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# YEMEN TIMES



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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Yemen and the Sudan: Drawing Lessons

The Republic of Yemen today is, in many ways, similar to the Sudan of the late 1980s. At the time, the Sudan was experimenting with its third attempt at political pluralism. There were over three dozen political parties, some two hundred newspapers and many other symptoms of "democracy". The system was plagued by inefficiencies, corruption and favoritism. The government bureaucracy did not function; lawlessness reigned as explosions occurred about anywhere; creditors dictated many do's and don't's; and the insurgents kept on advancing northwards. Most humiliating of all, a rising percentage of the population was starving. The feeling of helplessness and frustration pervaded every aspect of Sudanese life.

Then three years ago, a group of military men took over. They outlawed the political parties, banned the newspapers, and imposed an emergency system. Khartoum has reverted to dictatorship. But in these three years, the dictatorship has been able to get the Sudan back in working order. In 1992, Sudan exported some US \$1 billion worth of food; the Sudan brought the insurgents and outlaw gangs under control, the bureaucracy is not exactly in shipshape condition, but it is a different animal from what had existed three years ago. The country explored and exploited oil on its own, and it has repaired most of the infrastructure. The IMF and World Bank (and the West) watch enviously after having terminated most credit and assistance. The Sudanese President attributes it all to what he terms "Taharah fil hukm" (Cleanliness in governance). I conclude that the Sudan today has a development-oriented leadership which has succeeded in resolving many of the economic and security problems of the country.

What does it all mean? I hope readers will not conclude that a democratic system cannot lead to development and prosperity, for that is not true. But in Third World conditions, the priorities of economic reality may require that our political multi-party democratic evolution be carried out at a faster pace than normal.

With all my respect for the Sudanese achievements, I remain wary of a system that has a one-track decision-making process. What haunts me about dictatorships is that society is unable to dislodge him peacefully, if it so chooses.

The Publisher  
عبدالله بن يحيى

### National Conference Files Complaints of Irregularities

The National Conference has sent three letters to the Supreme Elections Committee detailing irregularities which its observers have uncovered. In the Aanes and Saadah case, the NC states that the polling stations have yet to be opened for registration, and the clock ticks away. In the Shamaytain, Hugarriah case, women are unable to register and they are told they have to wait and see. Finally, in the Hamdan case, the tribal sheikhs are serving as full hosts to the supervisory committee. "We bring these irregularities to your attention in order to find a prompt and satisfactory solution," the NC letter states.

## RABITAT ABNAA AL-YEMEN PARTY CRITICIZES THE EFFORTS OF THE TWO RULING PARTIES TO REMAIN IN POWER BY HOOK OR CROOK

The Fourth Round of the Central Board of Rabitat Abnaa Al-Yemen (Party of the League of the Sons of Yemen) was held in Sanaa during 20-23/1/1993 during which it discussed many of the issues pertinent at the national and party levels. The party strongly criticized the efforts of the two ruling parties to remain in power "by hook or crook" and listed many irregularities and wrong decisions all of which were aimed at ensuring victory for the candidates of the ruling parties.

Even then, the Rabitah will field candidates and will run a major elections campaign, a communique issued at the end of the meeting stated. The communique also affirmed the right of members of the armed and security forces to vote, but it refused the use of mil-



itary camps and posts as voting stations since they will tilt the elections results and will be mis-used. The Party also indicated its anxiety over the continued bickering and infighting of the two ruling parties, and stressed that Yemen did not belong to the two parties, but to all

Yemenis and parties. The League also lamented the decision of the Supreme Elections Committee to disregard all the names proposed by the Rabitah to work on the supervisory and polling station committees, even as these suffer from shortfalls in man/woman power

## Unity Talks between the PGC and YSP Continue

The Central Committee of the Yemenis Socialist Party and the Permanent Committee of the People's General Congress held several meetings during the week to discuss possibilities of merger between the two parties. There were heated debates in both camps. In the PGC, the majority went along the idea while a minority held back; while in the YSP the minority, including the top party leaders, agreed while the majority expressed some reservations. In the final analysis, the

Permanent Committee authorized the General Committee, and the Central Committee authorized the Political Bureau to decide the matter. Many observers feel that a merger of the two ruling parties will save the country from the devastation and bloodshed that could result from the in-fighting and rivalry between the PGC and YSP. Many of the smaller parties which are in the opposition, worry that a merger between the two largest parties would effectively lead the coun-

try back to the one-party system. Most Yemenis prefer a close level of cooperation without involving a full merger. The close allies and followers of the two major parties have already begun screaming as the merger would exclude them. These have already started contacts with other more genuine opposition parties, like the National Conference, to create a tangible opposition. The next few weeks will see a flurry of activities and new alliances.



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English Lessons

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### Ashwaq's Paintings on Exhibition

Artist Ashwaq Faisal Qayed, a specialist in the applied fine arts and a graduate of Egypt, is exhibiting her paintings at Gallery No. 1 on Khar-toum Street (popularly called Mujahed Street). The exhibition was kicked off by the Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism. The glass paintings of the gifted Ashwaq, were picked up one after another by an appreciative public.

### Insurance Companies Demand Market Liberalization

The general managers of the Sanaa-based insurance companies have held several meetings during the week with the intention of presenting the Prime Minister with a proposal detailing steps to liberalize the insurance market. The companies are reacting to what they see as a recent government decision to grant a total monopoly of all government business to the government-owned insurance company. They are proposing a free-for-all competition in the business, which, they insist, is better for the economy. The insurance companies are also pushing the government to require the oil sector to insure locally. The Prime Minister, who received the insurance companies' chairmen, was willing to listen to them and try to oblige. A decision on both counts is expected before the end of the month.

### Koreans Dance for the Red Crescent

"A Recital and Traditional Korean Dances" is being presented at the Sheraton tonight (Wednesday 27th January) by the Korean Community in Sanaa - the benefits to go to Yemen's Red Crescent Society. The program includes a selection of Korean folk dances by Mrs. Wonsook Lee, Grami Dong, and three students from the Sana'a International School: Yoonjeung Choi, Heejeung Choi, and Kay-ung Kim. Miss Eumee Lew, who gave a piano recital in Sana'a last year, will demonstrate her talent once again. The art of Asian dance, in contrast to Western dance, takes on a sacred character. The Korean dances that will be performed will also demonstrate unity, economy and grace of motion. Miss Eumee Lew, a graduate student at Chopin Music Academy of Warsaw, Poland, will perform a selection of piano music by Bach, Mozart, and Chopin.

"Le Var" Calls

### on Hodeidah

The French military frigate, Le Var, made a one-day courtesy call on Hodeidah on Sunday, 24th January. The Var, in service in the French navy since 1983, is assigned to the Indian Ocean operations. It is 157 meters long and 21 meters wide, and can carry 19,000 tons of supplies. Captain Tiffou, the frigate commander, and his senior staff, enjoyed a cordial evening with members of the Yemeni navy, as well as many other guests. The vessel came from Jeddah and is headed for India.

### Dr. McSweeney Visits Yemen

Dr. Brenda McSweeney, Executive Coordinator of the UN Volunteers, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, arrives in Sanaa, today, January 27th. Her four-day program includes a one-day dash to Aden.

### Dillon in Sanaa

The Honorable Robert Sherwood Dillon, President and Chief Executive Officer of AMIDEAST, will visit Yemen during 12-14/2/1993. AMIDEAST is the largest and most experienced private American organization promoting cooperation and understanding between the US and the Middle East.

### Yemen's Human Rights Record: Mixed Results

The US State Department is about to release its annual assessment report on human rights performance by various countries in the world. According to the segment on Yemen, of which the Yemen Times got an early copy, there are strong indications of the country's serious efforts to improve human rights. However, there are many shortcomings, and many constitutional and legal rights are not respected by the state machinery. Although the laws enacted are adequate in their texts regarding human rights, it is often the application that is missing, the report stated.

### "Save Rhino Campaign" Press Conference in Sanaa

Lucy Vigne and Esmond Bradley Martin spoke yesterday, Tuesday, 26th January, at a press conference on the need to protect the rhino, which faces certain extinction. Yemenis are part of the problem. The handle Yemeni dagger - the jambiya - is often made of rhino horn. At the conference, the wildlife supporters stated that they would like to see the Yemeni daggers use amber-colored plastic or buffalo horns. The press conference was organized by the Environmental Protection Council and the Sanaa Chamber of Commerce.

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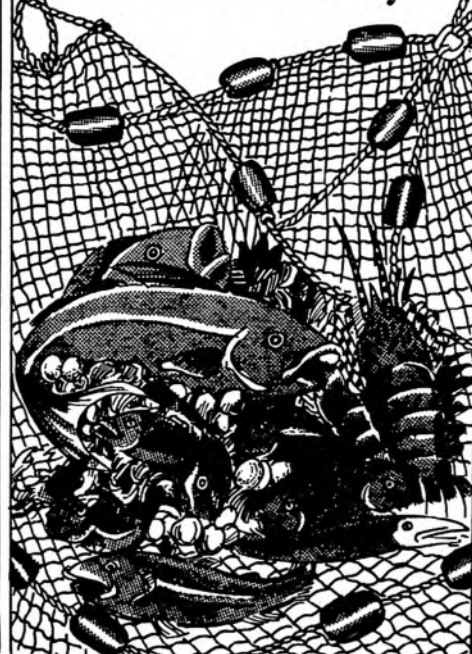
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### GCC MAY ALLOW FOREIGN OILSTAKES

Gulf Arab states are expected to allow foreign private partners into their huge oil sector to ensure technology and funds for projects to boost their output capacity, a world expert said.

Wael al Mazidi, manager of the London-based strategic investment forum, said this would largely develop the oil industry in the region and ensure stable supplies to the consuming countries.

He said that the new step is necessitated by "The large financing needs and the lack of technological capabilities at national oil companies."

"Such a change will prompt the national oil companies to operate on a commercial basis and inevitably they will carry out privatization by opening the oil sector to foreign partnership."

International oil companies like Total and British Petroleum already have a small stake in some Gulf oil firms but individual investors have been kept away from the industry on the grounds it is a strategic sector.

Oil accounts for nearly half the gross domestic product in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council and the exclusion of the private sector from that industry has kept its share in the GDP at a low of 35%.

GCC officials have urged local authorities to allow private funds into the oil sector to finance expansion projects, estimated to cost more than \$60 billion, which will boost capacity to over 20 million barrels per day.

"Such projects need huge funds at a time when GCC states are under financial stress because of the Gulf war," GCC Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs Abdullah al Quwaiz said recently. "Allowing private investment will help them secure financing."

Most GCC oil exports go to Japan, the United States and other industrial nations and experts expect such a reliance will increase in the future.

According to Henry Azzam, Chief economist at the Saudi National Commercial Bank, about 60% of US oil imports of 7.5 million bpd will come from the Gulf by the year 2000 compared with nearly 30% at present. Europe's share will exceed 40% while Japan will account for over 70% of its total oil imports, he said. He forecast a decline in oil production outside the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to 39.75 million bpd by the year 2000 and an increase in demand for Opec oil from 26.4 million bpd to 34.7 million bpd.

### JAPAN FEARS BIG QUAKE IMMINENT

The violent earthquake that shook northern Japan in mid January, has revived fears of a major disaster similar to the 1923 quake that left more than 100,000 dead in Tokyo. January 15th, the temblor, which measured 7.5 on the Richter scale and left 160 people injured and some damage, could have been much more serious for the port city of Kushiro had the epicenter not been 120 km under the sea.

According to Japanese seismologist Katsuhiko Ishibashi, the next major earthquake in the Tokyo region could hit in 1995 or 1996. This prediction is based on Ishibashi's theory that strong earth tremors in the bay of Sagami, south of Tokyo, occur every 72-and a half years.

Authorities here are haunted by the possibility of a repetition of the 1923 quake, which measured 7.9 on the Richter scale and destroyed 580,000 houses in Tokyo. Other experts believe the "big one" is imminent, with Professor Masaaki Kimura predicting it will arrive this year, 1993.

In a report published last August, a governmental committee with responsibility for seismic activity said there was a strong possibility that a quake measuring more than seven on the Richter scale would hit the Tokyo region in the "near future." Such a quake could affect 32 million people - 25% of the Japanese population - and destroy 30% of the capital's buildings, said the report.

Several months ago, the Manichi Shimbun paper said Tokyo municipal authorities had estimated that some 2.3 million people would be killed or injured in a quake of the same magnitude, as that in 1923.

The authorities have been on the alert since the beginning of the year following intense seismic activity just 100 kilometers southeast of Tokyo. More than 1,200 seismic movements - of which 15 were felt by the population - have been recorded since 10th January in coastal areas of the neighboring prefecture of Shizuoka. The Japanese Meteorological Agency has told the local population to stay on alert and provides regular information on the activity, which is centered around the Izu peninsula and located some 10 kilometers under the sea.

For several years, the Tokyo authorities have held quake survival exercises on 1st September in a bid to make an apparently indifferent population aware of the possible threat. English-language booklets are handed out to foreign residents, and major dailies print a page of recommendations in English under the title: "Earthquakes come without warning. Always be ready for the worst."

Should a major disaster strike the capital, food supplies would be a serious problem as Tokyo authorities say they only have reserves of water and rice, and these would run out in a week.

### BIAFRAN FOES JOIN NIGERIA'S RACE FOR PRESIDENT

In an unusual twist, two decades after one of Africa's bloodiest civil wars, both victor and vanquished have entered the race for Nigeria's civilian presidency.

The political re-emergence of retired General Yakub Gowon and Emeka Ojukwu - again on opposing sides has boosted interest in a contest run under strict army rules. Political sources say both men have scant chance of victory in a field of more than 200 candidates that

includes leading politicians and prominent businessmen. But their participation has received a guarded welcome from opponents, some of them sceptical of the military's latest plan to find a credible civilian leader for multi-ethnic Nigeria.

"It says a lot for an emergent democracy that they are standing but I hope it does not open old wounds," Yusuf Maitama Sule, a minister in both the 1960-66 and 1979-83 republics, said after Gowon and Ojukwu joined the race on January 13th. "If they can forgive and forget, it is a good omen for the future," Sule, a leading presidency candidate for the right-of-center National Republican Convention added.

Ojukwu, who registered with the left-of-center Social Democratic Party (SDP), said: "The line has to be drawn. I welcome Gowon's candidacy. I hope the first team will now come out. Only then will discussion of burning issues be fruitful."

Up to one million people were killed in 1967-70, before Ojukwu's Ibo-dominated Biafran forces were beaten by Nigeria's federal army led by Gowon, then military head of state who was overthrown by his own army in 1975.

