardships and miseries of millions of working children around the world. I hope that this congress will be held annually to continue to concentrate on this important global problem," she concluded.

**Reasons to participate**

In an interview for Yemen Times, Zamzam said that she wanted to meet working children from other countries of the world to share experiences and ideas. "I also wanted to stress the need to prevent children from working because this could be destructive to their lives. Working always disrupts the education of children, exposing them to possible failure in finding jobs in the future because of their poor academic achievement".

**Overall success of Yemen's mission**

The evaluation of Yemen's participation in the event, which was organized and fully sponsored by the Global March Against Child Labor, was quite positive as Zamzam was able to make many friends from the four corners of the world and experienced a pleasant time in Florence, where the event was held.

"In fact, we all cried at the moment of bidding farewell. It was truly difficult for me to leave the friends that I made during my stay. I believe this is the way life goes, but I will never regret my participation at Florence," Zamzam said.



Zamzam with some friendly she made.

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