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As Yemen's Implementation of Reform Program Proceeds:

## World Bank Pumps New Money into Yemen

The World Bank approved on April 9th, an International Development Association (IDA) credit of 53.7 million SDRs (US \$80 million). The money is given on standard IDA terms; i.e., maturity of 40 years including a grace period of ten years.

The World Bank decision comes following glowing reports on the Yemeni Government's implementation of the economic reform program. The program calls for trade and investment liberalization and privatization of the public sector.

"Yemen has made tremendous strides in the year since it launched its economic reform program, and we expect the \$80 million Economic Recovery Credit to

help lay down the basis for a resumption of economic growth," World Bank Task Manager Sarshar Khan said.

The money is aimed at helping strengthen economic stability and initiate sustainable economic growth by supporting the reform program.

In the area of trade policy, the \$80 million supports Yemen's plans to diversify the economy by blocking discrimination against exports. To that end, product-specific import licensing has been abolished, import and export restrictions removed, and structure of tariffs simplified, with a lowered average tariff and a maximum average tariff rate at 30%.

Continues on page 7

## Parliament Investigates Various Atrocities of Security Men

Yahia Mansoor Abu Usba', Ombudsman and Chairman of the Human Rights Committee in parliament, was able to put together several delegations to investigate several atrocities by security men. One delegation is going to investigate the alleged rape of a woman and her daughter in Mukalla, Hadhramaut. Another is going to investigate the motives behind the dispatch of a 400-man force against Hadharem village, Taiz. In a heated questioning session, Abu Usba several times confronted Colonel Hussain Arab, Minister of Interior, who was caught lying. "Mr. Minister we kindly ask you to stay on the facts, not your personal views," he told the minister.

Continues on page 5



Yahia Mansoor Abu Usba'

## In Yemen, the Death of History: SHIBAM IS FALLING APART !

"We are witnessing the gradual death of our history," states a circular distributed by the people of Shibam in Hadhramaut. They were referring to the crumbling of three buildings last week, including the Grand Mosque of Shibam. The whole city built of mud is on the verge of collapse. In the recent past, 34 houses have crumbled, and many more face the same fate (Refer to table).

Shibam was declared in 1984 by the UNESCO as World Heritage City. The Yemeni Government had made a lot of noise about repairing/renovating this beauti-

### Recording the Death of Shibam

Houses which crumbled before Yemen's unity.	23
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ful city, which boasts the oldest skyscrapers in the world. The history of Shibam city dates

back to several millennia. It became famous after the demise of Shabwah city in the 1st AD century. Since then, Shibam became the capital of Hadhramaut.

The people of Hadhramaut have appealed to many officials in the country, starting with President Ali Abdullah Saleh. To-date, there is no response. Then the Hadhramaut Welfare and Social Society appealed to the rulers of Yemen. It even volunteered to cover some of the costs in a cost-sharing mechanism. Again, there was no response.

Continues on page 10

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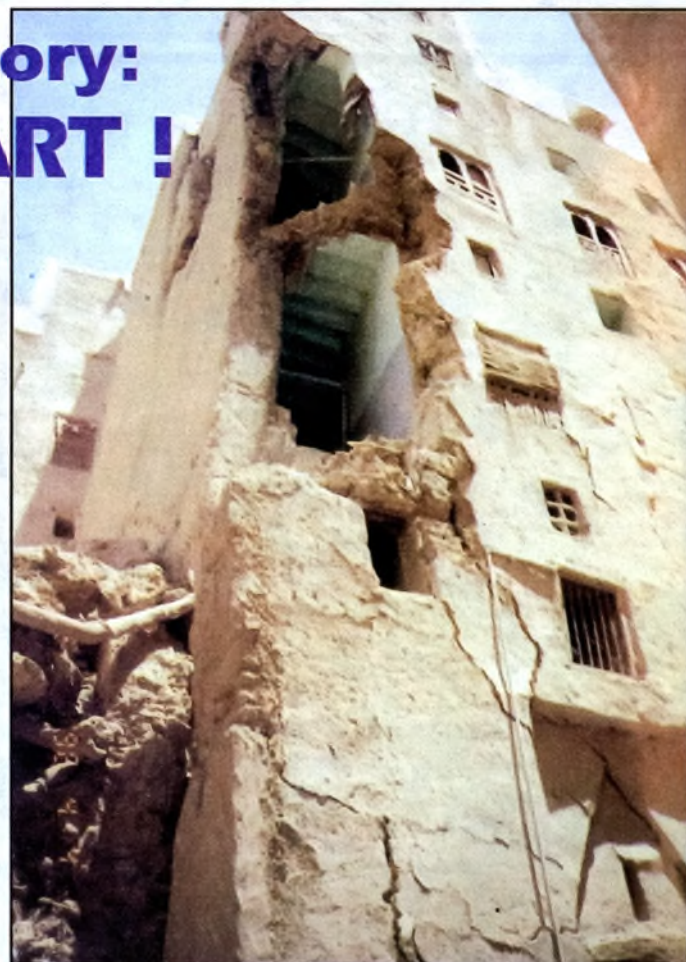
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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### The Printing/Publishing Industry of Yemen

No country can really advance without a solid printing/publishing base. For a country like Yemen, with a population of 16 million, the demand for more publishing facilities is quite visible. The presently available services are rudimentary, notwithstanding a couple of private sector facilities which are overbooked for business.

Let me jot down the demand, and where it comes from.

#### 1. Education Sector:

There are at the moment, almost three million children in schools. The primary school-age population is, according to the 1994 census, more than 6 million. In other words, only half of our children receive primary education. Hopefully, more would be able to go to school, thus raising demand. In addition, secondary and university education is becoming more available, thus also raising demand. At the moment, a lot of the school demand for textbooks and notebooks is met through imports.

#### 2. Written Media:

The number of newspapers and magazines in Yemen has fallen sharply since the civil war of 1994, but it is still significant. The eighty or so newspapers and magazines face enormous difficulties in printing. Demand is not adequately met, and will continue to rise.

#### 3. Business Community:

The business community generates a lot of demand for printing, starting from simple name-cards to a number of other needs. Unfortunately, the more refined and expensive end of the business goes abroad.

A good printing service could tap that market.

I think in the final analysis, major joint ventures - between Yemeni and foreign private sectors - will see the business potential. Each of the Yemeni major cities can use at least one first-rate publishing house. Aden, specially, is starving for a printing facility. Maybe as part of the Aden Free Zone project, someone can tap the market. The capital, Sanaa, could also use a highly sophisticated set up which caters to refined jobs. Other cities such as Taiz, Hodeidah, Mukalla should also be considered for investment in this field.

There is one thing the government can do to help - stay out of it. I am saying this in two senses. First, many of the printing houses often complain about political security personnel nosing around their facilities. Their interest is clear, they want to know what kind of stuff is being printed. They worry about anti-regime flyers. They also worry about what newspapers print. The second sense is that the largest publishing houses in existence today are government owned. Sometimes, these enjoy total monopoly, like in Aden, so far.

There is a lucrative business out there waiting to be tapped.

*The Publisher*  


### Apologies, Rothmans

In our story last week on the Aden rally, the Yemen Times reported Ruwaishan as one of the sponsors. That was a mistake. The correct name of the sponsor is Rothmans of Pall Mall International, a company which has been forthcoming in sponsoring a number of social, athletic, cultural, artistic and other events.

On the other hand, Yemen Times knows of no event at all ever that was ever sponsored by Ruwaishan.

### Vice President in Djibouti to Block Eritrean Moves

On Friday, April 12th, Vice President Abdo Rabbo Hadi Mansoor concluded a two-day official visit to Djibouti. The main objective of the visit is to ensure that Djibouti remains neutral in any possible conflict between Yemen and Eritrea. Yemen also wants to make sure that Djibouti's territories and territorial waters are not to be used by Eritrean forces in the confrontation. Djibouti's authorities assured Yemen on both counts.

As negotiations to peacefully resolve Yemen's dispute with Eritrea over ownership of the Hunaish Archipelago seem stuck, the country is looking for alternatives to dislodge the Eritrean occupation of Greater Hunaish island. One alternative is a military offensive. If Yemen were to opt for this option, the position of Djibouti becomes critical.

Eritrea's artillery and heavy guns can shell Yemen's mainland if they were to be moved to Djibouti, with which Eritrea shares land borders.

### Science & Technology Conference Concludes

The week-long Science and Technology conference held in Sanaa concluded on the 12th. It brought together a number of academicians in order to study how best to activate research in Yemen. "The conference also sought to promote more research and work among Yemenis in the hard sciences," according to Dr. Mustafa Bohran, the Presidential Aide for Science and Technology, whose office sponsored the conference.

The idea is to rehabilitate researchers and scientists by giving them the necessary resources to help move the country in the 21st century.

### Lawyers to Perform Sit-In to Protest Knifing of Colleague

Lawyers from all over the country are gathering to perform a two-hour sit-in tomorrow, Tuesday, April 16th. "We will gather in front of the Sanaa Court of Appeal between 09:00 am and 11:00 am, because nothing is being done to arrest the person who stabbed lawyer Abdul-Kareem Qassim Al-Hammadi," stated Mr. Yassin Abdul-Razzaq, Director of the Legal Assistance Center.

Yassin, a leading human rights activist, explained that the legal system needs to shape up to save the country from chaos.



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# Ali Saleh Abdullah Mends Fence with the NGOs

Over the last few days, a lot of confusion has reigned in Sanaa following the circulars distributed by Planning and Development Minister Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal and the Chief of Protocol at the Foreign Office. Both circulars advised the donor community not to give directly any funds or assistance to the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The circulars also pointed the finger of accusation implying malpractice.

On Tuesday April 9th, a number of NGOs met to discuss what needs to be done. They formed two committees - the first to draft a letter to President Ali Abdullah Saleh and House Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar; and the second to follow the present efforts to enact a new law governing the affairs of NGOs in Yemen.

On Friday, April 12th, Deputy Minister of Social Affairs, Mr. Ali Saleh Abdullah met with a limited number of NGOs to try to resolve the 'misunderstanding'. He also called for a meeting to be held at 9:00 a.m. at his office on Tuesday, April 16th.

To make things very clear, he gave an interview to the Yemen Times to clarify the situation to the general public, and also to the donor community.

Mr. Ali Saleh Abdullah is one of the few government officials who the NGOs trust. He is a capable man who has been able to remain clean in spite of the sludge around him. He also is able to work closely with the donor community.

Excerpts of the interview.

**Q: What was all this about? I mean the circulars of the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?**

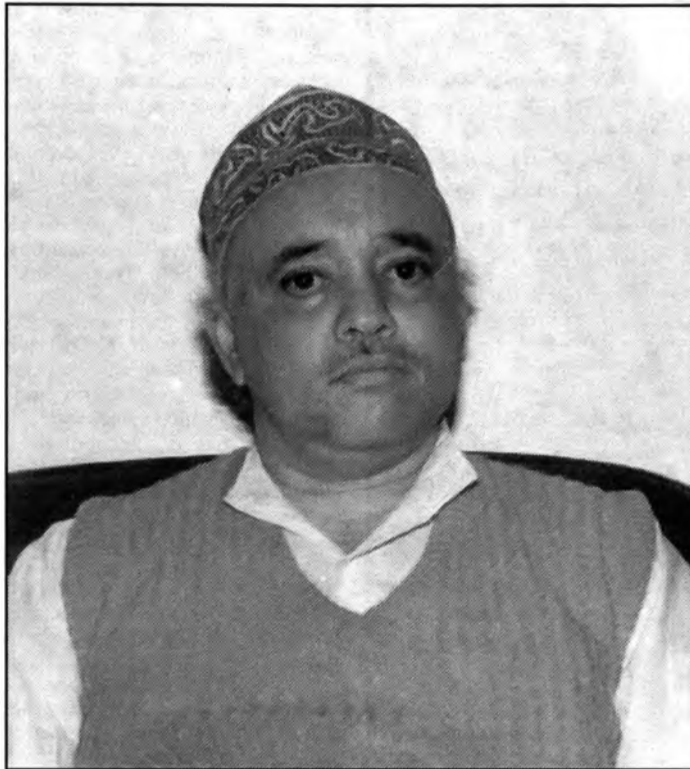
**A:** I am sure there was no intention to constrain the freedom of the NGOs or to interfere in their work. The motivation behind the circulars is really to regulate things and reign in some of the NGOs which do not fully adhere to the book-keeping norms and regulations. We are aware of several cases of mis-use of money intended for NGOs. So the intention was really to bring some sense in the plethora of NGOs that have mushroomed in the recent past.