The war, seven years after independence from Britain, left deep scars on many Nigerians and became the binding glue for a politically dominant army, black Africa's largest.

Gowon, 58, who like Ojukwu, 59, is standing under the banner of the right-of-center National Republican Convention (NRC).

The NRC and SDP were created by the army to vie for civil rule under a program hampered by corruption and deep economic woes that has pushed many Nigerians towards poverty. President Ibrahim Babangida, a federal officer wounded in the civil war, last November delayed his hand-over by eight months to next August 27 after poll fraud during now scrapped primaries.

### RUSSIA AND NORDIC NATIONS JOIN HANDS

At the turn of the century the Arctic Norwegian town of Hammerfest, buoyed by thriving trade with Russia, boasted six foreign consulates, despite its position as the most northerly town in the world.

The Bolshevik revolution in

Russia in 1917 ended Hammerfest's links with the East, closed the consulates and dimmed the prosperity of the arctic.

Hoping to revive East-West ties after the Cold War, foreign ministers from Russia and the Nordic nations

agreed this week to set up a joint council to promote Arctic co-operation ranging from trade to tourism.

"We are closing a 70-years parenthesis, returning to normality," said Norwegian foreign minister Thorvald Stoltenberg said.



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## Mazher Hassan Ali Nizar: A SENSITIVE REALIST

BY:  
Michela Wuensche and  
Markus Luecke.

When he is talking about his work, one is really gripped by his kind and intellectual nature enriched by his wit. His outfit doesn't fit with what one has in mind about people of his profession. Not extravagant he is solid and self-confident without any affectations. His name is Mazher Hassan Ali Nizar and he is one of the most promising Yemeni artists. His father is from the area around Menakha, but Mazher was born in India, where his father worked as a teacher of religion and Arabic. He graduated very successfully in 1985 from the Government College of Art and Culture in Calcutta.

Since 1986 he has been living in Sana'a where he has worked as a designer at the Al Thaura newspaper. This he did until he met Road Al Futeh who offered to cooperate with him in Gallery No. 1. The opportunity to expose his paintings in a gallery to a broad public audience opened up new perspectives to Mazher; he could now devote himself entirely to artistic work. Since then, Mazher has had out 3 exhibitions in Sana'a, the last one in February.

One motif, which one finds throughout his work, is women. In Yemen such an interest is typical and untypical. In the figurative depictions of temple dancers in India he found a suitable medium to express his own impressions. Apart from the aesthetics of the curved lines, he was fascinated by the female character traits such as pronounced sensibility. His paintings often have a meditative character. The women look thoughtfully and dreamily at an imaginary point, hidden from the eyes of the observer. Mazher's theme is not about women, but what she is feeling, and that expresses his own feelings.

Although he often relates his paintings to Yemeni culture by adding decorations like jewelry and clothing or Yemeni mythology, his art is independent of this theme. Symbols play a big role in his paintings. The sun and the moon, like ibex horns and snakes, which are also carved into house facades as protection against danger and evil glances, are always present in his pictures. Mazher says about these symbols that they are pure decorations to remind of the old, but soon vanishing Yemeni traditions. Examples of these symbolists are Marc Cagall and Paul Klee. The artist says: "I'm fascinated by the way Klee concentrated on the essentials by constant simplification."

The depicted women are mostly recipients of a message, personified in the hoopoe, Solomon's messenger to the Queen of Sheba. 'Bilqis' and 'The Queen' are the titles of two exhibitions Mazher carried out in Sana'a. The name of Bilqis creates no concrete relation



to historical events, but is only the frame for what he wants to express. In his paintings Mazher works out events and facts, which had a strong impact on him. He states about himself: "In Calcutta I was continuously confronted with death. I saw dead people lying for days in the streets until they got buried. It was unbelievable."

Mazher does not accuse, he digests experiences. The portrayed women reflect his feelings and convey them to the viewer.

Lines are very important in Mazher's paintings. Abstract lines are a method for him to give suitable balance to his art. The omnipresent veil, indicated by a line, divides the women's faces stillistically in order to direct the observer's attention to the eyes.

In transmitting his ideas he uses different techniques like watercolor, mixed media and monprint. The latter is a technique of transferring coloured patterns from a sheet of glass to a canvas by using a hard rubber roller. He is always evolving new techniques and his way of working is unusual. In his studio one doesn't find an easel or a drawing table but a small foam mat in the middle of a well-ordered confusion of pencils, coloured brushes and drafts. Some half-finished works are spread on the floor. Mazher says: "A white sheet of paper is nothing to correspond with. I need something for inspiration and to fix my idea on." since July 1992 Mazher has his own gallery mostly either expatriates, living here in Yemen or

tourists. About 90% of his paintings disappear to Germany, the others mainly to France and Italy. Yemenis respond very little to his work. He says, that Yemenis prefer all kinds of realistical art, but not abstract art. He finds fault with, and criticises those art colleges who sell canvases copied from photographs instead of developing their own creative style. For Mazher a painting becomes art, if there is a visible message behind it.

According to Mazher he is full of ideas and no day passes by without his working in the studio. What he misses is regular contact with other artists and critics, which he finds, is important for improving himself. He has great expectations for the 'First Graphic Art Society', which will be inaugurated in the Al Mansur caravansary in the middle of February. This project, supported by the German government, consists of restoration and the furnishing of an artist's workshop. For example, the necessary equipment for etching will be provided.

'First Graphic Art Society' is the name of the first Yemeni artistic group. The members are, besides Mazher Nizar, Road Al Ruteh, Ismeal Rashad, Abdul Aziz Ibrahim and Ali Etharhani. The workshop and the exhibition halls should be available not only for Yemeni artists, but for artists from all over the world. According to Mazher, one objective for the future is the establishment of a teaching institute for the future is the establishment of a teaching institute for junior artists.

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## The Child Survival Project

### STRENGTHENING YEMEN'S PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

By: Fatmah Rawah,  
Social Editor.

#### Objectives:

The U.S. Agency for International Development and the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) have been striving towards improving the Primary Health Care (PHC) system in Yemen through its Accelerated Cooperation for Child Survival project (ACCS) by providing support to the central level at MOPH and its satellite governorate health offices. This project has a number of specific objectives which all contribute to the improvement of the PHC system.

These objectives include the qualifying of the PHC basic health workers and other cadre through training programs and the improvement of health facilities in regions which have low quality or non-existent health services. Another important objective is to improve the immunization system (specifically the Expanded Program on Immunization - EPI, of the MOPH) and integrate it with the PHC system. Until now, the PHC and EPI systems under the MOPH have been managed separately even though disseminating of health information and education messages, midwifery training, and the development of the MOPH's capacity to collect and analyze information on diseases which contribute to the high morbidity and mortality of infants, children, and child-bearing women.

Yemen Times spoke with Mr. Hashem Awnallah, a project administrator, who has been involved predominantly with the implementation of activities concentrating on PHC workers training and the integration of PHC systems. Mr. Awnallah gave us a few insights into ACCS's achievements.

Beginning in the year 1990,



the project trained approximately 165 men and 34 women in six health training centers (HTCs) in the project's target governorates of Saadiah, Mareb, and Hajjah. These students, after their one year course in PHC, have become PHC Workers (PHCWs) and are working in small PHC Units (PHCUs) providing basic health services to their villages and communities. Another group of 60 PHCW trainees are currently undergoing training in four HTCs in the fourth project targeted governorate of Hodeidah. These trainees are only women to reflect the MOPH's concern with strengthening the female health cadre which has been very minimal in the northern governorates. In all, the project will have supported the training of about 260 PHCWs in four governorates.

Mr. Awnallah explained that one of the problems faced by the project was the lack of female participation in the PHCW training in the first three governorates even though the MOPH's original goals was to have at least 50% of the trainees to be women. Unfortunately, due to various local circumstances, this was impossible.

Also, to support the training the project will have provided local commodities worth

about nine million riyals and about \$360,000 of off-shore commodities for the HTCs and PHCUs in each governorate while the project took on the responsibility of providing all the supplies needed to get them running including furniture, medical equipment and furniture purchased from UNICEF, generators, vehicles, textbooks and references, etc.

The second activity which Mr. Awnallah described was the integration of the PHC and EPI systems. The activities under this objective are the cross-training of PHC cadre in EPI because the PHC cadre is much greater in number than the EPI; the training of trainer/supervisors in EPI; and the assessment and improvement of the vaccination "cold chain" system which refers to the preservation and transportation of vaccines to their destinations in remote villages.

"The best way to improve the survival rate of children in Yemen is through quality service delivery which can be achieved by pre-service and in-service training," said Mr. Awnallah. The progress of the project to date, especially with the increasing number of females being trained, should make a marked improvement in health care in Yemen in the future.

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Yusuf Samantar:

## Yemen should've played a larger role!

By: Lora A. Saleh,  
Yemen Times.

Yusuf Osman Samantar (known as "Berda'ad") was one of the longest held prisoners-of-conscience in Somalia. The 61 year old lawyer is now working for the peace and stability of Somalia.

Two hundred thousand murdered, 400,000 dead of starvation and 2.5 million displaced persons is what Mr. Samantar calls, "the real situation of Somalia today".

Mr. Samantar recently attended the Addis Ababa Conference on behalf of Adam Abdullahi Noor Gabyo, ex-Minister of Defense in Somalia and now Chairman of the Somali Patriotic Movement. He is in Yemen at the moment on personal reasons and possibly as part of a Somali delegation to speak with Yemeni officials, and to touch base with the 100,000 or so Somali refugees in Yemen. "The conference was fruitful because we all agreed on a cease-fire and the collection/removal of weapons by the international forces under the U.N. flag by March 15th. It was also agreed that there would be a new conference, with a seven member committee to determine future participants," he said. In his interview with the



Yemen Times, he complained about the Americans. "The Americans don't know the realities of Somalia; they don't know the traditions or the way of life." In his opinion, that puts a limitation on the ability of the Americans to provide solutions for Somalia. "They are trying to impose their way of democracy, their way of life not just on Somalia, but on the whole world. But, democracy is not a technology that you carry from one place to another. It is a value system that depends on traditions and cultures. It emanates and evolves from the tradition, beliefs and psychological formation of each different society," Samantar said.

Yemen is one of the very near and dear countries to Somalia. Mr. Samantar calls Somalia "a part of Yemen in East Africa". There were six generals, three ministers, several ambassadors, and many senior officials and officers who all trace their origins to Yemen. There is a general belief that most Somalis are descendants of immigrants from Yemen. For this reason, Yemen is blamed for not being as active as Mr. Samantar and others could wish. Mr. Samantar insists that "the silence of Yemen and the Arab league means that they give Somalia to other worlds", and that "Yemen had a special responsibility towards Somalia." He also feels

that Yemen should have at least sent forces under the UN umbrella, should have spearheaded relief assistance and help from the Arab League, and should have led the reconciliation conference.

Apparently "Yemen, by shying away from its responsibilities, gave the opportunity to those who should not interfere in Somali affairs," he said. Mr. Samantar also pointed out that Yemen should have done more because "now Israel has interfered; it has offered assistance," he claims. But over all "any complaint against cousins is transient," and that relations with Yemen are "good and will always be good", he concluded.

Yusuf Osman Samantar was upbeat. He believes the following need to happen for a lasting peace:

1. A revision, adaption, and elaboration of the last constitution to include guarantees for democracy, freedom of speech and freedom of association.

2. Elections need to be held, as soon as possible.

3. A parliamentary regime must replace the current presidential system.

Re-enacting some of the former laws that existed before the Siad Barre regime is also among Mr. Samantar's demands.

## Fetal Cell Transplantation

By: Amjed Abvdul-Hameed,  
Yemen Times Science Editor.

Scientists are optimistic that fetal cell transplantation, that uses tissue obtained from voluntarily aborted fetuses, could open the doors for treating diseases like Parkinson's disease (a nerve disease, characterized by tremors especially of fingers and hands, rigidity of muscles, slowness of movements and speech, and a mask-like, expressionless face. Named after James Parkinson 1755-1854 an Englishman who first described it), Huntington's disease (another devastating neurodegenerative disorder), or even diabetics' reliance on insulin.

It was found that fetal cells not only thrive in a host, they also can develop into specialized forms and secrete substances that nurture surrounding tissue. In addition, some fetal cells seems less likely than other cells to trigger an immune reaction. These properties could make fetal cells uniquely valuable for treating diseases in which tissue degenerates, like Parkinson's disease, which slowly deprives int victims of the power of movement by destroying cells in a small region of the brain. One of these experimental transplantations in four patients has shown that 5-10% of the implanted cells have survived and 3 of the 4 patients have shown improved mobility. In another implantation 7 of 8 patients have improved, one of them dramatically.

Other researchers have reported progress using pancreatic tissue to reduce diabetics reliance on insulin, where using fetal tissue could eliminate some of the problems presently encountered in obtaining tissue from adult corpses (cadavers). Treating diabetes, a disease which hits 10-20% of the adults of any society and at different ages, with this technique would be a medical landmark.

Others have created symptoms resembling those of Huntington's disease by damaging rat brains and then treating them by implanting fetal tissues. They have reported that their treatment can restore normal levels of activity.

Some countries like the United States and Sweden, among others, have taken steps to establish banks of fetal tissues, to preserve the tissue at very low

Continued on page 8

# تعالوا معنا إلى مبنى الشرق

للشركات  
ورجال الأعمال  
للمكاتب  
التجارية والفنية

وحدات فاخرة  
للإيجار  
بأرقى موقع  
بمدينة عدن



مخارج خاصة للطوارئ.

موقف خاص للسيارات.

ثلاثة مصاعد كهربائية.

حراسة طوال ٢٤ ساعة.

شبكة اتصالات دولية.

مبنى مصمم على أحدث

النظم العالمية.

تكييف مركزي.

مساحات تبدأ من ٨٢ متر

مربع حتى ٧٥٠ متر مربع.

للحجز ولزيد من المعلومات (عدن) ت : ٢٢١٢٢٥ - (تعز) ت : ٢١٥١٦٩ - ٢١٥١٦٨



### The Homeland of Our Dreams !

There is no doubt that every citizen feels a sense of joy and comfort as the media reports the responsible and serious dialogue between the two ruling parties. These talks aim at ironing out a draft of an accord which could lead to full unity between the two political entities.

Naturally, the citizen does not think deeply in the nature of that accord and whatever shape it may take - merger, alliance or any form of cooperation and coordination. The more important point is that the two partners have put an end to the state of tension and strife which was reflected on the lives of the citizens. The gain for the citizen is that Yemen's broad interests are put above all other interests.

