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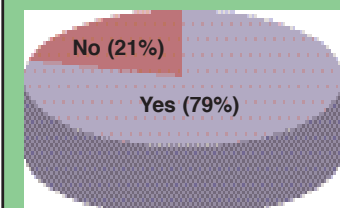


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FGM, the taboo subject

## Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:  
A number of opposition parties threaten to boycott the upcoming elections. Do you think that they are serious?



This edition's question:

It is reported that there are more than 124 Yemeni detainees at Guantánamo Bay and other detainment facilities. Do you think official silence regarding their cases is justified?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Go to our website at: [yementimes.com/#poll](http://yementimes.com/#poll) and have your voice heard

## Yemeni, two Saudis commit suicide at Guantánamo

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, June 10 — The U.S. Defense Department (Pentagon) announced Saturday that two Saudis and a Yemeni national who were among Guantánamo Bay detainees in Cuba died Saturday morning, most probably from committing suicide.

A U.S. Army statement said guards found the three unconscious men had stopped breathing. Medical teams immediately intervened to try to save them, but in vain. The statement mentioned that a doctor announced the three detainees' deaths after all attempts to rescue their lives failed. The detention camp's administration did not disclose how the three committed suicide. The statement did not reveal the prisoners' names; however, the State Department informed the Saudi Arabian and Yemeni governments about the incident.

Although the U.S. Army announced the cause of their death as suicide, the U.S. Navy criminal investigations service initiated an investigation to determine the cause of death. These are the first deaths at the Guantánamo detention camp housing Taliban and Al-Qaeda detainees, established after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Housing 460 detainees, the detention

camp has witnessed previous suicide attempts and acts of violence, with officials mentioning that 11 previous suicide attempts were conducted by 131 prisoners participating in a hunger strike.

A statement by Yemeni lawyer Khalid Al-A'nisi, Secretary-General of the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD), indicated that the group is skeptical of the truth of the U.S. story because it's known that the ideology of Islamist groups and part of Islamic ideology believe suicide contradicts such ideology.

Secondly, the statement noted that the case requires international and impartial investigation, as it's been proved that there have been criminal torture practices, crimes violating human rights and torture until death occurring in many prisons and detention camps under the U.S. Administration.

The statement's third issue was that the detainees have been imprisoned for several years while there is nothing against them and they are considered the responsibility of the United States and the U.S. Administration; thus, the U.S. will not be impartial.

Al-A'nisi said the incident calls for more pressure efforts by human rights organizations and human rights activists against violations committed by the U.S.

Administration in prisons like Guantánamo, Abu Ghraib and secret prisons in various areas worldwide.

He asserted that the Yemeni citizen's funeral must become a demonstration attended by human rights activists from various parts of the world and be a message about the U.S. Administration's human rights violations at Guantánamo and other prisons. "Yemen's government must demand an international investigation into the incident of the death of one of its citizens at Guantánamo prison," he added.

According to Al-A'nisi, as is its habit, the Yemeni government is remaining silent about the case and it at least should have complained to the United Nations, since Yemen is the Arab nation with the second largest number of citizens detained at Guantánamo. He demanded Yemen's government not play a role in hiding the crime by hastily burying the corpse without conducting a transparent and neutral investigation. "The strange thing is that the name of the dead Yemeni hasn't been revealed even up until now and that increases the anxiety of the Yemeni families," Al-A'nisi added.

**Amnesty International Statement**  
Amnesty International issued a June 5



Guantánamo's detention camp has witnessed previous suicide attempts and acts of violence.

statement demanding urgent action regarding the United States' ill treatment of Guantánamo hunger strikers. It said the number of Guantánamo detainees on hunger strike had risen to 75 as of May 29, according to a U.S. military spokesperson. Before that, the number had fallen to as little as three. Camp authorities allegedly have been mistreating striking detainees to pressure them into giving up.

Three detainees are believed to have been on hunger strike continuously since it began August 8, 2005 and kept alive only by force-feeding through a tube inserted into the stomach via the nose.