**Q: Even if the intention was good as you say, was issuing circulars by two different ministries and in that fashion the right approach?**

**A:** You are now talking about procedure and not substance. I do realize some confusion has followed the circulars and that may be unfortunate.

**Q: Doesn't the fact that there three ministries involved point to an overlap in jurisdiction and lack of a sense of direction?**

**A:** Basically, it is the Ministry of Social Affairs that is responsible for all NGOs, charities and other voluntary organizations. We



license them and regulate their operations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is involved in that it is the bridge through which Yemen communicates with the outside world. That is how and why they come into the picture.

The Ministry of Planning and Development is the mechanism through which the country receives foreign assistance. That is how and why they come into the picture.

Having said all that, it is true that there is a certain degree of

overlap in jurisdiction and responsibility. I hope that the new law which is presently being discussed in parliament will rectify this issue.

**Q: Speaking about the new law. In all honesty, this bill is worse than the one in force. It does not conform with the spirit of freedom and NGOs. What is your comment?**

**A:** I agree, the bill was drafted

during the negotiations between the former Yemen Arab Republic and People's Democratic Republic Yemen. It was approved by the cabinet immediately following unity, and was sent to parliament.

Given the experience of the last few years, I agree that the bill has many problems. I plan to talk to the Minister (of Social Affairs) and arrange for withdrawal of the bill. I will contact the relevant committee in parliament and express our interest, as the appropriate line ministry, to re-draft the bill.

**Q: Are you going to get input from the NGOs?**

**A:** This is certain. We plan to hold a seminar in the second half of May. All NGOs will be welcome to participate in the discussions.

**Q: What is the total number of NGOs operating in Yemen today?**

**A:** I don't have exact numbers in my head. But let me answer as follows:

First, there are two major groups of NGOs. The unions, syndicates, guilds, charities, societies and associations. These are around 800-900 in number. And then there are the cooperatives, local council, etc. And these are around 300-400 in number.

Second, the numbers do not tell much. Only a small fraction of NGOs are active. The majority are either dormant or born dead. We are looking for ways to activate all NGOs.

**Q: How much evolved is your administrative capacity to cope with a rapidly growing NGO body?**

**A:** You have touched on a very important issue. We have a directorate-general which needs to be strongly supported and improved. We need for it to evolve specialized departments such as statistics, monitoring, etc., because we have to interact positively with the growth in NGOs.

We have prepared various plans to expand and professionalize the office. We have approached many donors, but the response, so far, has not been very encouraging.

**Q: Any last comments?**

**A:** I would like to first of all say that people should believe we have good intentions. If there are mistakes, they should be blown out of proportion.

Second, NGOs should work within the law. Most NGOs already do that, but some of them have failed to adhere by the laws. This has created trouble for all.

Finally, we would like to broaden and strengthen cooperation with the donor society. We understand that they want to work directly with NGOs. We have no problem with that, provided we are in the picture. Our job is not to complicate things. We would like a simple, but transparent system for our NGOs.

## Ba-Jammal and the Art of Fund-Raising

The post of Minister of Planning and Development in the Yemeni Government is really that of a fund-raiser. If we accept this premise, it is clear that Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal's recent actions have not been helpful.

Let me use concrete examples.

1. He is a very bureaucratic person who is driven by the urge to control everything and everybody. That explains his attitude towards NGOs, one of the main vehicles for local development. Donors find it more cost-effective to deal with NGOs.

2. Ba-Jammal was interviewed by Al-Wahdah newspaper last week. He showered praise on a number of donor

countries, which is very good. He gave credit to Germany, which is excellent, because Germany is a major aid partner of Yemen. As a patriotic Yemeni, I liked what he said, although his tribute to some countries was exaggerated.

But as I was reading the interview, I was puzzled why Ba-Jammal mentioned the Netherlands only in passing. Everybody knows the Netherlands is a key aid-partner to Yemen, and it recently hosted a successful meeting of aid donors. Would Ba-Jammal please explain his attitude towards the Netherlands?

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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## THE CONSULTING ENGINEER

By Alan Pashkevich,  
Atlanta Engineering, Sanaa.

The professional consulting engineer can turn qat chew dreams into money-making projects. Unfortunately, the consulting engineer is rare and misunderstood in Yemen and so many good dreams never make it to reality. The purpose of this article is to correct misconceptions and give an overview of how the consulting engineer can help you achieve your goals while saving money.

Let's begin with an example. On a recent project in Egypt, we were asked to evaluate several options for a glass factory modernization which included a review of available technologies, required equipment and various suppliers. We took the project on a fee basis paid by the client. This meant that our only goal was to do the highest quality work for our client. Had we worked on a commission basis with the equipment suppliers paying us, we might have received up to three times as much. You can see how this could affect the engineer's judgment about equipment and suppliers. As it was, we selected equipment which met the client's needs, saving \$2 million from one equipment supplier's quote. Our fee was under 5% of the money saved!

Would you pay dowry for a bride only if she bore sons? How ridiculous! But in the three years since we founded our electrical and mechanical consulting engineering firm in Sana'a, we have been asked to receive payment for feasibility studies only if the outcome of the study were positive, to receive payment for

detailed engineering studies only if the project were undertaken, and to receive payment as a percentage of future profits. A true consulting engineer is selling quality professional services and should be paid for his time like any other professional such as a doctor or lawyer.

### What are the distinguishing characteristics of a consulting engineer?

- He is competent and knowledgeable in his field.
- He brings to your organization skills that your personnel do not have, or skills that are too expensive or specialized to have on a full-time basis.
- He makes sound decisions that benefit you. This usually means that you pay him a set fee for his services. He is not employed by nor paid by the equipment supplier in any form.
- He is professional. He doesn't tell your secrets to others. He conducts himself in a respectful, courteous manner.

### What are some of the services provided by a consulting engineer?

- Investigation into potential business areas and technologies, inspection of equipment and procedures, and review of literature or the work of other professionals.
- Pre-feasibility and feasibility studies.
- Project design including conceptual and technical analyses, equipment and material specification, and development of detailed procurement quantities and specifications.
- Supervision of procurement, assuring cost savings and quality in material, equipment and

services.

- Resident representation for the client during construction phase.
- Testing and commissioning of equipment or projects.
- Technical management of production facilities to improve quality control and efficiency, and to reduce waste.
- Valuations and evaluations of facilities being sold, purchased or insured.
- Training in operation, maintenance, scheduling, procurement and technical management.

### How do you select a consulting engineer?

First, define your need as well as you can so that you can choose the appropriate engineer. Secondly, be certain that he is competent by checking with previous clients. Ask for a list of references in the areas of expertise that you require. Lastly, ensure that he is motivated to work in your best interests by paying him a reasonable fee. Work out a payment schedule based on project accomplishments that is agreeable to both you. This frees the engineer to focus on the best engineering decisions on your behalf instead on how he will be paid (if at all).

### THE BOTTOM LINE:

The fees paid to professional and competent consulting engineers are usually significantly less than the money to be made or lost by the proposed project. Consultants allow expertise not found in full-time personnel to be acquired by cost-effective short- or medium-term experts. Consulting engineers can direct firms into solid, money-making propositions and can alert firms to money-losing fiascoes.

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## On Improving the Judiciary: An Open Letter to the Minister of Justice

One of the most significant roles of any government is the dissemination of justice in accordance with laws that seek to protect citizens and to guarantee their rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In addition, it has the obligation to provide them with an equal opportunity to utilize the nation's resources for the advancement of their own interests and the nation's general economic progress. The judicial system must be made up of exemplary people, in terms of legal expertise and administrative capabilities.

The Republic of Yemen is a relatively late entrant into formalized institutionalized activity finesse in any institutionalized activity. Its judicial system is itself a source of injustice on many occasions. I hereby address my letter to the Honorable Abdul-Wahab Ali Dailamy, Minister of Justice and a leading figure in the Islah Party (Yemen Congregation for Reform). I focus on the appropriate ways of selecting and culturing judges to insure that they become noted for their high standards of honesty, integrity and tolerance in the interpretation of laws and in their rulings on the disputes that arise between citizens/institutions.

"I strongly plead with you, in your capacity as the person occupying the top executive position of the judicial system, to give the following your greatest attention:

- 1) The proper selection of candidates to the bench (judges) and such selection to be based on qualifications such as education, good conduct, health - in body and mind.
- 2) After graduating (from the Judicial Institute), the graduate should go through effective practical training in the courts with the court clerks as an apprentice to a distinguished judge to train so that he will not become arrogant for being assigned as a judge too quickly.
- 3) When appointed as a judge, a person should be given special allowances, an adequate salary that enables him to be worry free regarding how to meet the cost of living. The idea is to make the judge free from having to be tempted by those who will



compete to provide him with gifts, grants, etc.

- 4) Provision of complete protection from intimidation and pressure.
- 5) To embark on a residential complex to be built for judges in each particular region.
- 6) Judges must be given a special uniform agreed upon for the primary courts, courts of appeal, supreme appellate courts, etc.
- 7) Distribution of means of transportation (cars) in an equitable manner, not just for those who are close (to the regime) or to the chief judge of a particular court.

All these conditions need to be met in order to create a sound judicial system. If we are to aspire to really separate the three authorities (executive, judicial, legislative) - as decreed in the Constitution, the living conditions of the judges must be a direct concern.

The only to free judges from being exploited by even the highest authority in the land, to free them from the influence and/or pressure from the executive authority. Independence is what will give the judges the courage to pass fair and equitable decisions.

On the other hand, I would like to suggest that continuous training is badly needed. Even the best judges need to up-date themselves and brush up on their stock of knowledge. To make sure that our judges are well in tune with the latest developments in legal proceedings, internally and externally, they need periodic re-training. This is especially true regarding the dramatic changes in international laws and acceptable norms.

The upgrading of the support staff is also important to make sure that the required back-up service is available to avoid any shortfalls in the judicial due process of law that gives all persons an opportunity to get a fair trial.

I hope I have been successful in making my efforts worthwhile in performing your duties.

By: Mohammed Shafie' Abdulkarim,  
Lawyer, Aden.

Cont'd. from page 1:

## Parliament Investigates ...

On Saturday, April 13th, two delegations headed south - one to Taiz and the other to Hadhramaut.

The first delegation, composed of four members, is going to Mukallah to investigate the rape allegations against two security officers. The prosecution says it has written confessions from the two women that they were put up to say what they had said. Word is that the women have come under enormous pressure and threats to change their initial statements.

Moona Bashraheel, member of parliament and member of the delegation, insisted that she will hold private meetings with the women to get the truth out. Another parliamentarian said that the security forces, including the minister of interior, have issued many ultimatums and have branded as secessionist and unpatriotic any person who points the finger of accusation at the security personnel.

The lopsided logic and irresponsible utterings of the minister only made him less convincing. In the final analysis, army and security personnel are citizens who should be held accountable for their excesses, irrespective of what the minister of interior says.

A second delegation from parliament also left on Saturday for Taiz. "We are going to investigate the reported atrocities in the Taiz prisons, and we are sending a committee to the Hadharem village to find out why the state needed to send an army to that village," explained Yahia Abu Usba.

Mr. Abdo Al-Janadai, leader of the committee, and very well known for his special relations with the regime, assured Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the Hadharem Welfare Association, that he will be objective and fair. "We will talk to all relevant parties, and file our full details," he indicated.

"We do not expect more than that from parliament," stated Dr. Al-Saqqaf. "We expect them to document the facts and provide a full report on the excesses. Then there will be other bodies to set the record straight."

Additional complaints have reached the Ombudsman's office in parliament. It is already a great benefit to society that the Ombudsman office and the Committee on Human Rights are able to function, even under pressure. The checks and balances required in a democracy may fall into place with time. The actions of parliament are a source of hope to many people in Yemen who need more hope.

By: Walid Al-Saqqaf,  
Yemen Times,  
Sanaa Office.

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- e. Abilities to use word Processing.

### 2. FIELD ASSISTANCE

Location:- Shuqra Abyan Governorate

#### Requirements

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- b. At least completion of secondary school;
- c. 2-3 years experience in field work, (the candidate will be working in the refugee camp in implementing of various camp activities);
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- e. Good command of English spoken/written;
- f. Abilities to use word Processing.