We realize that the two partners achieved the noble goal of Yemen's unification by overcoming a lot of impediments and difficulties; thus there are no insurmountable difficulties that would prevent them from achieving other noble goals through rational dialogue.

Yemeni wisdom must prevail at all the levels of our interaction and cooperation to construct and develop the country rapidly. An optimistic attitude will help the country as it approaches parliamentary elections.

The reconciliation accord between the PGC and the YSP is the correct starting point, but it doesn't prevent them from widening this

accord to include a larger number of political parties and organizations.

In fact, all of our people are awaiting the day when all parties - whether in power or in opposition - get together and rally around one noble goal - 'serving Yemen'. What prevents the opposition parties from seizing the opportunity to play their role in the framework of national dialogue? We can say that our people are proud of their unity with all the subsequent achievements, but more needs to be done. Finally, I call on the rulers of the state, the leaders of political parties, the sheikhs, and all men of wisdom to realize that the homeland requires their better care/concern and protection.

By: Ahmed Al-Gabali,  
22nd May, Aden,  
20/1/1993

### Terrorism In Yemen .... In Whose Service?

The successive confessions of those accused of sabotage and violent actions in the Republic of Egypt indicated that they had been trained in a variety of sabotage/black-mail actions in Yemen. Such a confession sheds light on the regional and international relations of the terrorist organizations.

All of the evidence says that the planning comes from one central organ and that there is an intimate relationship between the violence whose objective was to scare away the tourists in Egypt and the violence in Yemen.

From that point, the violent actions led to an increase of the number of tourists in Israel but for Yemen the beneficial party was another state. In Egypt, the government uprooted the terrorists, while in Yemen some of or ruling individuals provided them with protection. Tariq Al-Fadhli (a major party accused of the assassinations and violence) is an example. The question now is whether the escalation of violence is orchestrated to lead to the postponement of the elections and the announcement of martial law.

To me, the violence targets the YSP as a strong organization and at the same time inflicts damage on the state/homeland. Killing foreigners in Yemeni hotels, gives an impression that there is no stability and safety in Yemen and makes the state appear weak in the eyes of the local and international media.

The most important conditions for the attracting tourists and investors to Yemen is the existence of a stable socio-political structure and a strong state.

Such a condition is well-known and understood by the plotters of the violence and they are working directly against it. Therefore, the question is who's behind the violence and who are the parties that stand behind the scenes encouraging it? Still the most important question is: who do they serve?

By: Fadhle Mohammad  
Al-Ghurbani  
Al-Thawrah, Sanaa,  
21-1-1993

### The Mentality of the Arab Ruler and the Real World Changes!

All evidence indicates that Arab rulers are unable to understand the incredibly quick changes occurring in the world. It is also to be noted that the Arab mentality still refuses the concept of democracy/pluralism, because the prevalent policy is based on the centralization of all the matters, whether simple or complicated, in the hands of the ruler to prove that he is all-knowing omnipotent of all persons.

In this light, we notice that there are certain important resolutions being taken by the ruler himself and under the impact of temporary zeal and emotion, or as a reaction to certain happenings. Thus, we see that many states are energetically making a lot of noise about their intentions and "actual practices" of democracy. Yet, such an overwhelming drive is based solely on much rhetoric and little real change. Often these states do not possess a future vision in line with changes which our world undergoes.

It is evident that the Arab rulers lack planning and strategy of how to manage the affairs of the state and the interests of the people. The philosophy of the Arab rulers run no farther than the moment of their seizure of power. The whole philosophy of government can be summarized in the egotistic self-centered approach of the rulers, which clearly prevents the possibility of others to participating in the

effective management of government affairs. In other words, everybody becomes subservient to the ruler. Even if there are advisors, they are afraid of telling the ruler the truth about his policies and decisions; they merely tell him what he wants to hear, and often, this is: "Everything is fine."

To be more specific, the ruler who does not take the transformations and changes taking place in the world today into account is a short-sighted and narrow-minded ruler. Such a ruler will bring disaster to his regime as well as the country.

To the contrary, the ruler with a foresight and an open mentality, by understanding and appreciating the changes occurring in the new world, increases his chances of interacting positively with them, and thus stay longer in power and help his country develop. The ruler with keen perception acquires new potential to grow with the new realities.

It is just a point of view and time in order to interact with the hastening changes in the world.

By: Mohamed Ali Saad  
Al-Ayyam, Aden,  
20-1-1993.

### Don't Let Your Vote Whip You!

The 27th of April, 1993, will be a special day in the lives of the Yemeni people, for they will witness democracy being practised all over the unified Yemen. It is natural

that the outcome will emerge from the poll boxes, but we demand from every citizen to be accurate, keen and thoughtful in his/her choice of the representative who he/she gives his/her vote to and should steer away from tribalism, factionalism and narrow affiliations.

We need members of parliament who actually represent our people and in a meaningful way. By choosing the wrong people, we would be doing a dis-service to the country and ourselves.

We know that voting has an important value, so we should not let our votes have a bad impact on us. What we need is parliamentarians who will stand up for our rights, who will help in the modernization process, and who will lay the foundations for the proper evolution of Yemen. This can only be done through the real participation in voting by all citizens.

We want parliamentarians with the potential and capability of supervising the government. It is our duty not to listen to those who pursue just their own interests and personal gains. What is required from the new parliament is to act directly in choosing a strong national government to take over all the responsibilities of our evolution and development. Thus, it is the duty of all us to work for democracy, protect the unity and uproot the corruption.

By: Wajdi Ali Saeed  
Aden, Aden,  
19-1-1993

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العنوان ص. ب. ٤٤٧١ الجديدة - الجمهورية اليمنية  
مدير الإدارة التجارية: ت ٢٣٤٢٩٥  
فاكس ٢١٠٦٥٥





Continued from page 9

# Qadhi Al-Hitar...

Concerning the rights of women in all aspects of life, they are explicit. Islam has given women ample rights that allow them to proceed with their lives and to contribute fully to society. In Yemen, we have a history of glorious female participation and contribution. We have successful female rulers, and we have full female participation in the rural labor force.

Our current parliament boasts several female MPs, and we hope that the number will rise in the next House of Representatives. We in the YOHR have three women in our board of trustees, and one on the executive board. We also have several female judges in our justice system.

Things could be better, and should be, but they are not as bad as some would like to put forth.

**Q: Let me use one specific case of female rights - polygamy. Islam sanctioned polygamy as an answer to exceptional circumstances and under impossible conditions. We Muslims apply polygamy as a matter of male right. What is your reading on this matter and do you think our family law did right to authorize polygamy at the whim of the husband?**

**A:** Polygamy is a matter that has been the subject of much discussion. Islam, it is true sanctioned polygamy as a response to extreme and exceptional conditions. Islam required the husband to show certain qualities before he can have more than one wife (a maximum of four). These are:

- ability to exercise complete equality among wives,
- financial ability to take care of them and their children,
- physical ability to ...

The law could have done many things to reduce the sufferings of the wives which are the result of misjudgement on the part of the husbands. For example, the law could have put a ceiling on the age difference between the husband and wife. We see cases where a 70-year old male marries off a teen-age wife.

I conclude by saying that polygamy is sanctioned in



Islam, and that is not something to be ashamed of; but we have to remember the limitations placed on this practice.

**Q: You have just concluded a tour of Yemeni prisons. What are your impressions of prison conditions and the rights of prisoners?**

**A:** Yes, we carried out a first-hand survey of the major prisons, and we held long talks with the inmates as well as officials charged with the prisons.

My first conclusion is that there are many violations of the rights of inmates and we have documented cases of abuse of human rights and liberties. We have violations of arrest procedures, violations of imprisonment, violations of prison periods and many other issues. We have violation of constitutional rights, especially Article (32).

We have persons held up in prisons with no court orders and there are those imprisoned without trial. Many are imprisoned on a precautionary measure, often genuine, but also often forgotten and left in prison cells for a long time.

Some people are shipped to prison in large groups. This is especially the case following demonstrations and street violence, like the case in the mob demonstrations in various cities and hotel bombings in Aden.

For example, they would bring to my court 150 persons arrested following various incidents. The court does not accept such whole-sale arrests except with arrest orders and documented crimes investigated by the pertinent officers and officials. You cannot simply ship away

people to prison without proper procedures and due course of law. This puts more pressure on the police force, but it is the law, and it has to be respected.

I will add another point. We found persons imprisoned by the order of the manager of taxes, others imprisoned by the manager of customs, still others imprisoned by the manager of municipalities, etc. In other words, many parties that do not have the right to send persons to prison do so.

A final aspect is that persons younger than sixteen years may not be sent to prison by law. Yet, we found kids in the prisons. In short, the conditions of prisons and inmates are substandard and violate many of the constitutional and legal requirements.

We are now compiling a lot of data on prisons and inmates, with the purpose of exposing the violations.

Our hope is to remedy the situation rather than pin-down a blame on anybody. We know that we need the cooperation of everybody to improve the conditions of prisoners and make sure their rights are protected.

We hope to publish our detailed prison report very shortly.

**Q: There are two rival human rights organizations in Yemen. How do you see cooperation between them?**

**A:** I use this opportunity to call for cooperation. I would like to call to a joint conference which will elect a new board of trustees and executive board. I volunteer to resign from this minute if the other organization accepts to work with us to serve human rights.

**Q: Let us move to the justice system. You have demanded the independence of the judicial system. What does that exactly mean, and how much has been done in this regard?**

**A:** The integrity and independence of the judicial system means that a judge is fully independent in going about his/her duties, and that the judicial authority is independent of the executive branch of authority. In Yemen, neither is yet available, and we labor under many abuses and transgressions.

We need strict guarantees against such transgressions. Let me hasten to say, however, that it is often the personality of the judge that is the deciding factor. If the judge is fully convinced of his/her independence and has the courage to resist encroachments, then they will cease to come.

There are, of course, objective factors that affect the ability of the judicial authority to carry out its duties in a way that it finds

acceptable. This would include financial and administrative independence. We also need to mobilize popular support for the judges in their struggle for independence.

I must admit that the people have a very low opinion of the judges and the justice system. This is clear from the cases of assault against judges and courts, the most dangerous one being the burning down of the East Ibb Court.

Our job is a difficult one as we have to fight within our profession to clean it from weak/corrupt judges, and to fend off external forces from transgressing on us.

One step in the right direction of liberating the judicial system from the overbearing attitude of the executive would be to have an elected Supreme Judicial Council, rather than one appointed by the executive branch. In the present circumstances, the Supreme Judicial Council represents the executive authority rather than the judicial authority.

**Q: You were recently in the Sudan. What is your assessment of human rights observation there?**

**A:** I was overwhelmed by the dramatic improvement in the living conditions of the people. I am sure there are major improvements in the human rights record, in spite of the reports in the Western media.

We were taken to prisons of our choice, immediately upon our request. We did find 31 political prisoners, but I can tell you that the conditions of in-mates are adequate.

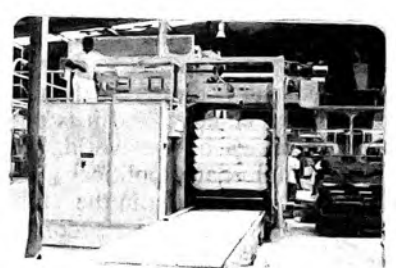
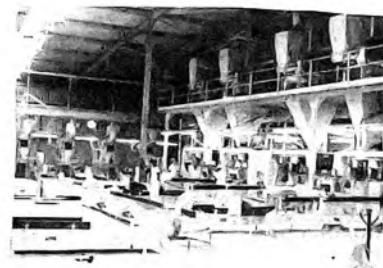
While in the Sudan, a conference was held, at the end of which an Islamic Human Rights Organizations was formed. Dr. Abdulghani Qassim, Member of Parliament and Education Professor at Sanaa University was nominated to represent Yemen in the Board of Trustees of the new organization.

I hope we can work together with the Sudanese and other human rights friends in promoting better observation of human rights



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الحديدة ت: ٣/٢٣٢٤٦٠ تليكس: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥  
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ تليكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ سيحان فاكسميل: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٢٦  
بورسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ تليكس: ٧٠٠٧١ يارن ص ب: ١٦٠







## Letters to the Editor

### Have We Forgotten Bosnia ?

As a Muslim I feel a deep sorrow over the harsh circumstances that our Muslim brothers and sisters are facing in Bosnia. It has been nearly nine months since the Serbian enemies invaded Bosnia-Herzegovina and besieged the area around Sarajevo, and this ruthless action caused thousands of people to die. Other thousands were injured and countless of people fled from their homes. I'm ashamed to mention the horrible situations which our Muslim sisters encountered in the concentration camps which are run by the Serbian criminals; these wounds will not heal until all Muslim territory is liberated.

However, I wonder how the Muslim world could be so weak in these past several months. They gathered in several meetings to discuss the Bos-

nian problem and how it could be solved. Every time, they conclude a useless condemnation against the Serbian aggression, but this is not enough. These Ministers are just wasting their time. Bosnian Muslims need more than talk and condemnation; they need immediate military intervention to save Bosnia against Serbian enemies. Our Muslim officials enjoy sitting in comfortable homes and air-conditioned offices, while their Muslim brothers are being slaughtered in Bosnia. At the same time, their decent Muslim sisters are being raped in Bosnia. In addition to that, they live in miserable conditions, where there is no food, not enough water, no electricity and dozens of old people die every day due to cold weather. All in all, the Muslim world possess enough muscle to punish Serbian

aggressors. They should send a strong Muslim military force to Bosnia and modern weapons especially fighter planes to knock-out Serbian artillery positions that besieged Sarajevo. All Muslims Mujahidin fighters particularly those who fought in Afghanistan should go to Bosnia to help and to fight along their Bosnia brothers.

Muslim countries should also know and be aware of the deceitful attitude of the western world and their double-standard policy. If these people were Jews or Christians, rather than Muslims, this problem would have long been resolved. And any Muslim living anywhere around the world should realize that his power and money in needed in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

By:  
Abdulqader Abdulqader, Sana'a

### Soldiers in a Camp?!

Before being a soldier you will always hear this famous sentence: "The army is a factory to produce men." That's exactly what happened to me. But these days prove the opposite of that. I thought that I would find myself in a new way of life; a life that was full of work, building, vivacity, enthusiasm, etc. That was my first concept of military life. But, day by day, I found myself in an increasingly stagnant routine. All we did was line up early in the morning with the others and then leave for our tents after one or two very boring hours. After that, we had nothing to do except walk around or play something.