One of a new group of hunger strikers also is being force-fed this way, according to a Navy spokesperson.

The force-feeding method used at Guantánamo may amount to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Detainees reportedly have been strapped into restraint chairs and force-fed with a thick plastic tube with a metal edge and deliberately fed too much in order to cause pain. According to their lawyers, they were isolated in cold rooms and some were beaten to punish them for joining the strike.

Continued on page 2

## Former North Yemen president Al-Arashi dies

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, June 11 — Yemeni official media announced yesterday that former North Yemen President Qadi Abdul Karim Abdullah Al-Arashi, 72, died in Saudi Arabia. His funeral was believed to have been held this morning in Sana'a, where he will be buried.

A statement by the president's office noted that Al-Arashi played an important role in the 1962 Yemeni revolution and in defending its goals. "Throughout the various positions he held, he proved to be steadfast and highly competent,"

the statement indicated.

Born in 1934 in Sana'a city, Al-Arashi held numerous prominent positions. He was appointed chairman of the Presidential Council of the former Arab Republic of Yemen from June 24 to July 18, 1978 following President Ahmed Al-Ghashmi's assassination. Shortly thereafter, he was elected chairman of the People's Council (Parliament) as well as vice president in the same year.

Al-Arashi received his basic education in Sana'a and completed his studies at the Scientific School. He then embarked upon judiciary and administrative work while he was young. After the September 26 revolution, he



Qadi Al-Arashi

became more prominent at the political level, as he participated in various military campaigns in defense of the revolution.

Al-Arashi occupied various government posts, being appointed Minister of Finance twice, during which he established the state's first budget. He also was appointed Minister of Local Administration whereupon he reformulated the Local Governance Law.

In 1988, Al-Arashi unanimously was elected Shoura Council president. Two years later, namely on the occasion of reunification, he was elected a member of the Presidential Council. In 1997, he was appointed a consultant to the president.

## Yemenis and the 2006 World Cup

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, June 11 — Thousands of Yemenis have been able to watch 2006 World Cup matches being staged in Germany via three giant screens set up by the German Embassy in Sana'a and Aden.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Communication erected another 27 screens across the republic, particularly in major cities. However, most Yemenis expressed sorrow for not being able to see the matches with normal TV channels, asserting that the existing screens aren't enough to watch World Cup activities.

Though few in number, most hostels and motels with subscriptions to channels airing World Cup matches have



resorted to raising prices before their customers and others begin to complain about crowding.

"I like to watch World Cup matches, but I don't like to go to hostels because such places are too noisy for one to enjoy watching," Abdulagabar Al-Soulihi explained, "Watching World Cup matches should be accessible to all because it can unite the world, not part it like politics does."

Football fan Mohammed Hassan affirmed, "Having screens is a good idea, but they're not enough. Most people don't enjoy watching matches in these places because they are busy. Most Yemenis like to watch in closed rooms in their houses while chewing qat." He requested the government erect more screens "to make people watch matches and forget about their problems. Football now is uniting people."

Watching on a pay-per-view basis hasn't hindered Yemenis from viewing World Cup matches. According to Al-Sahwa newspaper, one Yemeni citizen was able to find a satellite channel airing 2006 World Cup matches. With much effort, he managed to access SLTV2, adding that he was able to "break the pay-per-view basis and

watch World Cup matches for free with no need to go here and there." Those with large satellite dishes do the same, continually searching for channels airing the matches.

At a press conference, Germany's ambassador to Yemen stated, "Positioning such big screens to telecast matches in some towns is a sign of the depth of relations between Yemen and Germany." He continued, "We wish to share with our Yemeni friends the enjoyment of watching World Cup matches, particularly with those unable to view satellite channels."

He further noted, "During mutual visits between both sides, Germany presented 1,000 footballs to Yemen in order to develop athletic cooperation between both countries. There was also a German coach providing support and consulting to Yemen's Football League."