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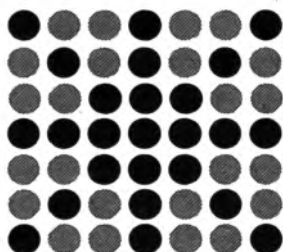
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# Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## News Does Not Always Have to be Sensational

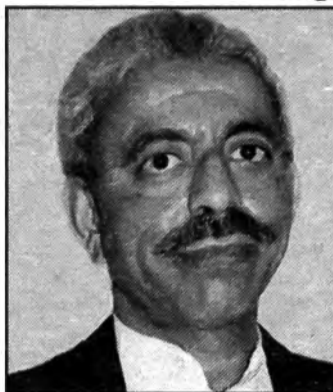
People in the press and journalism of Yemen tend to focus their coverage on matters of sensational substance, believing that the viewing, listening or reading public is much more readily attracted to news events that contain violence, political developments or that relate to the bizarre and mystical/suspense. There is really nothing wrong with that as long as the feedback from the public continues to suggest that public interest is indeed centered in these areas. In fact, one may surmise that the journalist's job is probably made easier by such narrowed-down public interest, assuming that the above assumptions are recognized as inherent professional logic, especially in a society as yearning for development as Yemen is, particularly from a cultural and humanistic point of view.

The truth of the matter is that journalism in advanced societies has developed into a far more wide ranging field, in which every human interest must be catered to, in addition to the coverage previously cited, because human interest is indeed far more wide-ranging and far more susceptible to take in any worthwhile news item that is presented to the public, such interest being molded by a variety of social, cultural and educational factors.

In such societies, the sensational news element is generic and may not be the influencing factor in the choice to accept a particular

source of news. This has become even more so as television news coverage tends to fulfill most appetites for sensational news with on the spot eyewitness status given to the viewer, which the other media channels are incapable of delivering. Yet even with the availability of television the other media news sources in advanced societies are far from being in a position where they are breathing their last intake of air. The radio, for example, caters to those whose eyes must engage in other activities, such as driving or working, etc. and there are always millions of people in such a state.

International radio broadcasting provides higher quality, more objective news reporting to millions of people throughout the world who are deprived access to such news reporting in their own countries, because either the society they live in remains subjected to tight controls in all aspects of human life, which includes the types of news allowed to be delivered to the public, or the journalistic-press available to the society is lacking in means or professional maturity to fully meet the thirst for news coverage which the membership in the society knows can be obtained elsewhere. On the other hand, newspaper journalism continues to thrive as literacy has become almost wiped out in advanced societies and the reader can choose for himself/herself the news item he/she are more likely to find sat-



isfaction in reading. Moreover, newspapers are more reliable as sources of news, since newsprint must rely on strong documentary evidence to give it substance and protection from any legal proceedings for providing misinformation that could be damaging to any sole player in the event or that could infringe on someone's rights maliciously. In addition newspaper coverage is more in depth and tends to cover the events from more angles, which could be of more significance to those who may have emotional attachments of some sorts with the people or place involved into the event or who may find it in service to their interests to be fully informed of a particular situation or event - in detail.

Like most professions, in the Republic of Yemen, journalism is still in its embryonic stages. This belated entry is the result of historical/regional developments and it is not of significance in this discussion to delve into the causes or reasons for this situation. One could say, however, that there was a time when a forward trend seemed more visible in all the media channels, including the public or state owned media and when the quality of news coverage was much more appealing and deserving of the interest aroused as evidenced by the wider choice of sources, especially printed sources, and the sustainability of the sources during all of the

period, when the environment was conducive to fermenting favorable interaction between the public and the press. If anything favorable about the Transitional - Pre-Civil War Period (1990-94) could be mentioned, surely this conducive environment - a free and almost unregulated press - could be at the top of the list, if not the only item on the list! What happened? Probably not even the Ministry of Information could provide an answer to that question, but for sure the situation is now for the press-journalism sector is to say the least what may be considered as being in reverse gear. The environment has definitely changed. Many of the papers that had wide circulation have stopped appearing in the newsstands since the Civil War began. The Voice of Labor, Al-Shoura, Al-Hadath .

Some have dwindled in size: Al-Tajammu'u. Others have been stopped and were only reluctantly allowed to republish. Many prominent writers of the period have either passed away - Abdul-Habib Salim Muqbil - out of frustration at the way everything just collapsed right before our very eyes and the dreams all vanished into thin air; others, who have written in many newspapers had become awestruck that one does not see anything from them anymore - Hassan Zeid, Abdulkarim Al-Razihy, Mohammed Al-Muta'a, Thoraya Manqoush and many others; others thought that the changes could not be that serious and continued to write as though nothing happened - until they found out the hard way and found themselves either arrested or beaten in the outskirts of town - Ibrahim Hussein Mohammed (eventually released), Dr. Abu Bakar Al-Saqqaf (beaten twice in a year), Zein Al-Saqqaf.

The free press has been accused of being with the Secessionists, of inciting the Crisis that lead to the Civil War and of Treason. All of these leave the observer to wonder how the Yemeni press can hope to mature when so much pressure continues to be applied against any outspoken criticism when the Constitution has clearly guaranteed press freedom. What is press freedom then, if every time something is printed that is considered unfavorable by the rulers the regime applies its clandestine machinery or legal apparatus to place a lid once and for all on the writer. Even if we assume that a critic may have "crossed the line" does not the constitution provide systematic judicial proceedings to deal with any excesses by the press? Why do we have a constitution for, if its application is subjected to the whims of individuals or institutions that have made themselves above the law? If the regime is keen on convincing the world that indeed Yemen has democracy, the first evidence of this would be a

totally free press, without any incidents that have to end up in the reports of human rights groups every year. A free press is the report card that allows the regime to make sure that its image in the eyes of the public is safe and that the regime itself is staying within the commitments it has made to the people and to themselves to insure that the interests of Yemen and its people are in safe and patriotic hands.

To get away from the sensationalism that the press, locally has concentrated on this observer has decided to incorporate a rather human story, in which the latter was involved in to give some insight to the reader on the many interesting events that could happen which just might be to the interest of the reader and to give the government censor a break, at least for a week:

After attending the Seminar on Free and Clean Elections, this observer and a blind man were awaiting the arrival of a Mini - Bus opposite the Hadda Hotel Ms. Wahiba Fara'a (YT Person of the Year -1995) offered us a lift back to city Center. On the way, a little boy four of five years old was spotted walking along Hadda Road alone, and apparently lost and exhausted. We stopped to ask the meticulously clean Yemeni boy what his problem was. After some reluctance, he accepted to come with us. We drove around the Hadda Residential City, in the hope that the boy could sight a familiar landmark that would lead to his house.

No luck! After about an hour of driving, this observer suggested going to the Police station in Hadda and file a report of a found lost boy. The maternal instinct of the good Dr. Wahiba was not inclined to accept the idea, believing that they might hold the boy with them in an unpleasant atmosphere for a young boy of his age, especially as he seems to have just come from the United Arab Emirates - from what we could surmise from some of the fragmented information that could be obtained from his willingness to talk, after he had become a little refreshed from the exhaustion and the heat of the mid-morning to mid-afternoon Sun. Myself and our fourth companion Dr. Fawzia Nu'uman convinced the reluctant Dr. Wahiba to accept the proposal, but only after telling her that may be his relatives might have gone to report the child as missing and after this observer guaranteed that under no circumstances will he let the Police take the child.

In the Police Station, a lot of commotion - between the policemen. No officer could be found. We were told one went to lunch and the other went to buy qat. After some prodding by this writer, we were lead to the Register of Incidents faced by the station. I filled in the details and gave my number and Dr.

Fawzia's number in case any one asked. I called the Sana'a Police Operations Room and gave a similar report after being advised that nobody has reported a missing boy.

In the midst of the commotion over the child between the three of us, we had forgotten about the poor blind man who was with us. Apparently, he could not take a situation since he could not really play any role in anyway.

"Just put me on any bus!", said our poor friend. I guided him to a bus and asked the driver to take him where he wished to go after paying the fare. We made another tour as the boy tried to describe the neighborhood he was living in. "There is a fruit store we turn right from." We looked for a fruit store. There were tens of them!

Dr. Wahiba came up with a suggestion: "Ask the Radio Station to make an announcement." We went to a mutual friend, Ms. Amat al Alim al-Sussawa, the Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information - in order to circumvent any possible Red Tape for the announcement. She was not home. It was already 4 o'clock, and we did not even call our homes to say we would be late.

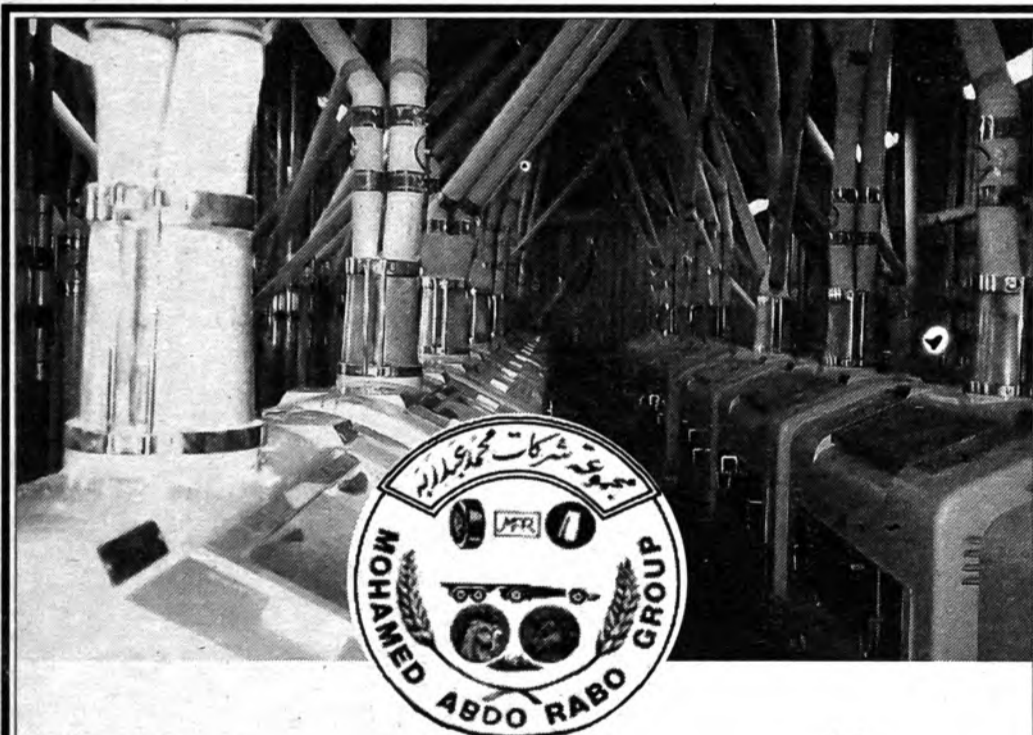
We went back to Hadda Hotel after trying to get the boy to retrace his steps from where we had picked him up, and the Monsoon Rains started pouring. We called the Radio Station and luckily a friend of mine happened to answer (Mr. Izzaddeen Taqi). He took the information and assured me of the announcement to be broadcast immediately, after also taking our numbers, What do we do now? Each one of us wanted to take the child with him. Dr. Wahiba won. We parted and went our separate ways amid some torrential thundershowers. The taxi which I got on did not have working windshield wipers!!

I turned on the radio. The driver did not want music while it was raining. I explained to him that I wanted to hear an announcement. Sure enough the announcement was made! I was comfortable somewhat after feeling exhausted by the past three hour's search. The full fare taxi trip to Rawdha was longer than usual because there were no wipers!

At home, they asked me where is my daughter? Oh no! I had forgotten that I told her I would pick her up from school! We called her uncle's house (near the school in Sana'a to see if she had gone there! She was there after waiting for me two hours in school!

Just then the phone rang! Dr. Wahiba called to advise that the kid's relatives had picked him up after finding the report filed with the Police Station.

Another pleasant Thursday afternoon in Sana'a without any sensationalism to report.



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## HURRY !!!!!

On the occasion of Eid Al-Adha and on the eve of the inauguration of the new Ethiopian Community Association office, the Ethiopian Community Association in Sana'a has organized a cultural Night for the International Community on the 1st of May 1996, and on the 2nd and 3rd of May for the Yemeni and Ethiopian communities.