This, in my viewpoint, is not a factory to produce men (as they told me); Instead, it is a factory to make lazy and idle men. By that, I mean that we are wasting our time without any benefit. We can make the best of it as long as our country is at peace. I'm sorry to say that we all are beginning to feel that we are paralytic or languid citizens in our society. Not only do we feel that way, but many officers also do. Most of them have a profound feeling that their life has stopped outside the doors of the camp. They've become as lazy and idle as us. Some of them begin thinking about leaving the military life for good, because they feel that it is best to do nothing as long as our country is safe.

Therefore, the Ministry of Defense must develop a new method so they can make the best of their soldiers; not the officers, and also to make them more effective. They must have the chance to show their ability to build their society. We follow many examples in this field. There are many developed countries with advanced methods which use the whole potential of each soldier. They try to make their soldiers more effective and constructive; men who have the duty to build with one hand and to safeguard the country with the other. They have a policy which employs their soldiers in constructing bridges, roads, buildings, dams, etc. So, they enjoy their active Military life very much. They also feel that they are doing something as important as protecting their country. Why don't we follow those advanced steps? We are able to do more than that. We can do anything and everything for the sake of our country. We have the same ability to build and to defend. Why don't we have the opportunity to prove our loyalty in a practical way?

By:  
Mohamed Abdul-Ghani Shawkat,  
Al-Azhar University, English Department, Cairo

Continued from page 5

### Fetal Cell...

temperatures (cryopreservation) and keep it sterile until the need arises for transplantation. Although fetal transplantation has a very promising future that surpasses the technique of implanting animal cells into patients, because until now, scientists cannot stop the body's immune reactions and rejection of these cells. Yet there are ethical problems that have to be resolved with fetal transplantation. Some, especially in the United States, argue that current research and the ensuing results could encourage abortion for financial or sympathetic reasons. In other countries like England, women who have already decided to have an abortion are asked if they are willing to donate fetal tissue for medical research without telling them for what purpose it will be used.

Other researchers have suggested that soon it will be possible to culture fetal cells in laboratories, so that cells from one fetus could be used to treat hundreds of patients and relieve them from enormous suffering. Till that day, researchers will go on speculating about the impact of fetal transplantation on enhancing and probably even prolonging life, humanity's ancient dream.

## Personal View

### The Elections and Bad-Mouthing the Rulers

We Yemenis have always been critical of our rulers, and there is a lot of good reason for it. But we sometimes get carried away and we do not give enough credit where it is due.

One such example in my opinion is the current strenuous efforts by the government and state to introduce democracy into Yemen against all odds. Yemen is a poor country, and it is one of the least developed countries of the world, yet it chose to embark on a multi-party political system, we have one of the most free media in the Third World, and even in the world, we have freedom of movement and association, etc. Of course, we are still in the initial stages, and we have to be aware of it. But credit has to be given to our rulers for taking this bold step.

It is clear that many other countries which could have proceeded on this path, have not decided to do so, but we have.

Then, there is the problem of democracy itself. Many may not know this, but a democratic system is probably one of the most difficult system to manage. So a backward Yemen has chosen one of the most difficult forms of government. Again credit is due.

The local media has played a devastating role in making our lives more difficult. By bad-mouthing our rulers, they have reduced our trust in them, and our willingness to cooperate with them. This was an unbalanced and unfortunate development.

My appeal here is: Could we rectify this situation by making our criticism more balanced, for the sake of Yemen?

By: Abdullah M. Al-Saqqaf,  
Taiz.

### WARM WELCOME TO THE BELDES

Mr. Pierre Belde has just joined the Sheraton Sanaa Hotel as Food and Beverages Manager. Belde, a Belgian national, brings with him a long experiences that spans several countries in the Middle East and Europe. He held his last position as Food and Beverage Manager at the Sheraton Casablanca Hotel in Morocco.



Mr. Belde has brought with him an impressive history of professional achievements as well as delicious and exotic international cuisines and food patterns developed in first class hotels around the world. This chance, plus the special rates, will definitely entice many people to flock towards the Sheraton Sanaa Hotel. Yemen Times takes this opportunity to welcome Pierre, and his wife, May, to Sanaa, and to wish them a happy and fruitful stay in Yemen.

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## Judge Hamood Al-Hitar: "We have many cases of documented abuse of human rights."

**Qadhi Hamood Abdul-Hameed Al-Hitar is one of the rising key figures of the justice system of Yemen. At age 37, he occupies important positions. He is the presiding judge over the country's Penal Court System; he is the Vice Chairman of the Judicial Forum; and the Chairman of the Yemeni Organization for Human Rights.**

**From Hubaish, Ibb, Qadhi Al-Hitar had also served as the head of his region's cooperative board.**

**Yemen Times Political Editor Dr. Ahmed Al-Madhangi interviewed the judge.**

**Excerpts of the interview**

**Q:** It is reported that many members of the Board of Trustees of your organization (Yemeni Organization for Human Rights = YOHR) are (or at least, were) linked to the security apparatus and/or the top echelons of executive authority. How do you perceive persons associated with the tools of oppression to help in human rights?

**A:** Let me give you a quick background about the formation of the YOHR. In the beginning, we thought of establishing an association to support justice, which aimed at improving the tools of dispensing justice such as the investigation bureaus, police departments, and the courts.

We held several meetings in which many interested persons attended. I would not dispute that persons associated with the security apparatus may have attended those preparatory meetings.

Even then, certain participants in the meetings, such as Dr. Abubakar Saqqaf, indicated his desire that we screen participation, probably by limiting the invitations to certain elite groups or those with specific (political) orientations. When the time came for the conference to

establish the association, he saw that many people from the other group were there, and thus the conference failed. That was before the unification of Yemen.

Then a new delegation was formed to follow up on the work. We started meeting at Colonel Dirhem Noman's home. This time, people talked of quotas for each political party or political orientation. Then for almost one year, the idea remained dormant.

Several months back, we resumed our efforts, and we decided to have an open membership system in the preparatory committee. Thus, we had 105 members and we tried hard to include all shades of the spectrum.

We decided on the time and place of the constituent conference, and sent application forms to all political parties to fill out and send potential members to the conference along with the necessary membership fees. We received over 1,500 application forms, and the constituent conference was held during 8-9/10/1992. I do not deny that in the elections, the candidates of the PGC, the Islah, Baath, etc. ran on a joint slate and thus dominated the results. The elections were carried out according to the basic charter of the YOHR. Some people say we should have carried out the voting by secret ballots. That would have been better if we had the time. As you know in such meetings, things drag on and on, thus we were squeezed for time. In any case, people were free to run and the conference voted by raising hands in favor. This is done at our parliament and at the Security Council in the UN and many other forums. There were no legal/moral irregularities. That is how we got our current board of trustees.

**Q:** This acknowledged, would you say that the YOHR is dominated by certain parties?

**A:** As I said, many of those who won in the elections of the board of trustees or executive board belong to the PGC or Islah. But that does not mean that these parties control the organization.

Actually, Article (29) of the YOHR charter forbids the exploitation of the organization's efforts and activities for the service of a certain political party or political orientation.

I would also like to add that all elected members have to swear an oath which runs like this:

"I swear in the name of the Almighty that I will abide by human rights and liberties, and to protect them in all legal ways. I also pledge to abide by the charter of the YOHR and its by-laws."

YOHR is an independent organization which is neither pro or anti-government. We can not take a predetermined position. We are pro those parties and groups that push for human rights and liberties, and we are against those parties and groups that violate human rights and liberties.

Yet, some circles, just because we do not lash out against the government, accuse us of being subservient to the state.

We are so careful in this aspect that we may be overbalancing. In short, we seek to protect our independence and integrity, and we seek to fulfill our duties and tasks as stipulated by the charter.

**Q:** You are now opening branches in various governorates - Taiz, Hajjah, etc. It is reported that you obtain support from the state machinery and/or its political parties. How do you respond?

**A:** We are very gratified with the response we have had. When we initiated the drive to start the Taiz branch, we received 3250 applications. When we initiated the Hajjah branch, there were 9391 applications. Now we are working to establish a



branch in Hodeidah, and we expect similar results. No, we do not use the state machinery or that of the political parties. Some people are trying hard to label us as stooges of the state.

But look at our board of trustees... executive board, or even general members. They are university professors, lawyers, journalists, and teachers.

When we were working on the conditions for membership, we thought about working either through an elite group or through a broad-based grass-roots level membership. We opted for the second.

All our meetings to establish branches are held in neutral locations.

**Q:** Let me ask you a general question. How would you assess the human rights situation in Yemen today?

**A:** There are several levels to the answer to this question. In comparison to other Arab countries, we really come out well. But, in terms of the ideal situation as called for by the spirit of Islam and the constitution, there are glaring violations.

Let me cite a specific example. When the unity agreement was signed on November 30th, Article (130) of the proposed constitution stated that all laws enacted by the former YAR and PDRY, except those infringing on rights and liberties, would remain in force until they were replaced by new laws. The presidential council was authorized to issue a law deleting all adverse laws.

In the final draft of the

constitution, this exception was cancelled, which already says much about the bad intentions towards human rights & liberties.

The second part of my complaint in this matter is the continued disregard for human rights and liberties in the application of the laws. We have many cases of abuse well documented in this matter.

Finally, the government has been slow in enacting the law that organizes the justice ministry and the judicial system. It was only on January 26th 1991 that such a law was passed; and even then, the by-laws have yet to come out. I think this deliberate neglect is significant.

There are two bills I would like to mention here, which are badly needed to protect human rights. First, there is the law on due process which gives details of the personal liberties and the exceptional cases under which they may be infringed upon. Second there is the penal bill which outlines the actions that represent a violation of human rights, and how they are to be confronted. Then there is the strange dispensation of rights. The way this is done is that the rights of citizens are directly proportional to their clout in society. Strong citizens exercise their full rights and more, ordinary citizen are often obstructed from their ability to exercise their rights.

Finally, the political parties do not observe the rights of their members. For example, why is the leadership of the PGC unwilling to hold the fifth general conference, why is

the YSP unwilling to hold the fourth general congress, and this is also the case with the others.

Even those who call for democracy insist on a democracy that will keep them in power, and they will do anything to ensure that.

The Supreme Parties Committee has yet to start its work of organizing the political parties. The recent steps to "reign in the press" send a lot of disturbing signals, especially the procedural by-laws.

All of these factors are responsible for the crisis of confidence between the state and the people. A great deal of doubt is cast over the human rights conditions in Yemen.

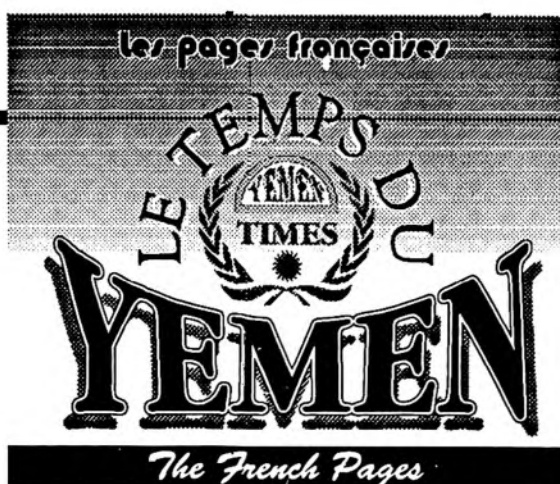
**Q:** Let me ask about women's rights. Do you think that the laws now in practice give women their rights as called for in the international conventions?

**A:** The present laws agree and conform, by and large, with the international laws and conventions. Naturally there are points of departure, especially as far as specific requirements are stipulated by Islamic laws.

Having said that, let me stress that the problem is not really a problem of text or law, it is a problem of implementation. The question should be whether Yemeni women have been given their rights according to what Islam grants them. In my opinion, Islamic Sharia has given women a fair deal; unfortunately, the rights of women are not fully protected.

Continues on page 7





Alors que les manifestations de rues sont presque inexistantes

## Sanaa condamne prudemment les raids alliés contre l'Irak

**L'Irak tente, depuis la passation de pouvoir entre l'ancien président des Etats-Unis George Bush et le nouveau, Bill Clinton, le 20 janvier dernier, de calmer le jeu et de temporiser en espérant un changement de politique dans le Golfe de la part de la nouvelle administration américaine. Ce changement, Bill Clinton n'est apparemment pas prêt à le concéder, c'est ce qui ressort de tous ses discours avant et après son investiture: pas question de changer d'attitude face à Saddam Hussein.**

**Mais Bagdad persiste néanmoins à adopter un profil bas: pour la troisième fois consécutive dimanche, l'Irak a réaffirmé son engagement à respecter le cessez-le-feu unilatéral qu'il a proclamé mercredi dernier, officiellement pour prouver sa bonne volonté au nouveau président américain. De plus, Bagdad s'attache soigneusement, depuis quelques jours, à minimiser tous les incidents militaires aériens que Washington dénonce, alors que les officiels irakiens n'avaient de cesse jusqu'alors d'annoncer fièrement chaque accrochage avec les forces alliées. Il semble donc que la "nouvelle crise du Golfe" n'ait été qu'un "coup de bluff" de Saddam Hussein pour "tester" le successeur de George Bush...**

Tout en réaffirmant que les raids alliés sur l'Irak sont "injustifiés", le Yémen mène une diplomatie prudente vis-à-vis de cette nouvelle crise du Golfe, en condamnant prudemment la politique des alliés, en évitant les nombreuses manifestations de soutien à Saddam Hussein dans les rues telles qu'elles ont eu lieu il y a deux ans et en adoptant un profil très bas dans la presse "officielle", se contentant d'annoncer les faits sans trop les commenter.

Car le Yémen, qui a beaucoup souffert de la dernière crise du Golfe, diplomatiquement mais surtout économiquement (officiellement, les pertes dues à la crise du Golfe ont été chiffrées à quelques 1,7 milliards de dollars, sans compter le poids du million de "rapatriés" d'Arabie Saoudite et du Koweït et l'abandon des programmes d'aide de ces deux pays), tente depuis de redorer son image de marque sur la scène internationale, et notamment auprès des monarchies pétrolières du Golfe (lire ci-dessous). Il faut noter toutefois que le Yémen a été l'un des premiers pays arabes à condamner alors l'invasion du Koweït par les forces irakiennes même si plus tard, il a également condamné l'intervention armée des forces alliées. Cependant, le Yémen était alors l'un des dix membres

non permanents du Conseil de Sécurité des Nations-Unies et avait voté toutes les résolutions qui devaient s'imposer à l'Irak. La presse étrangère, arabe ou occidentale, a souvent occulté ce fait.