The night will be highlighted by variety of events such as:

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## Abdo Sallam Al-Aameri:

# "I am hopeful about Yemen's economic prospects."

Over the last few weeks, the local press has carried articles about pesticides and insecticides imported by Abdo Sallam Al-Aameri from the German firm, BASF. Fingers were being pointed to the possible environmental and health consequences of application of those products on the soil. Al-Aameri went around to speak to the media, brandishing technical reports from various government organizations, especially the Ministry of Agriculture.

At the end, the uproar was over and confidence returned to the product and the company. On this occasion, the Yemen Times decided to interview Mr. Abdo Sallam Al-Aameri to discuss different aspects of his business.

**Q: Could you give us a brief background of your company?**

**A:** Our company was established in 1968. We are especially dealing in imports of pesticides notably from BASF of Germany. We have a vast distribution network covering the whole country. We started importing BASF products since 1974 (first through Suffari Company and later directly). We find the product reliable and the company very responsible.

**Q: There were reports about hazards associated with your product?**

**A:** That is not true. Some journalists printed sensational stories. These were not accurate. First, all our imports are inspected and cleared through the Ministry of Agriculture which has a special department dealing with imports of chemical products for agricultural use. Second, we have an in-house expert seconded to us from the Ministry of Agriculture to supervise all the products and whether

they are compatible with the law. Third, upon arrival, all imports are inspected at the harbor before they are unloaded to our warehouses. So, the checking is done at all levels. We ourselves are interested in the welfare of our society. The exporting company and ours are also interested in a long-term association built on confidence and trust.

Finally, let me mention that our products are well-known international product names such as Perekthion, Calixin, Kumulus, Polyram, etc. These are marketed in a number of countries, and Yemen is one of them.

I want to conclude regarding this misunderstanding that we would like to open channels of communications with the media so that, in the future, such misunderstandings are not repeated.

**Q: What are the difficulties you face in your business?**

**A:** Our line of business is specially susceptible to various problems. We have already discussed one of the problems. Another problem is cheap imitation of the products. Our BASF brand is high-quality. You can see some companies trying to pack their products, give them an outer appearance, etc., like ours. They try to cheat the farmers, and we are always working hard to inform our clients about this.

A third problem has to do with fair competition. Our producers have a relatively higher factor cost than some of the competition, especially from India and other countries.

In addition, of course, there are the other issues which affect all businesses in the country. One main issue is the crazy fluctuations of the exchange rate. This continuous jumping of the exchange rate does not allow us to plan ahead.

**Q: In your meeting with the press you mentioned that you have expansion plans. Can you give us details?**



**A:** Yes, we have plans for expansion. Actually, we have already started implementing the expansion program.

This is based on a market study we carried out late last year, and completed early this year. On the results of this study, we have already opened a branch office in Taiz, and another branch office is going to be soon inaugurated in Sanaa. We are also working on agency arrangements in new regions like Hadhramaut and Shabwah.

The main thrust of the expansion is really creating new outlets for distribution of the product all over the country.

**Q: Any special plans for the Aden Free Zone?**

**A:** We do not have definitive

ideas as yet, but we are surely interested in doing something in Aden. I think the Aden Free Zone has a good and promising commercial and business future. Our company will definitely be involved in the free zone.

**Q: As a businessman, what is your assessment of the government's reform program?**

**A:** I have not studied the reform program well, but I am sure the government officials know what they are doing. In my opinion, the country's economic policies do need shaping up. I have seen some positive effects already from the reduced government expenditures. Also printing of paper money has stopped, which will help support the value of the Riyal and will reduce

pressure of inflation. In addition, by putting out house in order, we can encourage foreign investments to come to Yemen. This will build confidence in our economy.

I do know one thing the government should do - reduce the paperwork required for doing business. The reform should lead to more freedom for people to get on with their work. Let me quickly add here that we have already seen three major improvements in the liberalization of trade.

1. We no longer need to get import licenses to order goods from abroad. So, now an importer can proceed directly to his banker and open the letter of credit, etc.

2. The customs duty brackets

have been greatly reduced and simplified. This is also good because now importers spend less time squabbling about the correct amounts due to the government. There is also less corruption.

3. Finally, the foreign exchange rate has been freed. So, the Central Bank of Yemen no longer dictates the rate. The market does, and people can buy as much foreign currency as they want in the open market.

**Q: Are you optimistic about the prospects?**

**A:** In general, yes I am. I feel the potential for Yemen is very good and the prospects are excellent. But the country needs two things - stability and good government. Those two factors will determine the future of our country.



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Continued from page 1:

## New World Bank Money to Yemen

The Yemeni government is committed to oversee the public sector's withdrawal in competitive sectors, such as industry, trade, and tourism, and to increase private sector participation in the provision of infrastructure services under the privatization plans supported by the Credit. By the year 2000, the government expects to privatized 70 percent of the public enterprise sector. To this end, the government has approved regulations and guidelines for privatization and has offered a first group of small public enterprises for sale.

Regulatory reform is a third area supported by the Credit. Plans call for reforms to facilitate business entry and exit and improve contract enforcement, thus improving the environment for domestic and foreign investment.

"Yemen has already accomplished much in implementing economic reforms and is poised to build quickly on them. The reforms should help the country in its economic recovery by increasing efficiency, expanding the role of the private sector, and encouraging domestic and foreign investment," Mr. Khan explains.

To protect the poor and vulnerable, the government of Yemen will endeavor to take several social protection measures, including generating productive employment opportunities through a planned Bank-supported public works project, and protecting education and health expenditures while reducing the overall fiscal deficit. Dr. Ahmed Osman, Director of the World Bank Office in Sanaa, is presently supervising several studies aimed at developing ideas as to how best to help alleviate the suffering afflicted by the reforms on the poorest segment of society. So far, two main options exist. Expanding and expediting many public works projects which provide employment to the unskilled day-wage earners in various parts of the countryside, and injecting seed money through grass-roots organizations such as charities, non-governmental organizations, local councils, and other voluntary efforts which can immediately trickle down the resources to the general public through various projects and services.

# Addressing a Recurrent Problem in Yemen: Preventing Eye Injuries

By: Dr. Li Jun  
Ophthalmologist of CMT  
Aden General Hospital

Eyes are often described as jewels. Many a proverb exists to speak of the eye - God's most precious gift to human beings. It is through them that we can feel and appreciate the natural beauty of our world. Vision is not only useful and practical, but is also a source of much happiness. Eyes, it is said, are a window of the heart.

With such a precious and fragile possession, often I wonder why people are so neglectful in taking care of it. Our eyes can be damaged very easily. We should take good care to protect them, because the quality of our life deteriorates very much if we lose our vision totally or partially. Sadly, some people's good eyes turn bad, because of their own neglect.

Many times, foreign objects come into our eyes. The victims do not even go to doctors to find remedy, and would end up only seeing clouds. The loss of vision completely changes all meaning to life. Losing one's eye sight is a very bitter experience leading to much suffering for the individual, to his/her family and society at large.

Sometimes, such a tragedy is caused by ourselves, of course inadvertently. One 7-year old boy almost lost his right eye when a stone thrown by another child penetrated it. That evening, I was on call at the hospital. I examined the child's eyeball. It had been ruptured. He needed an operation quickly. After the operation, the boy did not fully recover his sight due to cornea opacity and loss of the lens. That case was number 25, since I came to Aden General Hospital.

In an earlier case, one young man was fishing. The hook swung around and hit his left eye. This led to a trauma cataract. In still a third patient's case, his eye was injured while he was shooting. The bullet exploded in the gun-tube. His face was ruptured, and part of the eye was left hanging outside the head. There were foreign bodies from the bullet in the eyeball.

Accidents involving eye injuries are high in Yemen. Some may be very trivial. Most injuries, however, are so severe that the vision was lost, either totally or partially. Ocular injuries may be due to chemical foreign object, contusion, gun-shot wounds or blast injury, etc. Among children, eye injuries often occur as a result of stones, arrows or other objects being thrown at them.

When an eye is injured, the patient must refer to an ophthalmologist immediately. Often surgery is required urgently. The patient's family cannot and should not examine the eye, as such examination may cause further ocular damage.

I list below some general reasons and categories for eye injuries.

## 1. Eye Injuries Due to Chemical Objects:

Car battery acid getting into the eyes is common in Yemen. When drivers charge the battery or replace the new acid water, some of acid's fluid would invariably get into the driver eyes, photo below. The patient usually is in pain, and eyelids are in



spasm. The affected eye should immediately be washed with plenty of water for at least five minutes, or even longer. Sodium bicarbonate fluid could be used to neutral acid. Collegian's inhibitor as 20% cysteine or acetyl cysteine needs to be used to prevent the loss of corneal stream.

Ocular chemical burns can be prevented by wearing protective goggles. Supervisors, teachers, students and workers must be warned

that if any chemical gets into the eye, it should be washed over and over as soon as possible, even with just water.

## 2. Contusion Injury:

Contusion injuries are caused by blunt objects such as a fist blow or a tennis/cricket ball hitting the eye. The photo below shows what children can do to each other when they fight.



Contusion injuries to the eyelids lead to swelling and ecchymosis. It is often associated with subcutaneous extravasation of the blood. The contusion may cause displacement, rupture and tear of the intraocular structures. It may cause an immediate and serious diminution of vision, contusion cataract and/or dislocation of the lens.

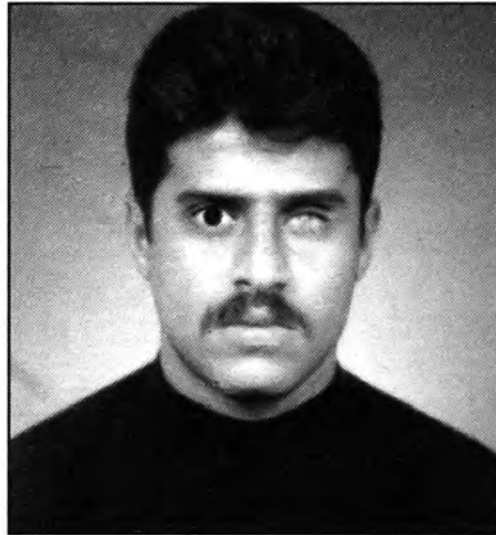
## 3. Eye Injuries Caused by 'Flying' Particles:

A "flying" particle hitting the eye or its vicinity are common in industries where workers used a revolving or drilling machine, a chisel and hammer. The patient complains of a sensation of a foreign body on his eyes. Most particles of coal and dust could be removed with the help of a cotton swab after surface anesthesia. The iron particles when lodged in a deeper part of the substantia propria and needed to be removed by magnet. If it is central, any scarring will affect vision. Removal of a central corneal foreign particle should be done under the microscope.

When the velocity of the "flying" foreign particle is sufficiently great, the particle may penetrate the eyeball, causing loss of vision from corneal opacity, hyphaema, cataract or vitreous hemorrhage, etc. Infection that may result in panophthalmitis. Such an intraocular iron or copper particle that may disperse inside the eyeball, causes irreversible damage. X-ray should be taken if an intraocular body is suspected. If the foreign body has magnetic properties, the sterilized tip of a hand magnet near the area of exit should be used to facilitate its removal. With Yemeni colleague, Dr. Haifa Abdulla, I regularly use the hand magnet to remove foreign bodies from the eyeball for patients in Khormaksar Teaching Hospital.

## 4. Penetrating Wound:

Penetrating injuries to the eye are



usually caused by sharp objects such as knives, scissors, a projecting portion of the dashboard or an automobile, etc. A penetration wound is usually due to a sharp or pointed instrument that has penetrated the eyeball, as in the picture above.

In such cases, besides the pain, the patient may have a watering and photophobic eye. Such injuries are treated in different ways depending on whether there is a prolapsed tissue. If the eyeball has been penetrated anteriorly without evidence of prolapse of intraocular contents, it could usually be repaired by direct interrupted sutures.

I remember a 7 year-old girl who is from Abyan Governorate. She was using a needle to hem cloths, when the needle inadvertently got into her left eyeball. That was 4 months ago. Her left eye had small hole, the lens was opening. After a few days, this eye had very important vitreous. The girl and her father went to a private eye clinic. They were asked to pay 25,000 Rials for the operation! The poor family could not, how to taken much taken much money for this girl!

One case vision is bed reduced since two years, he had sew many eye doctors, but that doctors told him no problems about this eye! I examined by dialed his eye pupil, the finds shown one foreign body on the muscular, so he could not sew as well. Asked this patient who had be attacked an iron body with a

hammer two years ago. I used a magnetic taken out the foreign body from this patient's eyeball, his vision of that eye had good.