Donc, lundi 18 janvier dernier, le Président Saleh a estimé que le recours récent à la force contre l'Irak, de la part des alliés, "n'était pas justifiable", lors d'un entretien avec l'Ambassadeur d'Irak à Sanaa, M. Mohsen Khalil, et s'est contenté d'ajouter que les raids alliés "aggravent les souffrances du peuple irakien soumis à un embargo" depuis août 1991. Il a également déploré que ces raids étaient "menés au nom du droit international qui n'est pas appliqué par ailleurs, en Bosnie ou en Palestine". Ses commentaires se sont arrêtés là.

Le même jour (lire nos informations ci-dessous), M. Saleh dépêchait à Ryad son ministre d'Etat pour les Affaires Etrangères, M. Abdel Aziz al-Dali, porteur d'un message au roi Fahd (qui le reçoit personnellement pour la première fois depuis le début des négociations sur les frontières, cela est très intéressant à noter). Officiellement, le message a trait au différend frontalier qui oppose les deux pays mais un porte-parole officiel yéménite a précisé à l'Agence France Presse que la

visite de M. al-Dali "s'inscrit dans le cadre des efforts de Sanaa pour normaliser ses relations avec les pays frères voisins", et qu'il devrait aussi évoquer la crise entre l'Irak et les alliés, toujours selon l'AFP, l'Arabie Saoudite étant le premier partenaire des Alliés dans le Golfe et le sol saoudien servant d'aéroport aux avions qui survolent l'Irak.

Il faut noter également que les manifestations de rue de soutien à Saddam Hussein sont très rares pour ne pas dire inexistantes (contrairement à la Jordanie par exemple), alors que pendant la guerre du Golfe, le Yémen avait été le théâtre de plusieurs manifestations (dont la violence était très relative d'ailleurs), organisées notamment par le "Haut comité populaire yéménite de soutien à l'Irak et à la Nation Arabe". Cette fois, seul un très étrange tract, qui n'a pas circulé dans les rues mais... dans les ambassades et les organismes étrangers (!), émanait d'un soi-disant "Bureau de coordination des comités révolutionnaires", aux accents fondamentalistes, mais vraisemblablement pas issu de milieux intégristes, appelant à "exterminer tous les Occidentaux". Pour de nombreux observateurs, il s'agit de manipulation et de désinformation à l'adresse des communautés étrangères.

Emmanuel GIROUD

En "escale de courtoisie", symbole des bonnes relations

## Le Var, navire militaire français, mouille à Hodeidah

Dimanche 24 janvier, le Var, un bâtiment de la Marine nationale française est arrivé dans le port de Hodeidah, pour ce que l'on appelle, en termes de diplomatie, une "escale de courtoisie", au Yémen, pays avec lequel la France entretient désormais d'étroites relations d'amitié. Le symbole est d'autant plus marquant que le Contre-Amiral Foillard, commandant des forces maritimes françaises de l'Océan Indien se trouve à bord et a rendu visite aux autorités civiles et militaires de Hodeidah et de Sanna.

Entré en service en février 1983 et affecté en zone maritime de l'Océan Indien depuis août 1991, le bâtiment de commandement et de ravitaillement Var est commandé depuis le 8 janvier 1992 par le Capitaine de frégate Tiffou.

Le Var possède les installations nécessaires pour soutenir une force navale en vivres, munitions, recharges divers et combustibles. Ses systèmes automatiques lui permettent de ravitailler trois unités en mer simultanément. Long de 157

mètres et large de 21 mètres, il déplace à pleine charge 19.000 tonnes.

Il est armé par 14 officiers, 65 officiers marins et 90 quartiers-maîtres et matelots et accueille l'Etat-Major de l'Amiral. Le Var était précédemment en escale à Djeddah, en Arabie Saoudite et se rendra en Inde à l'issue de cette visite.

Les bâtiments des forces maritimes françaises de l'Océan Indien participent à la défense des intérêts français dans cette zone où la France, pays riverain par l'île de la Réunion, a également signé des accords de coopération et de défense avec d'autres pays.

Le Var ne serait chargé, selon les autorités militaires françaises, d'aucune mission particulière en croisant en Mer Rouge et au large des côtes yéménites, même concernant la présence de troupes françaises en Somalie dans l'opération des Nations-Unies baptisée "Redonner l'Espoir" (Restore Hope). Il s'agit, à Hodeidah, d'une simple "escale de courtoisie", ayant pour simple but de symboliser le renforcement des liens d'amitié entre la France et le Yémen.

Essentiellement à travers ses liens désormais privilégiés avec Oman

## Le Yémen tente de se réconcilier avec les monarchies du Golfe

Le Yémen, en bute à de graves difficultés économiques et sociales qui ont débouché récemment sur des émeutes réprimées dans le sang (lire *Le Temps du Yémen* N°51 du 16 décembre dernier), est en quête d'une normalisation avec les riches monarchies arabes du Golfe qui l'ont "puni" pour avoir refusé de se ranger dans le camp des ennemis de l'Irak lors de la crise du Golfe.

Le Yémen paye, encore aujourd'hui, les dividendes de son attitude d'il y a deux ans: récemment, une délégation de la Banque Islamique de Développement - bras financier de l'Organisation de la Conférence Islamique (OCI), qui regroupe des fonds de divers pays arabes et qui est dirigée essentiellement par l'Arabie Saoudite - est venue au Yémen pour négocier la reprise du financement de certains projets arrêtés lors de la crise du Golfe, et avait fait certaines promesses, notamment pour l'équipement de certaines facultés. Peu de temps après, vraisemblablement en raison des mauvaises relations entre l'Arabie Saoudite et le Yémen, la Banque Islamique a renoncé à ces financements.

La réconciliation que le Yémen tente de promouvoir avec les monarchies du Golfe a été amorcée essentiellement par les nouvelles relations que Sanaa entretient avec Mascate, la capitale du Sultanat d'Oman. Même avant la guerre du Golfe, le Yémen frappait à la porte du Conseil de Coopération du Golfe (CCG), sorte de "CEE de la pé-

ninsule arabique" qui regroupe dans un "marché commun" les six monarchies pétrolières du Golfe (Arabie Saoudite, Koweït, Oman, Emirats Arabes Unis, Qatar, Bahrein): seul Oman a soutenu la candidature de Sanaa.

Les relations entre les deux pays se sont encore améliorées après la signature, en octobre dernier, d'un accord frontalier après dix ans de négociations difficiles. Aujourd'hui, les échanges de délégations n'en finissent plus et le Yémen ne tarit pas d'éloges sur son voisin. Oman doit financer la construction d'une route reliant les deux pays, une société pétrolière omanaise a obtenu récemment la concession d'un champs pétrolier dans le sud du pays, on parle de plus en plus de financement omanais pour la modernisation de la raffinerie d'Aden et une délégation de haut niveau de la Chambre de Commerce de Mascate est arrivée il y a quelques jours au Yémen (lire l'interview en anglais, page 14). Oman est donc devenu l'interlocuteur privilégié de Sanaa pour l'amélioration des relations avec l'ensemble des pays du CCG.

Mais la pierre d'achoppement de ces tentatives est bien entendue l'Arabie Saoudite, en raison du conflit frontalier qui oppose les deux pays. Mais lundi 18 janvier, fait exceptionnel, le ministre d'Etat yéménite pour les Affaires étrangères, M. Abdel Aziz al-Dali, mandaté par le président Saleh pour remettre une lettre au souverain, a été reçu par le roi Fahd lui-même.

Celui-ci a adressé au président yéménite une lettre en retour. Selon M. al-Dali, ces messages portent sur "la volonté des deux dirigeants de dépasser la phase anormale qui a marqué les relations entre les deux pays frères".

M. al-Dali compte se rendre prochainement dans l'Etat des Emirats Arabes Unis (EEAU), où l'Ambassade du Yémen est restée ouverte en dépit de la crise du Golfe. Près de 10.000 yéménites travaillent dans l'EEAU. Avant la crise du Golfe, le chef de l'EEAU, cheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyane, avait fait don de cent millions de dollars pour la construction du barrage de Mareb.

M. al-Dali compte également se rendre au Qatar et à Bahrein. Le Qatar avait rouvert son ambassade à Sanaa, fin septembre dernier, au lendemain de la résurgence d'un vieux conflit frontalier avec l'Arabie Saoudite: de source informée à Sanaa, l'Ambassade du Qatar a ouvert un bureau de recrutement, plus ou moins "caché", pour enrôler des Yéménites comme soldats au Qatar. Les candidatures seraient très nombreuses selon cette source.

Mais c'est avec le Koweït, où près de 25.000 yéménites résident avant la guerre du Golfe et qui ont été forcés de partir, qu'une normalisation semble pour le moment impossible. Le Koweït fournissait avant une aide annuelle de plusieurs dizaines de millions de dollars.

E.G.

(Avec AFP)

Malgré la demande d'une commission d'enquête

## Amnesty International reste sans nouvelles des 140 "Disparus" du Yémen

En septembre dernier, Amnesty International, l'Organisation Non Gouvernementale de défense des Droits de l'Homme dont le siège est à Londres, a soumis les détails de 140 cas de "disparition" au Président Ali Abdallah Saleh et réitéré sa demande d'enquête sur leur sort et le lieu où ils se trouvent.

Les victimes font partie des centaines de personnes "disparues" durant les années 70 et 80 dans l'ancienne République Arabe du Yémen (Yémen du Nord) et l'ancienne République Populaire et Démocratique du Yémen (Yémen du Sud). Il s'agit, entre autres, de médecins, d'ingénieurs, de fonctionnaires, de personnel militaire, de juges et d'avocats. Au cours des dernières années, Amnesty International a maintes fois évoqué le sujet des "disparitions" auprès des autorités yéménites, mais à ce jour, bien peu de dossiers ont été éclaircis.

L'un des 140 cas est celui d'Abdul-Rahman Baljun, ancien directeur général d'Aden Television, arrêté en 1986. Il aurait subi, en détention, des tortures telles qu'il a eu la colonne vertébrale brisée. Il aurait été vu dans des hôpitaux et des centres de détention du Yémen du Sud jusqu'en 1988.

Quant à Muttaher al-Iryani, comptable à Hodeidah, il a "disparu" depuis son arrestation en 1982, et aurait été vu dans les centres de détention de tout le Yémen du Nord jusqu'en 1989.

Amnesty International a demandé instamment à la nouvelle République du Yémen, unifiée depuis deux ans, la mise en place d'une commission

d'enquête habilitée à examiner tous les cas passés de "disparition", et la comparution des responsables devant la justice.

Amnesty continue à s'inquiéter de l'usage des armes à feu par les forces israéliennes dans les Territoires occupés. Dans un incident récent, lors d'une manifestation à Jérusalem, le 10 octobre, un jeune palestinien, Mustafa Ubaydat, a été ainsi victime d'un agent de la police des frontières.

Un reportage télévisé montre Mustafa sur le dos luttant avec des policiers. Un officier de police s'est alors écarté de lui, semble-t-il pour avoir un meilleur champ de vision, et a tiré sur le jeune homme, qui est mort de ses blessures le 17 octobre. Le lendemain, un communiqué de la police disait que Mustafa avait été blessé accidentellement en essayant de saisir l'arme d'un policier ! 62 "disparitions" au moins au Koweït en 1991 et de nombreux cas de torture à mort. Selon Amnesty International, un grand nombre de détenus, ressortissants étrangers pour la plupart, ont été torturés à mort et au moins 62 ont "disparu" en 1991. Ils étaient accusés d'avoir "collaboré" avec les forces irakiennes. La mort d'un Srilankais, Colompura Pathmakumara, torturé à mort, a été le premier cas signalé en 1992. Depuis, Amnesty a demandé, aux autorités, en vain, d'ouvrir une enquête sur sa mort.

E.G.  
Sources: Bulletin mensuel d'Amnesty International, Janvier 1993)

## Programmes français sur la chaîne de télévision d'Aden

Voici la liste des programmes en français, sous-titrés ou doublés en langue arabe, diffusés actuellement par la deuxième chaîne de TV/Aden:

**Le samedi à 22h30:**

Un film long métrage français, une semaine sur deux.

**Le mercredi à 20h15:**

"L'odyssée du Commandant Cousteau", (45 minutes, une semaine sur deux).

**Le vendredi à 21h30:**

"Les grandes voix de la musique arabe", série en quatre épisodes, à partir du 22 janvier, une semaine sur deux:

- 1- Farid al-Atrache.
- 2- Mohammed Abdelwahhab.
- 3- Oum Kaltoum.
- 4- "Tunis chante et danse", émission spéciale de Frédéric Mitterrand.

Ainsi que les traditionnels cours de français télévisés bi-hebdomadaires "Entrée libre": Première diffusion le lundi à 19h45. Rediffusion le samedi à 19h45.



## HISTOIRE

# La guerre de Mokha n'aura pas lieu

par Christian Couturaud \*

"La ville de Mokha a des mosquées et des hautes tours blanches. Les murs à l'antique sont moitié de pierres, moitié de terre battue avec de la paille. Elle a quatre portes sans fossé et plusieurs tours avec du canon sur quelques-unes. Les maisons sont de briques, à un ou deux étages, avec des terrasses.