## 5. Sympathetic ophthalmia:

It is an auto immune disease, a rare bilateral granulomatous uveities that may follow penetrating injury to one eye. The concept that injury to uveal tissue could lead to a reaction in the non-injury eye owing to hypersensitivity is gaining credence. Inflammation may develop ten days after the initial injury or some years later. The injured eye is known as exciting and the non-injured as sympathizing. The onset of sympathetic uveitis was heralded by photophobia, lacrimation and blurred vision in the exciting eye. A fully developed case presents serve uveities with plastic exudes in the papillary region with heavy posterior synechiae and secondary glaucoma. the exciting eye remains irritable, red and tenders with uveities.

The treatment of sympathetic phthaltosis is most unsatisfactory. The injured eye repaired after excision of the incarcerated tissue and a course of antibiotics and corticosteroids should be admin-

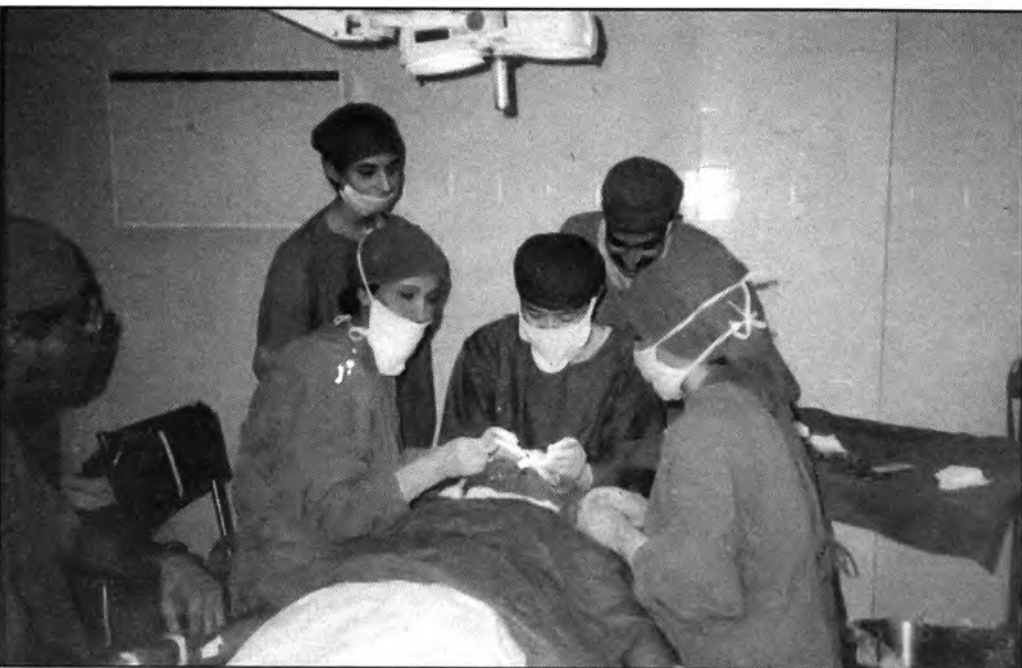
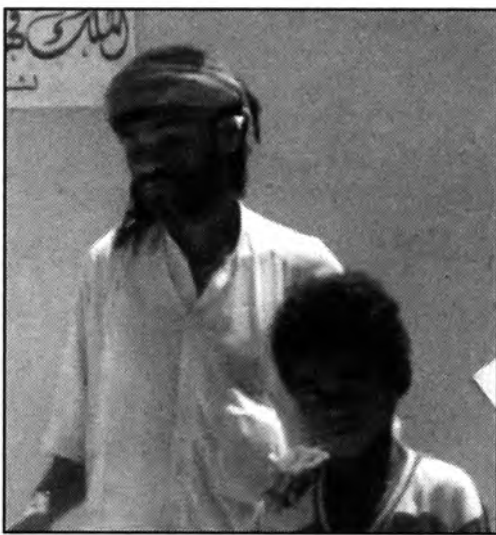


istered. Local and systemic corticosteroids administered at the earliest opportunity. Immunosuppressive drugs are useful in preventing the recurrence of the disease. Once the injured eye excised if the damaged extensively and cannot regain visual function.

## 6. Prevention:

Many ocular injuries are preventable, and the physician may be in the best position to give advice. The weariness of safety goggle taken comes compulsory for the workers who are engaged in grinding and lathe industries.

Prevention of intraocular arising from penetration foreign body requires the common use, not only in industry but in the private sector, of protective lens. Every individual encouraged to have a pair of protective lens on head to prevent injuries from champagne and other corks, from power mowers, power drills and other machines. Hazardous chemical's injury may be causes for opening drains or fertilizing crops, when the workers with liquids containing acid or alketic. Lacerations form sharp instruments in young children avoided by not letting them play with pointed instruments.



## International Birdlife Team Visits Yemen:

# Protecting the Birds!

Mr. Richard Porter, Head of Middle East Division of BirdLife International, is on his tenth visit to Yemen.

"Yemen is one of the richer countries in the Middle East for birds due to its great bio-diversity of habitat, largely as result of wide climatic and landscape range. A new book, *Important Bird Areas in the Middle East*, being translated into Arabic, identifies the 390 most important sites in the region. I think 90 of them occur only in Yemen," he said.

Over 360 bird species have been recorded in Yemen. Of these, quite a few are threatened. The term is used to identify those birds whose population size has dwindled enormously in the recent past. That is why the Yemeni situation has taken on an additional urgency.

"We are now working to register our ornithological society. We need the support of everybody to make it more active and effective," explained Dr. Omar Al-Saghier, Birdlife International's



representative in Yemen. "Birds are not just beautiful creatures which add an ascetic value to life. They are an important part of the life cycle of mammals and plants and they play an important role. That is why destroying them will inevitably affect the very structure of our lives," he added. "That is why it is very important to teach the general public about birds and their role. We hope that we can introduce birds in school

curricula. "Maybe the Yemeni Ornithological Society can also start up branches in the schools, all over the Republic," Mr. Porter indicated.

The team has visited many parts of the country, and they have been alarmed by recent developments. "We have seen far less birds in the marshes of Taiz this time than in previous visits. The lagoons of Aden are threatened, and the coastal stretches - whether in the Tihama or along the Arabian Sea are more disturbed. Birds of Yemen are being victimized."

The Birdlife people are not opposed to development. But it can take place in a way that will protect the environment. "We are asking for an environment-friendly development approach," said Martino Smits, who is part of the Dutch expert team on loan to the Environment Protection Council (EPC). "We have been working with the EPC to increase awareness on the environment. This has to do with birds, but also with many other wildlife. It also has to do with garbage collection, sanitation, etc.," she said.

"One cannot and need not stop progress. Economic progress and environmental considerations can go hand in hand. We are not confronted with a condition of exclusivity," she added.

The EPC has been instrumental in enacting various laws and regulations concerning the environment. Birdlife spends a good part of its budget, about 40%, to help government enforce the laws and regulations they have enacted. "We also work to help countries



Flamingo birds in Lagoons in Aden

adhere to their commitments to the relevant international agreements they signed," Richard pointed out.

This is especially important in Yemen as it is home unique birds of which about 14 are on the list of threatened species.

"There are 9500 species of birds in the world. The way that we distinguish among birds is to determine which priority birds; i.e., those birds which are declining in number. You know those which used to very common, but are now much less common," Porter said.

Over 220 species of migration

birds pass through Yemen, especially during the winter. They come from central Asia and fly south through Yemen. Their breeding grounds in Yemen are increasingly being threatened.

A similar fate awaits Yemen's own resident birds.

"Birdlife International with collaboration with the EPC, is now publishing 10,000 copies of a book that will be distributed to the schools by the EPC and by Yemen Ornithological Society. We at the Yemen Ornithological Society are working on developing small projects that focus on school children," stated Dr.

Al-Saghier. This involves taking them on bird watch picnics, teaching them about the importance of birds, and encouraging the establishment of small bird exhibitions.

"The situation has not yet gotten out of hand. In addition, it is lucky that the Yemeni people like birds and feel the need to help protect these creatures. The government is also interested in helping. All these factors make up hopeful that something can be done," Porter concluded.

By: Anwar Al-Sayyadi,  
Yemen Times.

## Acknowledgment

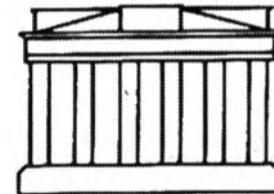
Ethiopian Community Association would like to express its gratitude and thankfulness for the following companies and individuals who sincerely and generously co-operated with the association at its festival which took place in Sana'a from the 21-24 of Feb. 1995.

- |                                      |  |
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| 23. Rawdah Hotel                     | 49. Mr. Khalid                                   |
| 24. Azal Laundry                     | 50. All members of Ethiopian Community in Yemen  |
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with best regards

Amran Mohammed  
Chairman

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## A Drive to Strengthen Yemeni-German Academic Cooperation

"I am here to investigate ways and means to strengthen cooperation and exchange between Yemeni and German universities." So started Dr. Mathias Paetzold, Director of the Near and Middle East Office of the German Academic Exchange Services (DAAD).

Mathias, 37, a native of Rostock, is very comfortable in the Arab region. Fluent in Arabic, he has done his doctoral thesis on "Muqaddimat Ibn Khaldun". As a result, he sees more room for improvement in bilateral relations in academic programs.

"We have various kinds of programs. One visible one has to do with scholarships in post-graduate students. The DAAD sponsors hundreds of scholarships for students and researchers going to Germany from 150 countries," he explained.

Actually, the DAAD splits its scholarships on a 50-50 basis. The first 50% goes to German students, and the second to international students.

"The German universities are, of course, interested in first-class students. Therefore, the admission criteria are rigorous."

The second dimension to the DAAD programs is short-term research. "This is mainly oriented towards professors and researchers whose work can be improved by spending some time in Germany," Dr. Paetzold stated. The duration of such research can vary from a few weeks to several months.

The third main activity of the DAAD is to arrange the visit of German scholars to other countries. Such visit can last from one term (three months) to a few years depending on the need and arrangements.



Yemen's association with the DAAD goes back to several years. Many students and researchers from the former Yemen Arab Republic had studied in the former West Germany. But the major involvement of the DAAD with Yemen came with Germany's own unification. With that, the organization inherited responsibility for the students with scholarships with the former East Germany. That included a lot of Yemeni students.

"I am happy to note that I met with some eighty Yemenis in Sanaa who had studied in Germany. I met more in Aden," said Mathias.

Indeed, the number of Yemenis who had studied in Germany could well run into the hundreds, according to estimates.

The DAAD, mostly financed by the German government, has numerous other programs. Its nine regional branches [in Cairo (Egypt), Jakarta (Indonesia), London (UK), Nairobi (Kenya), New Delhi (India), Paris (France), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), San Jose (Costa Rica), and Tokyo (Japan)] assist the head office in Bonn to strengthen the worldwide network. But the DAAD also has a European focus through numerous programs such as Erasmus, Lingua, Comett, and Tempus.

"We are eager to expand and strengthen partnership the Yemeni universities. I have already opened direct channels of communications with Aden and Sanaa Universities. I am sure the potential for growth is very good," Paetzold said.

## The SERAPIONIs Are Leaving

The Serapioni couple - Fulvio and Tina, are leaving Yemen at the end of this month. The Italian couple had first come here in 1961, stayed at Aden until 1963, and then came back to settle in Sanaa since 1978.

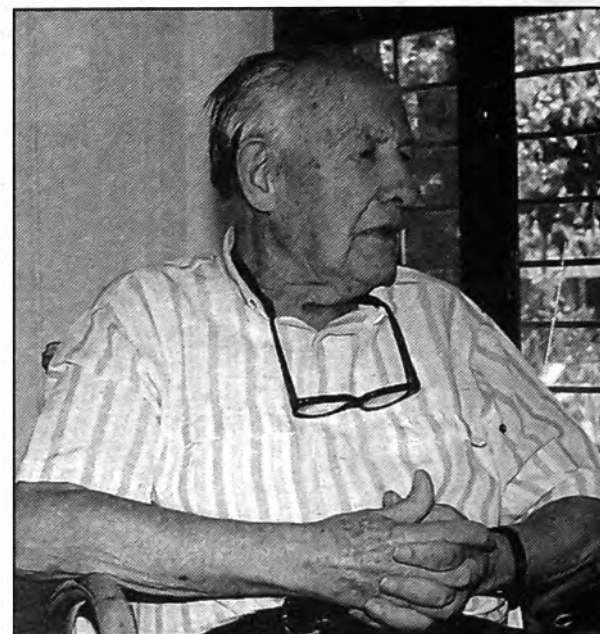
"When I first came to Yemen, there were only two medical doctors - and both were foreign. Today, the country has more than 2,000 native medical doctors. This is progress," he said. Mr. Serapioni, 83, was in Yemen doing business. He introduced many European products, notably Italian and German. "I started as a representative of Volkswagen cars. But later I moved into other things like water pumps, generators, etc.," he stated.