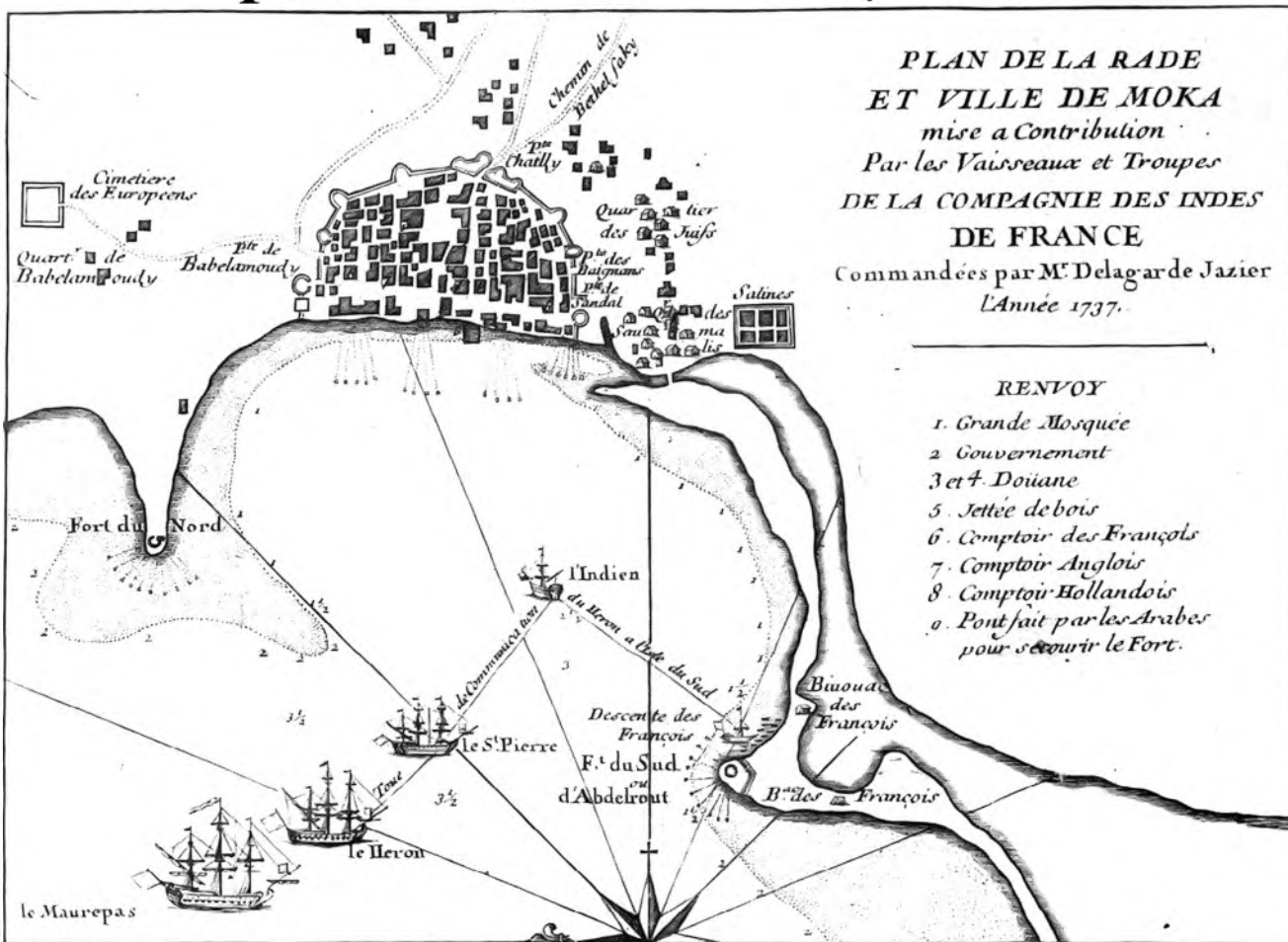
Une grande quantité de palmiers plantés dans la campagne semblent de loin border le rivage jusqu'à la ville. La rade forme une espèce de croissant, ayant deux forts, l'un au nord, l'autre au sud et il y a une lieue de large d'un fort à l'autre.

Mokha ne contient qu'environ dix mille habitants, tous Mahométans, avec quelques Arméniens et beaucoup de Juifs assez pauvres, qui demeurent dans un petit bourg près de la ville."

Appuyé à la lisse de pavais de son navire, en rade de Mokha, en ce 25 janvier 1737, le capitaine de vaisseau De La Garde-Jazier devait trouver bien minces les descriptions de ses prédécesseurs sur cette ville qu'il était venu prendre d'assaut. Parti de Pondichéry trois mois plus tôt, il était mandaté par la Compagnie des Indes pour obtenir réparation du non respect par les autorités locales d'un accord commercial signé 28 ans auparavant.

En fait, si l'on excepte le passage des Portugais, il y a près de deux siècles, la présence européenne au Yémen est très récente. Les Hollandais ont été les premiers à installer un agent à demeure à Mokha, au tout début du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle, pour veiller à la collecte de la cargaison de café du vaisseau de 700 tonneaux qui était envoyé annuellement de Batavia.

La première expédition commerciale française, elle, avait été organisée par des commerçants et armateurs de Saint-Malo. Attirés par les bénéfices réalisables dans un tel périple, mais prudents et économes de leurs biens, ces négociants avaient procédé à l'affrètement de deux navires corsaires de Brest, Le Curieux, commandé par Monsieur De La Merveille et Le Dilligent, sous les ordres de Monsieur De Champloret Le Brun. Partie en 1708 et revenue en 1710, cette expédition fut très positive et généra des bénéfices suffisamment confortables à ses armateurs pour que l'expérience fut immédiatement renouvelée, de 1711 à 1713, sous le même commandement. En outre, M. De La Merveille avait eu, le 16 janvier 1709, l'intelligence de penser à l'avenir en signant un contrat de commerce très avantageux qui s'appliquait à l'ensemble des navires français mouillant à Mo-kha.



On aura compris qu'il ne fallut pas longtemps à la Compagnie Française des Indes pour s'engouffrer dans le détroit de Bab Al Mandab et profiter des clauses bénéfiques de ce contrat commercial.

## "...porter la terreur dans Mokha."

Cependant, au fil du temps, l'Imam Al-Mahdi, signataire du traité, étant mort et les gouverneurs de Mokha, garants de sa bonne exécution, s'étant succédés en nombre, il devenait de plus en plus difficile aux capitaines français de faire respecter leurs privilèges. Certains ont affirmé qu'il fallait voir en cela la marque des Anglais et des Hollandais, jaloux de ces privilèges accordés à des concurrents. Ne peut-on pas, tout simplement, penser que la cupidité des gouverneurs de Mokha, qui percevaient pour leur propre compte la majorité des droits de douane, suffisait à dénaturer les termes d'un traité, certes trop avantageux pour les Français, mais surtout désavantageux pour leur propre cassette ? Cette perte sera d'ailleurs évoquée, plus tard, lors des nouvelles négociations, par l'Imam lui-même.

En fait, le litige portait essentiellement sur l'interprétation d'un article limitant à 2,25% les taxes perçues sur les marchandises importées à Mokha par les Français. Au fil du temps, cette faveur avait été restreinte aux seules marchandises arrivant directement de France. La Compagnie des Indes, qui commerçait avec Mokha sur la route du retour vers la France, important donc essentiellement ses marchandises d'échange des colonies indiennes, se trouvait particulièrement désavantagée par cette interprétation.

Le Conseil Supérieur de Pondichéry fut donc chargé de "...porter la terreur dans Mokha et de profiter de cette crainte pour réparer le passé et conclure à l'avenir un traité plus solide et plus avantageux."

C'est ainsi qu'on arma donc une escadre composée de quatre navires de guerre de la Compagnie: le Comte de Maurepas, le Héron, le Saint-Pierre et l'Indien, sous le commandement du capitaine de vaisseau De La Garde-Jazier, neveu du célèbre amiral et ancien corsaire Duguay-Trouin. Le Comte de Maurepas est un de ces célèbres vaisseaux de la Compagnie des Indes, de 150

pièdes de long et 900 tonneaux, qui font, une fois l'an, la route de la métropole aux colonies. L'Indien est une galiote, c'est à dire un petit navire de charge à fond plat qui sert à ravitailler les fond gros. Le Héron, qui a été envoyé par le gouverneur de l'île de France, est une très rapide goélette qui peut aussi bien servir d'éclaireur que de moyen de liaison entre les navires d'une même escadre marchant à des vitesses différentes. Le Saint-Pierre, enfin, est un gros navire de charge qui assure le transport des marchandises, tant dans l'Océan Indien qu'avec la métropole. A l'escadre ainsi constituée, fut adjointe une troupe de débarquement de 330 soldats qui venaient s'emparer, si le besoin s'en faisait sentir, de la ville et plus particulièrement du fort du nord, son point faible.

## Des échanges d'artillerie

L'époque est on ne peut plus mal choisie pour une telle attaque, car si les vents sont portants, leur instabilité en force et en direction rend peu sûrs tous les mouillages ouverts à l'ouest, à l'est ou au sud. C'est le cas de

la rade de Mokha, ouverte à l'ouest et balayée en permanence, en cette saison, par des vents du sud. Effectivement, à peine les navires français se furent-ils positionnés que la tempête empêcha tout débarquement. On se limita à un échange de lettres qui, n'ayant pas abouti, fut suivi d'échanges d'artillerie. Les canons de Mokha n'étaient pas assez puissants pour atteindre les navires français et l'état de la mer empêchait toute précision de ces derniers qui parvinrent cependant à créer un début de panique dans la ville.

Ce n'est que dans la nuit du 14 au 15 février que la tempête consent à se calmer. Sans perdre un instant, La Garde-Jazier réunit alors deux de ses trois compagnies à la tête desquelles il organise un débarquement en direction du fort du sud dont il s'empare sans grandes difficultés.

Le gouverneur préfère alors négocier et envoie son Grand Trésorier, Haji Hachem, qu'on disait responsable de la situation de guerre présente, pour négocier le remboursement des sommes indûment perçues et le rétablissement des anciens privilèges. La Garde-Jazier y ajoute la nécessité, pour l'Imam, de prendre à sa charge les frais de l'expédition montée depuis Pondichéry, l'obligation d'envoyer un dignitaire signer le nouveau traité et la prise en charge, par la ville, du ravitaillement quotidien des troupes françaises. Dans l'attente de la réponse de l'Imam, qu'on évalue alors à une quinzaine de jours, les Français protègent leurs positions à terre par l'établissement de plusieurs bivouacs avancés vers la ville, ce qui, outre le renforcement de la sécurité, a l'avantage de leur permettre de prendre contact avec la partie de la population établie hors des murs de la ville.

Ces contacts permettent rapidement de constater que le gouverneur, Faqi Abdallah, profite de la trêve pour faire entrer dans la ville des troupes fraîches, appartenant au frère de l'Imam, que La Garde-Jazier, dans son rapport, nomme Sedi Ahmed, tantôt Prince de Jaïze, tantôt Prince de Taïze. On peut raisonnablement penser qu'il occupait tout simplement les fonctions de gouverneur de Taïze. Ces troupes atteignent bientôt un total de 1.500 hommes, et il devient évi-

dent que le gouverneur fait tout ce qui est en son pouvoir pour les inciter à reprendre le fort du sud. Elles restent cependant sourdes à toutes ses injonctions.

Enfin arrive le gouverneur de Bayt al-Faqih, nommé par l'Imam en remplacement de Faqi Abdallah, destitué. Ce nouveau gouverneur, qui se nomme Emir Elmas Abdelrahman, est chargé par l'Imam et conjointement avec le Qadi de Mokha, de régler le problème au mieux des intérêts de tous. Dans le même temps, le chef des troupes de Taïze rencontre les Français en secret pour leur faire savoir que son maître, le frère de l'Imam, leur est tout à fait favorable et qu'une entente entre eux, vraisemblablement sur le dos des autres, est toujours réalisable. Dès lors, il devient clair que ce notable, impressionné par l'efficacité des troupes françaises et la force de leur artillerie, souhaiterait les alier à ses propres troupes pour s'emparer de Mokha et peut-être plus. Cette ambition peut servir les Français en cas d'échec des négociations en cours.

## L'Imam cède aux Français

Toutes ces visites, ouvertes ou clandestines, assorties des rumeurs que les uns et les autres veulent bien laisser filtrer, font comprendre de part et d'autre qu'il n'est que temps de conclure, dans la mesure où tout le monde semble d'accord. Le seul obstacle réside dans la clause visant à faire supporter à l'Imam les frais de l'expédition. Par souci de conciliation, La Garde-Jazier propose de faire assurer cette charge par l'ex-gouverneur et son père, Faqi Ahmed, à qui il a succédé à ce poste. Cependant, Faqi Ahmed étant devenu ministre de l'Imam, il devient difficile d'exiger de lui ce qu'on renonce à demander à son maître. Les Français acceptent donc de renoncer à ce dédommagement en échange de la promesse d'exclure Faqi Ahmed et Faqi Abdallah de toute charge politique ou administrative susceptible de leur rapporter. Le traité est alors signé entre les Français et les représentants de l'Imam aussitôt envoyé à ce dernier pour ratification.

Durant les longs jours d'attente qui suivirent, l'ambiance fut à la fête, même si tous restaient sur leurs positions et même si les soldats de Taïze continuaient à arriver en nombre. On les estimait maintenant à environ 4.500. Bientôt, les Français furent informés que le traité tardait à revenir car son porteur était retenu à Mawza, à peu de distance de Mokha vers l'intérieur des terres. Quelques menaces suffirent à le faire libérer. Le traité était ratifié en date du 9 mai. Il ne restait plus qu'à rendre le fort du sud et à se retirer, ce qui fut chose faite, le 21 juin 1733.

Les Anglais et les Hollandais, bien qu'ayant assuré les Français de leur soutien, étaient fort peiné de ce succès qui favorisait un concurrent. Les Français retrouvaient tous leurs droits antérieurs. M. Ingrand, représentant de la Compagnie des Indes, devenait Consul de France et ses nationaux étaient même autorisés à acquérir terres et maisons et à s'établir à Mokha.

En 1788, un négociant de l'île de France, M. Cloupet, passant au Yémen, rapporte même que lors de sa visite au gouverneur de Bayt al-Faqih, on le dispensa de se déchausser, privilège qu'avait obtenu M. De La Garde-Jazier lors de sa visite de négociation avec le gouverneur de Mokha, 51 ans auparavant.

Sana'a, le 22 janvier 1993.

\* Christian Couturaud, responsable du département de français à l'Université de Sana'a, est Docteur en Histoire sur les grands voyages scientifiques autour du monde aux XVIII<sup>e</sup> et XIX<sup>e</sup> siècles et sur l'architecture navale des navires scientifiques de la même époque et auteur d'une maîtrise sur les Corsaires dans l'Océan Indien.

## VUE DES RETRANCHEMENTS DES FRANÇOIS du côté de la Terre



## VUE DE MOKHA DU CÔTÉ DE LA MER



## Renvoy

- A Grande Mosquée
- B Petite Mosquée
- C Jetée de Bois
- D Fort du Nord
- E Fort du Sud
- F Comptoir Français
- G Comptoir Anglois
- H Comptoir Hollandois
- I Quartier de Babelamoudy
- K Quartier des Saumales
- L Lieu de la descente des Français pour attaquer le Fort près la nuit du 14 au 15 février 1737





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## THE SECOND FESTIVAL OF YEMENI THEATER: A PROMISING CULTURAL DEMONSTRATION

By: Saad Salah Khalis,  
Cultural Editor,  
Yemen Times



Art and artistic production form the pulse of life for any living society. From them alone, the political, social and emotional tendencies of any society can be measured. Theatrical art, with all its aesthetic elements, is one of the most effective in that respect. There, on that glamorous stage, the actor stands facing the crowd with no barriers, no deceiving camera tricks, no false effects; nothing but the skills and gifts with which the actor is armed. Nothing stands between acceptance or rejection of the whole play by the true judge - the audience - but the bare thoughts, actions and gestures on the stage; distant from philosophies, ideologies and verbosity. It is the audience that really decides the worthiness of any artistic act. After all, it is the theater that addresses them directly, carries their feelings, problems, worries, moments of happiness and misery, of triumph and defeat, ecstasy and imagination up to the stage in front of their eyes. The naked expressions that make them laugh, cry, sweat and revolt speak for them and on behalf of them. That is theater, the master of all expressive arts.

Thus, the uplifting of any living society is largely measured by the magnitude of artistic production, theatrics being the most important, because its flourishing reflects the awareness of both the artists and the crowd of the role of art in general as well as aesthetically.

To that end, the second festival of Yemeni theater is by no means an ordinary event, because it really reflects the awareness of the organizers to the signi-

ficance of the theater in expressing and creating social mentality being patroned by H.E., the president. Activities were initiated on Jan. 16 under the slogan "For a theatrical uprising and a permanent developed theater." The importance of this event is explained by Mr. Hassan A. Allouzi, Minister of Culture and Tourism (the organizers), "This festival represents our affirmation of the importance of the continuity of theatrical activities and offers a chance through evaluation of such activities, in addition to providing the opportunity for writers, directors and actors to compete in a healthy atmosphere in addition to showing their commitment to democratic spirit and freedom of expression, thought, and creativity."

The 12 theatrical teams are showing 23 plays within 10 days forming the period of the festival where most of the Yemeni governors are represented. "Athaalab wal Enah" (The Fox and the Grapes) by The National theater of Aden, was the opening play of the festival while "Al-Qlassat" by the general establishment of theater and cinema will be the final one on the 26th of January.

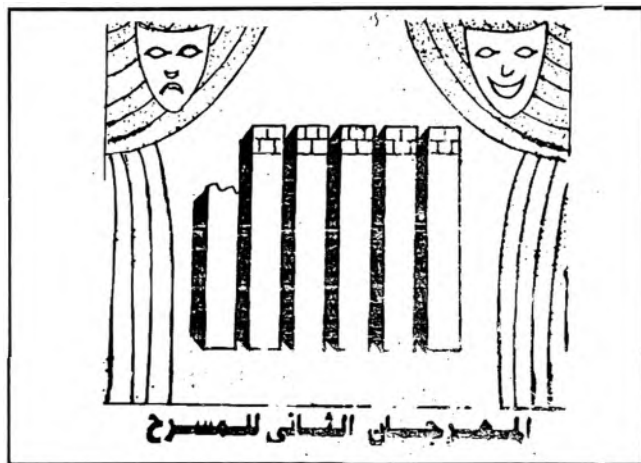
It is essential that the theatrical movement forms traditions of action without being bound to festivals and occasional review, the purpose promised by the organizers as well as concerned artists. It's also important that a larger participation should be anticipated in the next community

events, inviting Arab and foreign groups would be helpful in the process of exchanging experiences, thoughts, and ideas. As new bits of technical wizardry continue to evolve in the fields of set decoration, lighting, sound effects and direction. Yemeni theater has no other choice than to knock on the doors of universalism, by contributing and participating in regional and international theatrical festivals to gain new ideas, more experience in the field, and maturity.

Back to our festival, evaluation of the works shown may require much wider space than we have at the moment, but a general overview can be composed from the events that have taken place so far. Some interesting plays such as "bye bye Arabs" by National theater of Hodeidah, pose the question

papers treated the occasion with utmost ignorance. No television stations provided any coverage for the plays and related symposia. Some of the so-called intellectuals didn't even recognize the existence of such a festival. Yet, the festival is a major cultural event, being the first following the reunification of the country, and providing the chance for artists of both the south and north to get together and communicate openly. Regardless of all negative factors, the event as a whole can be considered a success.

To formulate a vision of the size of the participation, which amounted to 23 plays compared to only 15 in the previous festival, a view of the list of works may prove important for the purpose of documentation. It goes as follows: "The Fox and The



of Arab unity and the agony accompanied by the fulfillment of that dream. "The Pearl", by Al Sindbad group, presents some interesting glimpses of symbolism. "Medal of Illusion", by the National Theater of Hadramout, represents a group of promising young artists. "The Heritage", by the National Theater of Aden, is a realistic, satirical comedy; and there are many others.

Many comments were made regarding the activities of the festival, some of major importance, such as the rarity of theater in the country, the evolution of new private groups of promising potential in addition to the contribution of government-backed groups, whose partnership is important to consolidate theatrical productions in the country at the present time. Yet, the main problem remains the trap of occasional theatrical interest that may draw all artists and administrators involved, which presents the possibility of promising talents dropping back into the darkness of forgetfulness. This forms the main hazard threatening the significance of the festival as a whole, turning it into just another passing incident. Official backing in terms of publicity seems to be incompetent, while local private news-

Grapes" by the National Theater of Aden, "Medal of Illusion" by the National Theater of Hadramout, "Detective of Death" by the National Theater of Ibb, "The Pearl" by Al Sindbad group, "The Heritage" by the National Theater of Aden, "Extraordinary Doctor" by Sana'a University group, "Bye Bye Arabs" by the National Theater of Hodeidah, "A day in the life of a retired man" by the National Theater of Hadramout, "The Agreement" by the National Theater of Sana'a, "The Queen and the Mad Man" by the National Theater of Taiz, "No" by the National Theater of Sana'a, "Al Aqbir Village" by Al Nujoom group, "The Reasons" by the National Theater of Sana'a, "Power of the Crazy" by Al Masrah al-Hurr group and "Al Qlassat" by General Establishment of Theater and Cinema group. All play performances are divided between two sites; the Cultural Hall at the Cultural Center and The National Theater stage in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. More colorful activities are anticipated by the organizers and other parties, and a sincere call is addressed to the private sector to try to express its interest in the community through organizing and financing such activities.

## Children's Rights in Yemen

Basheer M. Khan,  
Yemen National Committee For Children's Rights, Aden.

"As we embark on our third year, we set our eyes on the further stimulation of public concern for children's rights in the Yemen." So stated Mr. Abdulla Noaman, Chairman of the National Committee on the Rights of the Yemeni Child, to Yemen times on the eve of functions



marking the second anniversary of the founding of the Committee in Aden. Mr. Noaman added, "While it is necessary to make the relevant official agencies fulfill their functions, yet the main thrust of the Committee is to arouse interest in and concern for the children among the people. Special emphasis is to be placed on the merchant class during the holy month of Ramadhan to gain material support for the Committee's activities." The National Committee on the Rights of the Yemeni Child was founded on January 15, 1991 in Aden by a number of prominent educators, health officials and others seeking to improve the lot of children in the unified Yemen. They felt that the plight of children lacking suitable education, health and social services has been compounded with the return of more than one million Yemeni emigrants from the Gulf countries in the wake of the Gulf crisis. In the process, new problems have been created and inability to cope with these along with the apparent incompetence of the bureaucratic machinery has, at times, resulted in flagrant violations of the fundamental rights of the child.

General Secretary of the National Committee and prominent educator, Mr. Alawi Abdulla Taher, believes that securing the rights of the Yemeni child does not necessarily require any antagonizing postures. He submits that the Committee's tangible activity on behalf of children will go a long way to increasing general concern for the rights of the child and motivate official organs to further promote activities in this sphere. He stresses that official organs will always find a positive response from the Committee which will extend all the help that it can to ensure the success of official measures. The National Committee

has organized several functions to mark the second anniversary of its founding. These include the first public Library for children to be opened in Aden, the provision of

medical assistance to needy children's organizations and other relief measures for extremely distressed families and extra-curricular activities for school age children. The Committee's future programs are based on the strategy it has adopted calling for concrete measures in the social, cultural, educational and health spheres. One of its major programs is the founding of the Model Village for orphans in Aden.

Speaking to Yemen Times, Abdulla Noaman, underlined the invaluable assistance and guidance extended by the Swedish Fund for Children. He said, "The Fund has a commendable history of effective work in Yemen from the early years of the September Revolution. The recent assistance to the committee is just another confirmation of their commitment to children and has been most welcome. Close cooperation with the Swedish Fund will continue."

General Secretary Alawi Abdulla Taher added, "Contacts have been established with corresponding committees in some Arab countries. These promise further expansion of the National Committee activities."

Mr. Taher praised "The fact that university lecturers and other specialists have produced and are producing significant specialized studies on children's programs. This has already been established by the National Seminar organized in November, 1992 and such activities are to be pursued in the future. The media coverage of the seminar and other activities of the committee has been invaluable in arousing public interest and general concern for the right of the Yemeni child."

He affirmed that effective media participation in the future will be sought to increase general concern for children's rights among the Yemeni public.

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## Upsurge of Rhino Horn imports into Yemen

By: Lucy Vigne and  
Esmond Bradley Martin

The United Nations Environment Program recently appointed Esmond Bradley Martin as special envoy for rhino conservation in order to put additional pressure on governments concerning the illegal trade in rhino products and to help countries with rhino populations. Esmond Bradley Martin visited South Africa and Yemen in late 1992 to follow up the problems described in this article.

Although Yemen had been responsible for importing nearly half of the world's supply of african rhino horn in the late 1970s and early 1980s, a ban on imports in 1982 and increased customs control at Sana'a airport helped gradually to reduce this trade. Traditionally, Yemenis have business



this horn was from animals killed in Zimbabwe by Zambians who transported the horn to Lusaka. From there, it was hidden in lorries destined for South Africa or flown into Swaziland to be picked up by Taiwanese businessmen, diplomats and sailors for export to Taipei or Kaohsiung. A special section of the police force called the Endangered Species Protection Unit was created in

Yemen as well. Tanzania appeared to be the major outlet for Africa's rhino horn in 1991. The Tanzanian authorities have not yet developed a government network to combat this trade effectively. We were informed by the main Yemeni trader that in 1991 Koreans had brought 200kg of horn by aeroplane from Dar es Salaam to the United Arab Emirates. In Sharjah, it was packed on to lorries, taken by Yemenis overland and smuggled across the border into Yemen. Saudi Arabia is also a popular entrepot; unlike the UAE, it is not a member of CITES. As over 30% of all imported goods are smuggled into Yemen from its rich neighbours, it is not difficult to bring in horn. Smuggling has become easier since the unification of North and South Yemen in May 1990, which greatly enlarged the country's land boundary with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. As large stretches of the desert are unpatrolled, vehicleless can cross into Yemen unnoticed. The profitable activity of smuggling is likely to continue until Yemen's import duties are reduced and the long international boundaries are more effectively policed. Yemen's unification was

closely followed by the Gulf War in early 1991, and both these events were major cost factors for the government. Yemen did not support the Allied invasion of Iraq. As a result, much foreign aid was cancelled, amounting to about 500 million a year. Saudi Arabia sent around 850 000 Yemeni workers back to Yemen, immediately increasing the population by 8%, and causing Yemen to lose remittances of about \$1 billion per annum. This resulted in high unemployment of perhaps 25%. Yemen's per capita income has therefore been falling, and there has been a 50% decline in the market value of the Yemeni rial since November 1990: from 15 to 30 to the US dollar by March 1992. What saved Yemen's economy was the recent earnings from new oil exports, worth \$450 million a year.

Despite Yemen's recent economic difficulties, the rhino horn trade is flourishing. How can this be explained? First, as it has become far easier to smuggle rhino horn into Yemen than into eastern Asia, middlemen are prepared to sell it more cheaply. The price in US dollars for rhino horn in Yemen has remained the same, about US\$10000 a kg, since 1985, although in rials the price has risen over three times. Secondly, Yemenis are extremely proud of their traditions, and to them, the curved dagger (jambia) epitomises Yemeni manhood. So far, no substitute for the jambia handle has been developed that has anything approaching the prestige of rhino horn. Large number of people are therefore prepared to pay for a jambia with a rhino handle.

Continues Next Week!

## Al-Hakeem: "The Ministry of Labor works to achieve equilibrium in labor market."

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri,  
Yemen Times.

The Ministry of Labor and Vocational is responsible for the smooth management of the Yemeni labor market. "On the one hand we are supposed to help improve the supply of Yemeni labor by training and other efforts, and on the other hand we are supposed to fill any vacuums through licensing of foreign labor to work in Yemen," said Mr. Yahya Abdulrahman Al-Hakeem, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Affairs for Manpower Affairs.

"Our job is to help push the market labor forces towards equilibrium," he added.

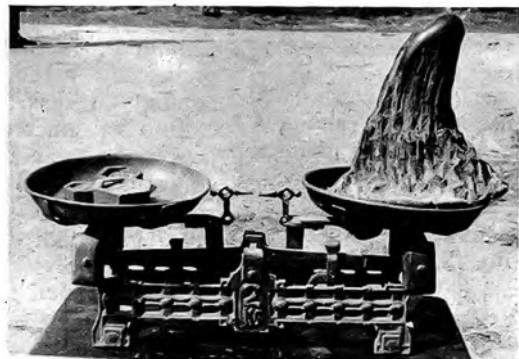
With respect to the efforts being exerted to absorb the returnees, the labor official pointed out that much has been done by the private and government sectors.

"Yet, the persistent high level of unemployment is a clear indicator of the size of the task that still awaits to be done," he said. He lamented the meager re-

sources available to his ministry to go on the job.

The Ministry exercises "stringent" measures in the face of requests to import labor. Even then, the kind of skills offered by the labor supply locally is quite different from the skill requirements or demand," he pointed out. However, the size of the expatriate labor force in Yemen is still much smaller than it is in many of the neighboring countries," he said.

The Deputy Labor Minister disclosed that 12,785 foreign workers were licensed in 1992. "These are mainly highly skilled or semi-skilled professional workers. In addition, we also license blocks or groups of workers who come under contract for the government or local/foreign companies. The main groups of foreign workers are those associated with advanced technical and professional fields, such as the medical field, oil and mineral exploration/exploitation, etc. There are also many in clerical positions."



and family connections in eastern Africa, and it was the East African horn that was siphoned off to the Yemen market to be used for dagger handles. As the rhinos in this region of Africa dwindled in numbers, so too did the trade. Yemen had ceased to be a significant problem for rhino horn from 1985. Instead, during the mid-

South Africa in 1989 to combat this illegal trade, and recently the police offers have been extremely successful in intercepting consignments of rhino horn and catching traders. The Taiwan-South Africa connection is gradually being broken.