They are leaving because their business association with Yemen is finished. "I have retired from the company I had worked. Therefore, I have no sponsor for a residence visa in Yemen." Those are the sad words of an old man most of whose life was in Yemen.

That is not the only problem with Yemeni law. "We would have loved to buy ourselves a home here. But the laws of the land do not allow 'foreigners' to buy real estate independently of a Yemeni co-owner," lamented Tina Serapioni. But that is not their only concern. Yemen does not allow a graveyard for foreigners (non-Muslims). That is very bad," she said. Both love the country and enjoyed their stay here. "I have always loved the open space I could enjoy in Yemen. When I go back to Italy, I will have less open space to my self," added Tina. For Fulvio, watching the landscape is more fun.

Mr. Abdullah Al-Sunaidar, Chairman of the Yemeni-Italian Friendship Association, expressed disgust with the laws that force such a friend to leave. "What is wrong with us?" he kept asking. He was pointing to the more than three decades of association between the Serapionis and Yemen. "And now, they can't even stay here any more."

The association sponsored yesterday, Sunday, a farewell reception which was attended by many of its members, and friends of the couple.



Continued from page 1:

## Shibam Is Falling Apart..!

One of the new problems of the city of Shibam today is that the flood drainage is blocked. Add to this the rising water consumption in the city itself is threatening the foundations of the mud city. As a result, 68% of the houses are affected.

"Given the historic and tourist value of the city, the government should give it priority," said Dr. Yusuf Mohammed Abdullah, Chairman of the Organization for Antiquities, Books and Museums. But the residents of the city, as well as the various organizations in Hadhramaut, do not actually plead for state funds. They simply want the state to let them get on with the job. "We can raise our own money, as well as approach regional and international organizations to help restore the city," said Mahfoodh Shammakh, Chairman of the Hadharem Social Welfare Society.



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- Familiarity with Microsoft Windows 3.1, DOS 6.x, Novell Netware. E-Mail systems, WordPerfect for Windows and Database systems.
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The deadline for receiving applications for the above is April 22, 1996.

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## Ethiopia Calls for Tough UN Sanctions Against Sudan

Ethiopia called on the UN Security Council to apply tough measures on Sudan to force the extradition of three men on charges of trying to assassinate Egyptian President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak.

"Ethiopia is convinced that whether or not the Sudanese authorities would comply with the demands of the council would depend on how clearly and strongly the Council sends the necessary message that it would no longer put up with the defiance of the Sudanese authorities," a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said last week.

The Security Council was discussing sanctions against Sudan for failing to extradite the three men to Ethiopia. Sudan says it

cannot find the men, as they are not in the Sudan.

Government officials in Addis Ababa said the statement reflected Ethiopian anger at the new draft resolution, which they claim is mild.

The new draft resolution calls only for relatively mild diplomatic sanctions and drops an air or arms embargo proposed by Ethiopia. "Ethiopia will wait to see how the Council will discharge its heavy responsibility regarding an issue which involves a country engaged in sponsoring terrorism in a clear and naked manner," the statement added.

The Ethiopian hardening of attitude worries many countries.

In the aftermath of the assassination attempt on the life of

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in June 1995, who had flown into Addis Ababa to attend an African Summit, Ethiopia had said that it could not find evidence implicating the Sudan. All individuals involved in the attempt were Egyptians.

At a later stage, Ethiopia changed its position and accused the Sudan of harboring the criminals, who it said, fled to its neighbor. The UN had ordered Sudan, on February 1st to deliver the criminals within two months. Sudan continues to deny the whereabouts of the criminals.

President Al-Bashir repeatedly said that his country was being set up for the sanctions. Sudan says that because it refuses to bow under, the US is trying to make an example of it.

## Elections Likely to be Postponed Sri Lanka Clamps Emergency

President Chandrika Kumaratunga extended last week emergency rule across Sri Lanka, triggering angry reactions from the opposition which blasted the move as a bid to postpone crucial local elections. Mrs. Kumaratunga stunned some of her own cabinet ministers by imposing the tough emergency regulations to curtail civil liberties and give wide powers to security forces to detain suspects.

Parliament was told that the state of emergency was being extended across the country although Mrs. Kumaratunga had invoked the tough regulations earlier through a presidential proclamation. Before this development, the state of emergency was restricted to the embattled northeastern regions and a few towns, including the capital Colombo which are vulnerable to attacks by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas.

"The reason for making the proclamation is for the preservation of public order and maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community," Mrs. Kumaratunga said in her brief two-paragraph message to parliament.

Mrs. Kumaratunga said her People's Alliance government had received information that the LTTE was preparing for "acts of violence in various parts of the country" during local elections which are due by June.

"The government is taking action to arrange to hold local elections without delay, and in such a manner that the available police and security personnel could ensure full security for all its citizens," Mrs. Kumaratunga's office said.

Opposition leader Ranil Wickremesinghe said if the emergency was brought into effect due to security considerations, it should have been done when the central bank here was bombed by Tamil rebels, killing 91 people in January. "When the central bank was bombed in January, the government did not think it necessary to have emergency throughout the country," Wickremesinghe said.

"The situation is not any worse now." He said there was no justification for a nationwide state of emergency which could be used by the government to stagger the local council elections, if they were held at all, and to employ state machinery and thugs to intimidate voters.

The council poll was originally due in May last year, but Mrs. Kumaratunga's government used its constitutional powers to extend them by one year. However, she is unable to postpone the elections any longer unless she uses the emergency which overrides virtually all other statutes in the country. Mrs. Kumaratunga came to power in August 1994 promising to end the state of emergency.

## Communists Likely to Play Crucial Role after Indian Elections

The Communists in India, who account for the third largest group in parliament, could play a major role in government if no single party gets a clear majority in the forthcoming elections, scheduled to start on April 27th, and extending all the way to the 10th of May.

According to observers, the Communists, who are allied with a socialist group that fights for the poor and minorities, hopes that their alliance, the Third Front, will take away votes from the governing Congress Party and the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party.

"Our formation will win the election," Harkishan Singh Surjeet, General Secretary of the Communist Party of India, told at a news conference, last week. "The Congress is plagued by corruption and infighting and is disintegrating. The Bharatiya Janata Party is mum on corruption in the government, which is the biggest issue in the country. People are fed up with both of them," he said.

Early opinion polls show the governing Congress and the Hindu BJP running neck and neck and few expect the Communists and their allies to come to power.

With no party likely to win outright, the real political battle may begin after the votes are counted, with Congress and the Bharatiya Janata parties bargaining for coalition partners. And the role of the Communists who control two eastern states and have a considerable following in a southern state can become important.

Their socialist allies - the Janata Dal party and the Samajwadi or socialist party - could particularly boost the chances of the Third Front in the key state of Uttar Pradesh, which accounts for nearly one-fifth of parliament's 545 seats.

In the current Lok Sabha, the lawmaking lower house of parliament, the congress party has 253 members, the BJP 114, Communist parties 49 and the socialist Janata Dal 21. The rest of the seats are

shared by small regional parties and independents. Surjeet released 12 booklets to help party workers explain the party's stand on various issues. "This is our way to counter the propaganda of the ruling party, which controls radio and television," he said. The election will test the economic changes P.V. Narasimha Rao began when he became prime minister five years ago and started to steer the socialist economy toward the free market.

While many Indians have turned away from slogan-based parties of the old Communist structures, the events of East Europe and the Russian Federation have underscored the ability and success of Communists to return to power. It is this turn of events that is making the Indian Communists take a bold stand and feature visibly in the elections.

Just to leave the door open in case they do not win a clear majority in the Lok Sabha elections, both the Congress and BJP have steered clear of the communists and their socialist allies.

The troubles of the ruling Congress Party have increased as more and more of its top echelon has rebelled against the party's nominations of candidates. Last week, the Congress expelled many leading party members who are running against official party candidates. The competing Congress candidates (one under party banner and the other under independent, opposition or whatever banner) is likely to cost the Congress heavy losses in many constituencies, especially in Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and other states. To avert a disaster, Congress President Narasimha Rao (also the Prime Minister) started cementing alliances for the Congress with small local power groups.

Similarly, the Hindu BJP does not hold much appeal beyond its strong power base of fundamentalist followers.

As a result, many of the smaller groups and independents, as well as the communists/socialists will be the real power brokers of the next government.

## Turkish-Israeli Military Accord Triggers Angry Response

The high point in the visit of Turkish President Suleman Demirel to Israel was the announcement of a military accord to which the air force of the two countries will freely share their air space and airports. This accord has triggered angry responses from the neighbors of all the two countries without exception.

Greece has announced that will seek similar measures with the countries of the Middle East.

Egypt has announced its strong reservations of this development. Syria condemned the accord and described it as a new effort by Turkey to play a leading role in the region.

Iran announced that its own national security and sovereignty were jeopardized by the new agreement.

All countries said they were puzzled as to why Turkey needed this deal, although it is visible how it could serve Israel.

One observer described the deal as a Turkish effort to use Israeli and Jewish influence with the West. That would come in handy in Turkey's efforts to join the EC, which so far has been rebuffed, as well as in Turkey's continued squabble with Greece over the Aegean islands.

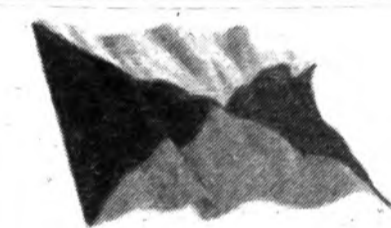
The alliance, which brings back memories of regional military alliances in the Middle East, does not sit well with Israel's peace overtures with its neighbors.

## A Yemeni immigrant Comes back home to invest his savings

1. Upon Arrival



2. One Year Later



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P. O. Box: 15145 - Tel: (01)207028 - Fax: (01)219895 - Tlx: 4050.

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P. O. Box 50261 - (Fax, Tlx, to Aden branch).



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أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نزفها إلى  
الصديق العزيز

### جمال محمد عبدالباري

بمناسبة دخوله القفص الذهبي.  
تمنياتنا له بحياة زوجية سعيدة  
وألف مبروك.

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علي ناصر الرياشي، جمال ناشر،  
طله الغنامي، عبدالله عبدالجبار  
ووالدك محمد عبدالباري.

## ألف مبروك

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### رائف ياسين السقاف

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عماد أحمد السقاف، مشعل محمد السقاف،  
ناثف نورالدين السقاف

# THE FIRST HALAQA FESTIVAL

Sunday April 21st 1996 from 7:30pm to 10:00 pm	Dance Festival in the Yemeni Cultural Centre	Entrance Fee 100 YR
Monday April 22nd 1996 from 7:30pm to 10:00pm	7 Poets in the Afif Foundation	FREE
Tuesday April 23rd 1996 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm	Memorial for Abdul Latief Rabie in the Afif Foundation	FREE
Tuesday April 23rd 1996 from 7:30pm to 10:00pm	Yemeni Musical Festival in the Yemeni Cultural Centre	Entrance Fee 100 YR
Wednesday April 24th at 3:00pm to 8:00pm	The Women's Festival in the Yemeni Cultural Centre	Entrance Fee 100 YR

A Continuous Program of Events  
from April 21st to 24th; with Free Admission!

### Visual Arts

Presented in the following venues in Sana'a from 9am to 1pm and  
from 4pm to 6pm.

- Gallery No. 1
- Galleria
- Yemen Cultural Centre
- The Afif Foundation
- Samsarat Al Mansurah

#### Samsarat Al Mansurah

Design by Yemeni and International Designers, Photography and  
Workshops

#### At the Handicraft Centre

Weaving, Handicraft and Yemeni Culinary Specialities

#### At the French Cultural Centre

Photography, Arabic Films and Videos on a Big Screen. 4 pm -  
Women only 7 pm open to all

#### At the National Museum

Guided Tours three times per day - 9am, 11am and 3pm. Book in  
advance - 217537. Students -free. Adults - normal fee.