It came as a shock to us, however, during our April 1992 visit to Yemen's capital, Sana'a, to find that in 1991 rhino horn imports in the country had almost doubled. We were told that trade routes had opened up through Africa and the Middle East to Yemen. The main trader in Yemen, who handles over 80% of the country's rhino horn supplies, said that from August 1990 to March 1992, he had obfuscated over 750 kg of rhino horn. Most of this had been exported from Tanzania, but not all of it would have originated from either recently killed animals or old stocks in Tanzania. It is possible that with stricter controls in South Africa, more horn has been moving eastwards from Zambia to Tanzania. In fact, from late 1990 to March 1992, over 250 rhinos were poached in Zimbabwe and their horns put on to the market. Mozambique rhino horn and old stocks from Burundi could also be ending up in Tanzania for the Yemen market. Rhino horn from southern Sudan is reported to go to



1980s, Taiwan became the main importing country for rhino horn from southern Africa where rhino populations were still sizeable. Taiwan's economy was growing strongly while that in Yemen fell, and traders in Taiwan offered importers \$2,000 a kilogram for African horn, which was double the Yemen price. Business connections between South Africa and Taiwan enabled trade routes to open between these two countries, and horn was smuggled out of South Africa by air and sea. Most of



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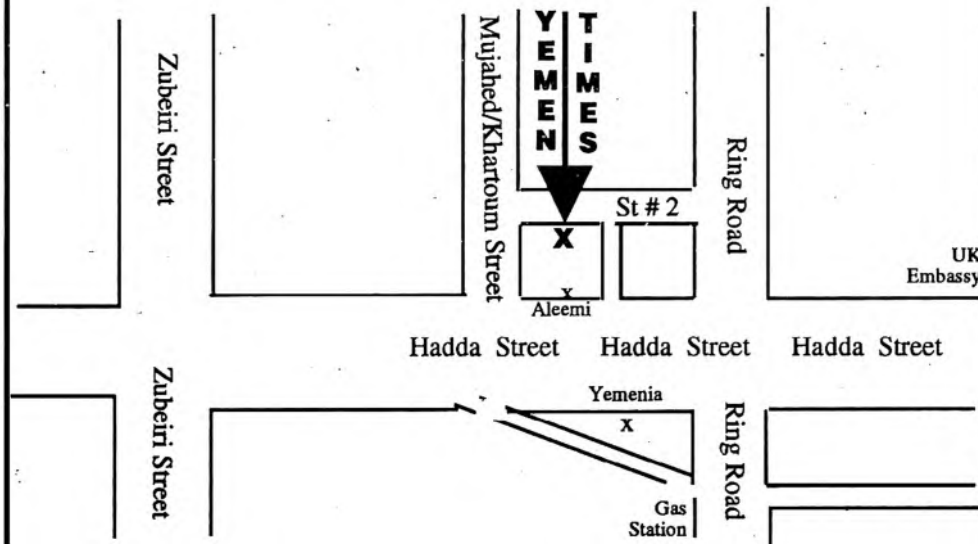
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Saudi Arabia	240429/30
Somalia	208864
Sudan	265231/2

Syria	247750
Tunisia	240458/9
Turkey	241395
U.A.E	248777/78
U.K.	215630/33
U.S.A.	238842/52
Vietnam	216998
Austrian Hon Consulate	
Canadian Hon Consulate	208814
Danish Trade Office	248138
Greek Hon Consulate	272218
Swedish Consulate	207595

<b>ADEN</b>	
Czechoslovakia	232101
China	232604/30
Ethiopia (Commercial)	231335
France	232081/233282
Germany	232162/
O.I.I	
India	233131
Iran	231893/361
Italy	232586/88
Japan	232081/233282
Palestine	232717/340
Russian (FR)	232729/32625
Saudi Arabia	232760/32526
Somalia	241421/101
U.K.	232711/12/13.

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Alyemda (Sana'a)	203637
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British Airways	272247
Cathay Pacific	271803
Egypt Air	275061
Ethiopian Airlines	272437
Gulf Air	272551/49/677
Iraqi Airlines	240091/240909
KLM	78093/76968/270879
Korean Airlines	272548
Kuwait Airlines	272503/4
Lufthansa	272583
Pakistan Int'l	240909/091
Royal Jordanian	275314/028
Russian Airlines	74930
Sabena	205865
Sudan Airways	272503-5
Swiss Air	272547
Syrian Airways	272543
Universal Travel	275028-30

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Haddah	204538/550
Shaub	250833
Zubeiry	260834/5
Head Office	232381-9
Reservations	250800/1
Airport	250868/831

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<b>Aden (02)</b>	
Movenpick	221251
Gold Mohur	221158
<b>Hodeidah (03)</b>	
Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Buri	75852
<b>Talaz (04)</b>	
Mareb	210350
Yazan	217997
<b>Marib (063)</b>	
Biquis Marib	2666-2371
<b>Sadah (051)</b>	
Al Mamoon	2203/2459
<b>Mukalla (09152)</b>	
Hadhramaut	2060

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## LESSON #29 PREPOSITIONS

**PRETEST** Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions.

- They have a meeting \_\_\_\_\_ noon.
- Mahdi worked \_\_\_\_\_ ten hours yesterday.
- Yemen unified \_\_\_\_\_ May 22, 1990.
- Aden can be very hot \_\_\_\_\_ in the summer.
- We will finish \_\_\_\_\_ ten minutes.
- We will finish \_\_\_\_\_ ten o'clock.
- Class meets \_\_\_\_\_ Sundays and Tuesdays.
- The Yemen Times was founded \_\_\_\_\_ 1991.

Of all the things that cause problems for second-language learners, prepositions are perhaps the most pernicious. Why is this? One big reason is that prepositions cover territory ranging from the very concrete (get *in* the car) to the abstract (a book *about* a car). Add to that the confusion of two-word verbs (fall off, keep on), adverbs and conjunctions, and it's no wonder there are problems. With this week's lesson we begin a series examining prepositions. We begin with a specific group of prepositions--prepositions of time.

### PREPOSITIONS OF TIME--PART 1

**at** used with specific times: at three o'clock, at noon  
at 5:30, at midnight

**on** used with specific days: on Friday, on Tuesday  
on January 27, 1993, on the 30th

**in** used with more general units of time, such as months, seasons, years:

in February, in Ramadan

in the summer, in winter

in 1993, in 2000

in the morning, in the evening (except: *at night*)

**NOTE:** *in* + an amount of time means after that much time has passed:

"See you in a month."

**for** used to show duration; often used in answer to the question "how long?"

The baby slept for seven hours.

Mahyoub studied for days.

**PRACTICE A** Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions from the list above.

- Class begins \_\_\_\_\_ 10:00 and ends \_\_\_\_\_ 11:30.
- We studied \_\_\_\_\_ an hour and a half.
- Ali is very busy. He will meet us \_\_\_\_\_ an hour \_\_\_\_\_ an hour.
- The Yemen Times comes out \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesdays.
- Eshrag usually does her shopping \_\_\_\_\_ the morning.
- We finished our exams \_\_\_\_\_ the 17th.
- Sultan eats lunch \_\_\_\_\_ 2:00.
- The conference will begin \_\_\_\_\_ a week and will continue \_\_\_\_\_ three days.
- Ramadan begins \_\_\_\_\_ February this year.
- Yemen unified \_\_\_\_\_ 1990.

**PRACTICE B** Look at the calendar and complete the sentences which follow.

February 1993						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Ahmed arrives 3:00	2	3 Amat's 20th birth- day lunch 3:00	4	5	6 Ahmed's meeting 9:00-- 12:00
7 Ali leaves for Jordan morning flight	8 exams	9 exams	10 exams	11 exams	12	13 Ali returns

- Ahmed arrives at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Amat was born \_\_\_\_\_ 1973.
- Her birthday lunch is on \_\_\_\_\_, February \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Ahmed's meeting is on \_\_\_\_\_, February \_\_\_\_\_, in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- It begins at \_\_\_\_\_ and ends at \_\_\_\_\_.
- Ali's flight to Jordan leaves on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- He will return \_\_\_\_\_ six days.
- Exams begin on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and will last for \_\_\_\_\_.

**WEEKLY IDIOM:** To kill time

or time to kill

No, this isn't as violent as it sounds.

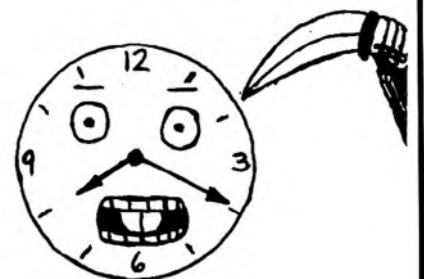
To kill time means to use up time

waiting for something or someone.

"The bus leaves in an hour. I'm

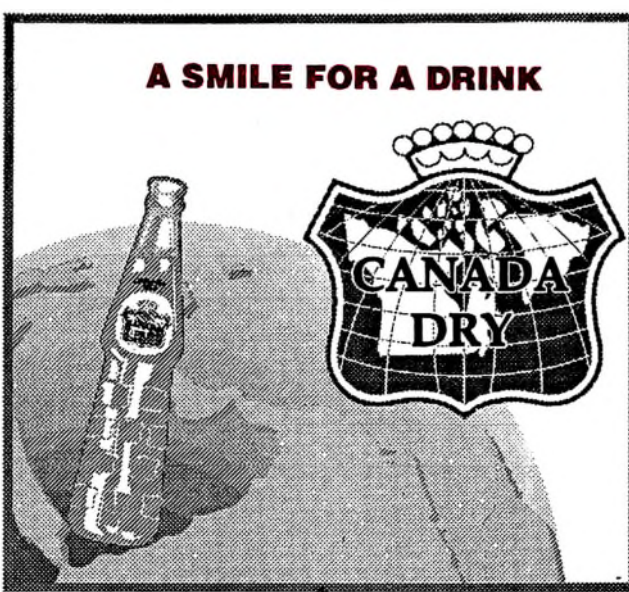
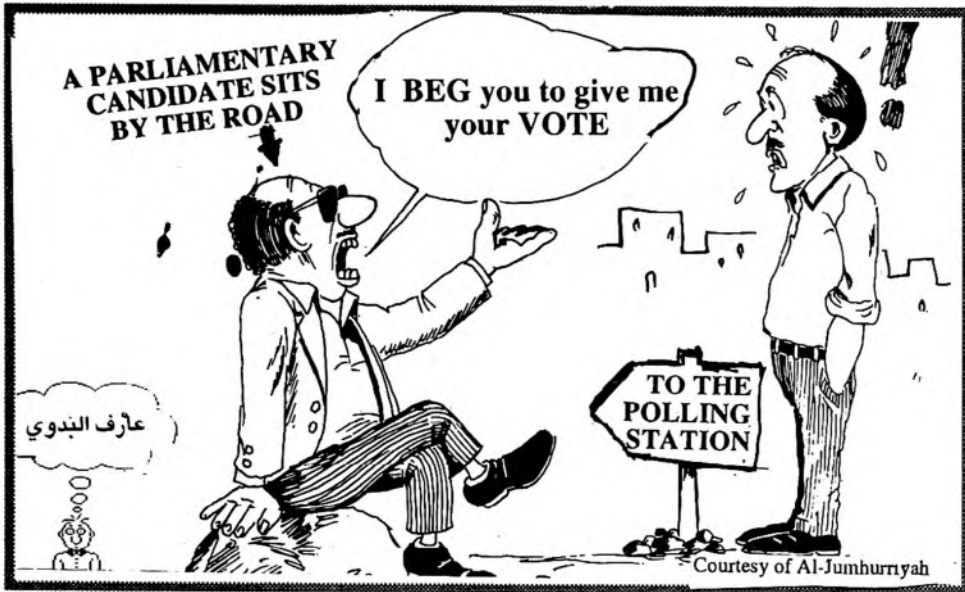
killing time until then." Or, "I've

got an hour to kill until the bus leaves."



**ANSWERS PRETEST:** 1. at 2. for 3. in 4. in 5. in 6. on 7. at 8. in 9. in 10. in  
**PRACTICE B:** 1. Ahmed arrives at 3:00 on Monday, the first of February. 2. Amat was born in 1973. 3. Her birthday lunch is on Wednesday, February 3, at 3:00 in the afternoon. 4. Ahmed's meeting is on Saturday, February 6, in the morning. It begins at 9:00 and ends at 12:00. 5. Ali's flight to Jordan leaves on Sunday, February 7, in the morning. He will return in six days. 6. Exams begin on Tuesday, February 9, at 8:00. 7. Ali returns on Saturday, February 13, at 12:00.





• Analysis •

## Sheikh Yaqoob Al-Harithi: "Most Omanis trace their origins to Yemen."

"We are on a fact-finding mission to Yemen to find out the potential for commercial and investment joint businesses," said Mr. Yaqoob Bin Hamad Al-Harithi, Chairman of Oman's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "Our two countries are considered one and there is an important opportunity for economic cooperation," he added.

The Omanis trace their origin to the great Yemeni

migrant, Malik Bin Fahem, who is the father of most Omanis today, he said.

The Omani delegation felt the sincere and limitless desire of the Yemeni authorities to bridge any gaps with the neighbors, and the Omani side has fully reciprocated, and we hope the other countries will do the same, the Omani official said.

The delegation, which started its visit of Yemen in Sanaa, went to Hodeidah,

then Taiz, to Aden, and finally to Mukallah on its way to the Sultanate of Oman.

"We are studying a number of options, and we have met the relevant investment and trade officials. We hope to evolve several joint projects, and to open up more cooperation," he said. Already there are a number of joint projects in oil exploration as well as mineral exploitation. The prospects for large industrial joint



enterprises are very good. At the same time, the road network linking the two countries is being constructed, while fishing and livestock cooperation is making headway.

"We have extended an invitation to the Yemeni Chamber of Commerce and Industry to lead a business delegation to the Sultanate of Oman to follow up on the matters we have discussed so far. We anticipate this visit to take place some time in the middle of this year," Al-Harithi told the Yemen Times.

"We have created a three-man committee on the Omani side, and we assume the Yemeni side did the same, in order to implement

the trade protocol signed between the two countries," he added.

The Republic of Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman have successfully concluded last year their talks and signed the border agreements which were then ratified and exchanged.

As the senior politicians of the two countries have repeatedly stated, "The way the two fraternal countries have gone about resolving their border differences is a model for other countries to follow."

The visit of the Omani businessmen to Yemen has come to add economic strength to the bilateral political understanding.

YEMEN TIMES

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