#### At the National Folk Museum

Multimedia presentation of folk art, creativity and Yemeni  
children's photography

#### City Tours from Bab Al Yemen

3pm every day Book in advance - 274611/215470 City Tour,  
Architecture of the Old City and the Gardens of Sana'a.

#### SABA (next to Hadda Cinema)

Exhibition of Modern Architecture - open house!

## Video Library

This month the British Council will start a video lending and  
showing facility. This will commence on 1st April 1996.

The British Council video library offers a unique collection of  
over 300 videos and consists on a wide range of topics.

Membership is open to Yemeni residents of any nationality over  
the age of 18 and is by annual subscription. There are four types  
of membership:

Student	1000YR	1 video
Yemeni	2000YR	1 video
Foreigner	4000YR	1 video
Family	6000YR	3 videos

The loan period is for one week. A refundable deposit of \$20 is  
payable when the first video is loaned.

Videos will also be shown fortnightly in the British Council  
library.

Entrance is free and anyone is welcome to attend. April's  
programme is as follows:

1st April	3pm	Pickwick papers	children's film
1st April	7:30pm	Oliver Twist	feature film
15th April	3pm	Lord of the Lions	education
15th April	7:30pm	Robin Hood Men in Tights	feature film

## Exhibition

This month exhibition to be held in the British Council library is  
entitled **Muslims in Britain**. It is open to the public from  
1st - 25th April 1996 during library opening hours.

This exhibition looks at the Islamic community in Britain. It is a  
photographic display which includes information in English and  
Arabic.

The British Council  
As-Sabain Street  
PO Box 2157  
Sana'a, Yemen  
Telephone: 244 121/2 Fax: 244 120

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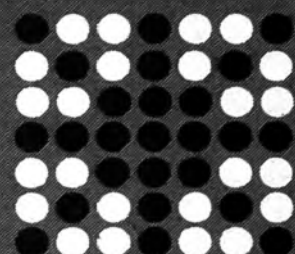
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The British Council

April Cultural Events

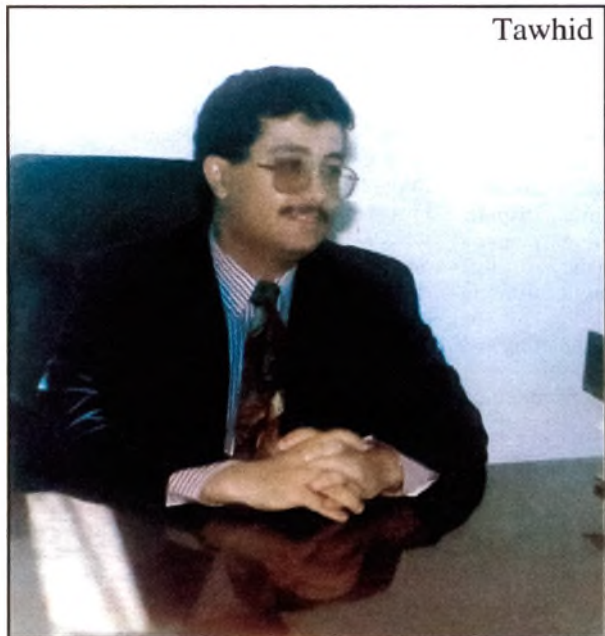
Special, Special, Special...

## Now You Have Professionals to Handle Your Cargo A Door-to-Door Freight Forwarding Service in Yemen

Moretti



Tawhid



## The UK's top 200 IATA forwarders

### Who's where in the UK airfreight industry... an Air Cargo News special project

COMPANY	1994	1993	GROWTH	%	COMPANY	1994	1993	GROWTH	%	COMPANY	1994	1993	GROWTH	%
1 Air Express Int'l (AEI)	74,235,165	53,232,379	21,002,786	39	79 81 Dynamic World Exp	1,390,923	1,202,174	128,749	10	157 117 Concord Freight System	429,123	691,002	261,879	38
2 MSAS Cargo Int'l	63,597,069	46,191,317	17,405,752	38	80 118 The BH Group	1,386,966	690,565	696,400	101	158 102 Anglo Forwarding	424,142	842,344	418,202	50
3 Air Mendes Int'l	31,718,045	20,449,264	11,268,781	55	81 105 Sea Wing Cargo	1,313,102	808,319	504,783	62	159 141 BRS Air Cargo	405,486	501,008	95,522	19
4 JEP Int'l	30,582,033	28,677,044	1,904,989	7	82 - Brooklands Int'l	1,256,507	-	-	-	160 104 Shaw Forwarding	403,702	182,423	221,279	121
5 Burlington Air Express	28,021,097	25,734,404	2,286,693	9	83 155 Int'l Freight Brokers	1,243,889	407,478	836,411	205	161 182 Williams Air Freight	399,384	260,863	138,521	53
6 Kuehne & Nagel	26,550,148	25,839,317	720,831	3	84 90 Trans Euro Worldwide	1,233,422	795,581	437,841	55	162 122 Fast Forwarding	398,371	648,655	250,284	39
7 Transglobal Air	22,714,449	20,431,965	2,282,484	11	85 89 Samson Transport	1,231,975	796,072	435,903	55	163 163 Ace Shipping	392,247	370,898	21,349	6
8 Activair	22,544,560	18,546,102	3,998,458	22	86 71 Dimenco Express	1,219,902	1,442,106	-222,204	-15	164 126 MAP Freight Services	386,112	295,167	90,945	31
9 13 Emery Airfreight	21,564,299	14,074,816	7,489,483	53	87 94 Fred Olsen Airfreight	1,184,973	952,382	232,591	24	165 166 Interken Freighters Ltd	377,216	354,376	22,840	6
10 10 Hellmuth Int'l	19,819,867	17,941,500	1,878,367	10	88 175 Gander & White	1,156,479	300,747	855,732	285	166 187 East Anglo Forwarding	371,024	228,523	142,501	62
11 14 Circle Int'l	18,022,133	13,034,973	5,587,160	43	89 99 Rowco Int'l Services	1,148,665	658,535	490,130	74	167 168 Autair Freight Services	360,300	332,785	27,515	8
12 11 Freight Intertrans	17,423,736	17,193,638	230,098	1	90 83 Fardale Export Svs	1,141,300	1,167,883	-26,583	-2	168 148 TS Int'l	340,734	445,766	105,032	24
13 16 Paraglobe	17,201,300	11,902,160	5,299,140	45	91 120 Sandair Int'l	1,131,732	656,638	475,094	72	169 180 Comaugh Air Services	339,199	279,923	59,276	21
14 15 Hapag Express	15,950,280	12,476,450	3,473,830	28	92 112 WIG Rand	1,099,993	755,056	344,937	44	170 157 Bernard Meyers Shipping	335,657	387,514	-51,857	-13
15 12 Higgs Air Agency	14,917,320	14,893,180	24,140	0	93 78 WTS Airfreight	1,074,228	1,368,453	-294,225	-22	171 130 Bob Burge	328,914	572,316	-243,402	-43
16 8 Alkair	14,154,202	18,991,217	-4,837,015	-25	94 212 Priority Airfreight	1,066,662	86,936	979,726	1,104	172 146 Goodrem-Nicholson	325,746	409,764	-84,018	-21
17 18 Union Air Transport	13,830,091	9,489,671	4,340,420	46	95 95 DMS Airfreight	1,037,539	997,213	40,326	4	173 - N American Van Lines	325,476	-	-	-

On the 22nd of May, 1996, the Arab Trading Company (ATC) Ltd. will officially inaugurate its Sanaa office, located next to the KLM office on Zubairi Street.

ATC achieved another milestone, this week. It became the exclusive and sole agent of AEI in Yemen. The agreement was signed in London earlier this year. To cement the AEI/ATC partnership, Enver Moretti, AEI Vice President for the Middle East, visited Yemen last week.

"I had visited Yemen in 1993. Since then, we have been reviewing the various companies that could take exclusive representation rights for AEI in Yemen. I am happy to announce that we have found in ATC a good partner," Moretti said.

He also described the AEI worldwide network. "We can track and trace a shipment step by step. We handle cargo by air and by sea. Our service is based on a door-to-door service between the buyer and seller of the shipment," he indicated. Speaking about the potential of the Yemeni market, Mr. Moretti disclosed the concept of freight-forwarding and door-to-door handling in Yemen. "In collaboration with our partner, we will promote this."

ATC, a company established in 1980, has proven itself in the market. Its strength lies not only in its clear vision and commitment to service, but on the highly qualified Western-educated young people who manage it. Tawhid Abdulaziz Ariqi is Country Manager, Nashwan Al-Hamdi is in charge of Operations, and Essam Zohrah is in charge of Marketing. The young trio spearheads the company, and is assisted with a large support staff of qualified personnel. "In 1995, ATC launched successfully its new venture with AEI logistics in Yemen. On the 22nd of May we shall inaugurate the Sanaa main office. In 1997, the Aden and Taiz branches will be operational," explained Tawhid.

"At present, ATC, beside its core business of trade import/export, provides trade documentation services, customs clearance, and delivery of goods to any point in the Republic. For export cargo, we handle packing and forwarding to any destination worldwide," he added.

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**International**  
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International Air Cargo Forum



**United Kingdom**  
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British International Freight Association



**U.S.A.**  
Quest for Quality Award 1992, 1993, 1995  
Distribution Magazine



**Asia**  
Best Forwarder — Airfreight 1993, 1995  
Cargonews Asia



Belgium '93	Malaysia '95
Canada '94	New Zealand '93
Finland '94	Singapore '94
France '93	South Africa '93
Germany '95	Switzerland '95
Greece '95	Taiwan '95
Hong Kong '95	The Netherlands '95
Ireland '93	United Kingdom '92
Japan '95	United States '94



Quality Worldwide Logistics



The ATC trio: (from left) Zohrah, Al-Ariqi, and Al-Hamdi

**AL-AYYAM: Aden (Weekly), 3-4-96**  
(Independent)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Orders by Senior Authorities to Investigate Al-Mukalla Rape Case
- 2) British Foreign Ministry Official Visits Yemen
- 3) Aden University Sets Up a Higher Institute for Petroleum Studies in Shabwa

**Article Summary:**

**1) US\$ 5 Million in Japanese Assistance to Aden**  
The paper reports that Japanese assistance in the form of vehicles and other equipment is due to arrive in Aden on 12-4-96. The equipment is specifically given as a grant aid to the city of Aden to upgrade garbage disposal facilities and removal of left-over construction debris.

**2) A Gang of Burglars Is Arrested**

Four young men were arrested on charges of burglary in Tiban District of Lahej Province. The 4 men were caught with a big inventory of stolen goods worth millions of riyals, such as electrical appliances, housewares, clothing, cartons of tiles and water pumps. The burglars were passed to the prosecution for further judicial proceedings.

**3) Qat and Cancer**

The Minister of Health stated in a BBC interview that thousands of Yemeni cancer cases are due to the spraying of pesticides on qat. His Ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture are working to prevent the import of dangerous pesticides to Yemen, many of which are banned in many countries.

**AL-BALAGH: Sana'a (Weekly), 9-4-96**  
(Islamic Monotheism and Labor Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The Eritrean People Are Not Receptive to Afwerke Regime Which Supports the Israeli Presence in Eritrea
- 2) German Minister of State: German Participation in Aden Duty Free Port

**Article Summary:**

**1) US\$ 94 Million to Combat Female Illiteracy**  
A study by the Yemeni National Committee on Women states that the government intends to reduce illiteracy among Yemeni women by 50% over the next 5 years at a cost of US\$ 94 million. The program also seeks to increase the participation of women in the labor force from its present rate 22%.

**2) Proposed Financial Markets Law**

A Central Bank of Yemen senior official disclosed that the CBY and the World Bank are preparing legislature for the establishment of the first Securities Market in Yemen. It will deal in the exchange of shares, bonds and other marketable securities.

**AL-WAHDAWI: Sana'a (Weekly), 2-4-96**  
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Meeting of NGO's in Sana'a (to Resist Government Procedures Against Them)
- 2) Amre Musa, Foreign Minister of Egypt French Mediation Efforts between Yemen and Eritrea Could Fail.
- 3) A Member of Parliament Seizes Land by Force.
- 4) Minister of Social Security Faces Trial.

**Article Summary:**

**International Involvement and Saudi Arms to Eritrea**

Diplomatic sources reported that the US Warship High School has arrived in the Red Sea. The ship with its reconnaissance equipment is to monitor the military movements in the area, in the wake of the Eritrean invasion of Greater Hunaish. The ship is also said to carry radio interference against the broadcasting stations of Germany, Qatar and Iran (by Saudi technicians).

Diplomatic sources in the Gulf also reported that a large consignment of military hardware has been shipped from Jeddah addressed to the Eritrean Ministry of Defense. The shipment included 68 large advanced patrol boats, 28 Mercedes trucks and a number of closed containers the contents of which could not be identified. The sources could not confirm if the Saudis had presented the consignment as assistance from the Kingdom to the Eritreans or were just merely middlemen who facilitated the shipment of the goods to Eritrea. The sources would not discount the possibility that Saudi interests could dictate assistance to the Eritreans to bring pressure on Yemen to sign a border

deal that would comply with the Saudi version of the borderline.

On the other hand, increased of a strong Ethiopian role in support of Eritrea are reported in Sana'a and Djibouti. The Ethiopian Prime Minister recently visited Djibouti to convince them to give up the territory which the Eritreans have now declared as Eritrean territory on their newly issued maps. Tens of kilometers were occupied by Eritrea concurrently with their occupation of Greater Hunaish. The Ethiopian P.M. also requested the Djiboutians to hand over the Ethiopian naval vessels based there since the loss of all its Red Sea outlets to Eritrea upon the latter's independence.

**AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly), 28/3/96**  
(Yemeni Congregation for Reform)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The Islah Calls For an Investigation to the Rape Cases in Mukalla
- 2) Minister of Electricity and water: Increased Outages Due to Unexpected Fault in 2 Units of the Central Power Stations in Mokha and Hodeidah
- 3) The Parliament Discusses Prison Conditions and Human Rights in the Cells.

**Article Summary:**

**Consultative Council of Islah's 4th Periodic Meeting**

The Politburo of the Islah Party in its meeting held last week confirmed the importance of the strategic relationship between the partners of the ruling coalition - the People's General Congress and the Islah. The party's comments on other issues were:

- All efforts must be made to bring a successful end all the efforts to settle the Yemeni-Eritrean dispute, peacefully, but without compromising Yemen's rights and sovereignty over the island, so that Yemen is not compelled to pursue a different position.

- the Islah confirms the need to completing the Reform Program of the government

- Insists that all constitutional institutions abide by

the Constitution in all its terms and provisions.

- Calls for the rapid issuance of the law regulating the organization of all labor/professional unions and syndicates.

**AL-TAJAMMU': Aden (Weekly), April Fool's Day 1996**  
(Yemen Unionist Congregation)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Ousted Sultan Inherits Soviet Projects' Equipment.
- 2) Arrests for Inciting Workers to Strike

**Article Summary:**

**White Pollution**

Off the Amran coast in Aden, a few miles into the sea, the authorities prevented fishermen from going to the area. The reason was that several fishermen have been hit with unusual blotches on the skin due to possible toxic material having been spilled in the sea area. Investigations are underway to determine the composition of a white spot which has surfaced in the sea in that area, which may have been the cause of the skin ailments.

**26 SEPTEMBER: Sana'a (Weekly) 11-4-96**  
(Mouthpiece of the Military)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The Taxation Department Chases After the Big Officials To Pay their Taxes (After the President has voluntarily paid his)
- 2) Reform Program to be Discussed by World Bank Resident Representative (On Sunday)

**Article Summary:**

**The Rooster Tells It Like It Is to Uncle Sam**

Since many people are being accused of being too pro-American, Mr. Saleh Al-Dahhan, one of the accused, as he states has suggested that a letter be presented to the U.S. Embassy at least to show some kind of appreciation for the accusations. The letter is self explanatory, as drafted by the Press Review Editor in accordance with the wishes of Mr Al-Dahhan with a nod of approval from Dr. Al-Saqqaf: H.E. the Ambassador of the United States Sana'a, Republic of Yemen, Republic of Yemen, Republic of Yemen, Republic of Yemen.

Please excuse the repetitions above, but it seems inexcusable that the United States Embassy in Sana'a has not recognized that the Yemen Arab Republic has been dead since 22 May 1990, although your administrative people did not apparently attend the funeral. Please, for heavens sake, ask the latter to change the brass plate at the Embassy Gate accordingly.

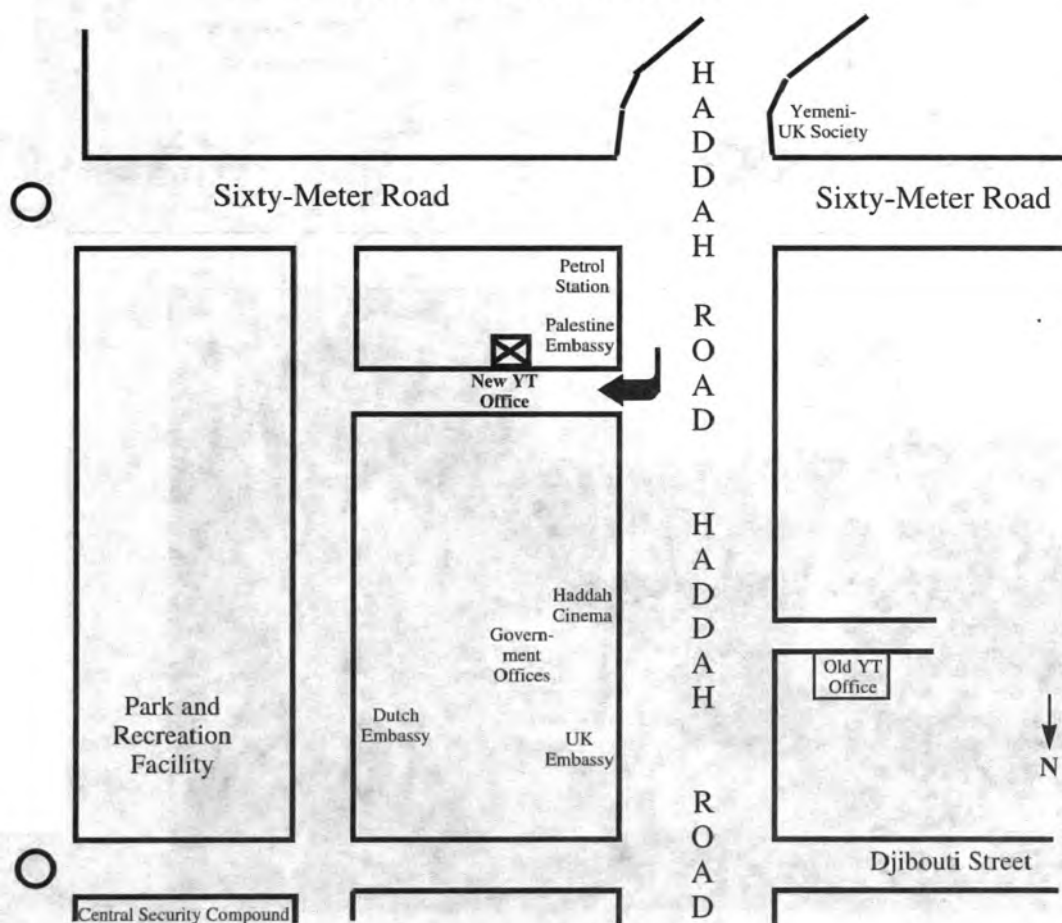
# YEMEN TIMES HAS MOVED TO NEW PREMISES

The lease for our current premises has not expired. But we are forced to move out on 15/4/1996. We are told external pressure is brought to bear on our landlord. "He is forced to make us vacate," he says.

So, Yemen Times is moving, again. The newspaper has found a new place, behind the Palestinian Embassy on Haddah Road. (Please refer to the map).

Telephone and Fax Numbers are the same.

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# Good News

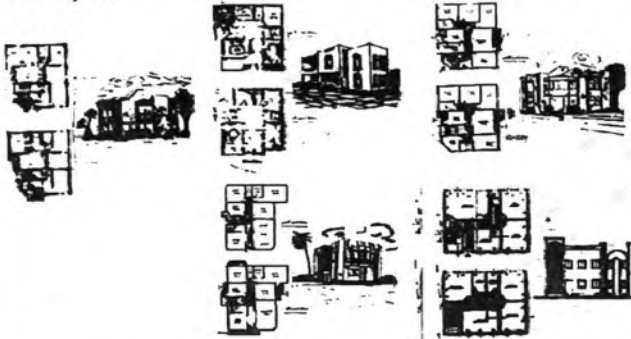
## Big Housing Projects

For all different socio-economic levels; middle and low income groups

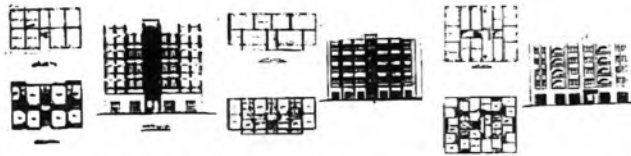
Important and pleasant announcement to the public, by the Public Building Corporation  
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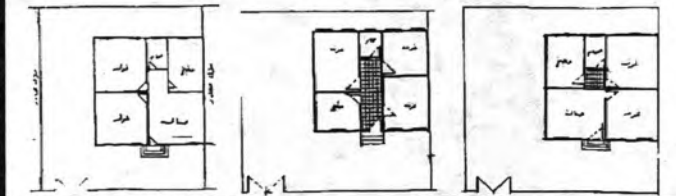
*The Residential Villas Project (2): In the Al-A'arish area, Khourmaksar, and the Third Stage of the Aden/Taiz villa in the Sheikh Uthman Uthman with more than 12 different types of villas, with a built-on area from 180 sq meters to 580 sq.m. which cater to all tastes and choices in plots of land with areas that range from 20x22 sq.m. to 25x25 sq. m.*



*Apartment Building Complex : Abdulqawi Building Residential/ Commercial Complex in Sheikh Uthman-Aden. 3 different building designs of 5 stories and apartment areas of 150 sq.m and 3 designs of villas in plots that occupy 25 x 25 sq. m or 20 x 25 sq.m. with a health clinic, private school, shops, public transport, and other services.*



*Housing for Middle Income/Fixed Income Groups: In Alu'uraish/Al-Mimdarah, Aden. # Separate designs in areas of 70-80 sq. m. for the residence itself in a plot that occupies 15 x 15 sq. m.*



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**We wish all a merry Eid Al-Adha,  
and many happy returns.**

For Additional information or for your reservations, please call or visit the corporate headquarters building  
in the Almansoura area, the Industrial Estate. Telephone Aden: 342505 / 343127 Fax: 345726  
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صنعاء، جولة تعز، ت: ٢٤٥٢٥٧  
الإدارة العامة: أمام وزارة المالية  
ت: ٢٤٤٠٦٥، ٢٤٣٧١٥ فاكس: ٢٦٣٠٦٤



## Is Taiz Still Part of the State's Responsibility?

The question of whether the state feels responsible for the welfare of Taiz is a legitimate one. Such a question is triggered by the fact that the conditions of the city have reached dismal levels unacceptable by any standard. Let us list some of the grievances of the city:

### 1. No Water:

For the last two years, the city's dwellers have not been supplied with water. They have been forced to do with whatever water they get from different sources, including manual transportation of water. "The state has received a soft loan from the World Bank that would have financed the city's water project. I do not understand why the government has not been able to utilize this loan to execute the project," said Sheikh Abdul-Rahman Ahmed Noman, Member of Parliament and a leading personality from Taiz.

### 2. No Drainage:

The city suffers from a visible absence of drainage facilities. Most of the city's liquid waste is disposed off to Usaifira in the outskirts of the city. This has created a marshland of waste which has disturbed the environment. "The city badly needs a

sewer network. I fear that the city will be plagued by various diseases, unless the drainage problem is taken care of," said Dr. Yassin Al-Qubati, a prominent physician and public figure in Taiz.

### 3. No Roads:

The city's road network is primitive and limited.

Since the day of the Revolution, there are two main arteries in Taiz.

"I think that road construction and asphaltting has stopped in Taiz for a long time. When even alley-ways and small side streets in Sana'a are being asphalted, the main highways of Taiz await even simple maintenance," said Engineer

Ahmed Mohammed Ali Othman.

Many citizens of Taiz feel that the state has neglected its duties towards the city. We want to ask the one very pertinent question: "Is Taiz still part of the state's responsibility?"

By: Al-Izzy As-Selwi,  
Yemen Times.



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