Additionally, "More Yemeni coaches are receiving courses and training in Germany and there could be more activities in the future. Sports are considered a tool for understanding and cooperation between countries and they participate in establishing dialogue between Europe and the Arab world."

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## Larjani delivers letter to president Saleh, concludes visit

SANA'A, June 10 — In a press conference held at the Iranian Embassy on June 8, Chairman of the Iranian National Security Council Ali Larjani emphasized that “some are not content with good relations between Iran and Yemen and they want to arouse turbulence and problems between them [Yemen and Iran], for they [Yemen and Iran] are among the area's large countries and they can help achieve permanent and sustainable security there.”

Larjani went on to say that “those who try to evoke turbulence and problems will not succeed as Yemeni-Iranian relations are too firm to stand [down from] such problems.” Yemen is



Larjani

a close and intimate friend to Iran and “both countries are connected by firm political, economic, security and cultural relations. Iran's security is Yemen's security,” he added.

Carrying a letter from Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the Iranian President, Ali Larjani met with President Saleh. The letter that he delivered concerned bilateral relations between Yemen and Iran and prospects for mutual cooperation. Additionally, the letter dealt with developments regarding the Iranian nuclear program, Iranian attitudes towards international developments, and other current issues in the Middle East.

## Yemenis students continue their protest in Mumbai

SANA'A, June 11 — Yemeni students in the Indian city of Mumbai (Bombay) continued their sit-it for the fourteenth day running despite harsh weather conditions, as the port city has been bombarded with monsoon rains. Protesting students said that the decision to continue the sit-in was a reaction to the Yemeni Ministry of Higher Education's ignorance of their predicament.

Around 300 protesters demanded the implementation of the President Saleh's directive issued on 18 February 2005 that augmented financial assistance granted to the students. Yemenis studying in India live in difficult circumstances that have been aggravated

by the state of India's economy. India's economic turnaround effected a retreat of the American dollar relative to the Indian rupee leading to a rise in the cost of rent, student expenses, and the general cost of living. Students say that they are unable to afford the costs associated with studying and research.

Protesters at the sit-in demanded payment of student fees to Indian universities, noting that grants originating from the Ministry of Higher Education are retained by the cultural attaché at the Yemeni embassy for years. Often, this practice has led students to terminate their studies due to lack of funding.

Nas Press published news that said a delegation of students met with Mustapha Noman, the Yemeni Ambassador to India, and discussed their demands with him. In turn, he referred the matter to the Ministry of Higher Education in Yemen. According to student spokespersons, the Ministry has ignored the ambassador's communication.

Indian police granted Yemenis studying in India permission to hold their protest rally in front of the Yemeni Consulate General in Mumbai and have provided them with tents to protect themselves against the weather.

## Doctors, pharmacists posed to stage sit-ins

SANA'A, June 7 — Physicians and pharmacists have threatened to hold a series of sit-ins to protest to what they consider is the government's lack of commitment towards the demands of health sector employees. The Union of Physicians and Pharmacists called upon all health sector personnel to prepare to stage a sit-in as a first step in series of protest activities contained in their campaign.

The statement, issued by the Higher Executive Office of the union and published on the RayNews.net, pointed out that the protests must be carried-out in the interest of the people, the profession, and the future. The statement fur-

ther mentioned that nothing substantial had been realized since promises were made a year ago by the prime minister suggesting that steps would be taken to create a degree of equity among physicians and pharmacists. Moreover, the Minister of the Civil Service hinted that their situation would improve when the new scale of wages and salaries went into effect.

Workers in the health sector demand the implementation of a just compensation structure for doctors and pharmacists along with the improvement of conditions that health sector employees work in. Additionally, they want to maintain their right to choose their

own representatives and the non-interference of the government, or any biased party, in this right. Their reaction is a demarche to the General People's Congress (GPC), which has lately been accused of interventions in professional and trade unions. Lastly, health sector workers also demand the return of their union's stolen possessions.

The importance of the government's adoption of \$200 (USD) as the minimum salary level for Yemenis who have undertaken specialized studies domestically—as is currently case with Yemenis who have pursued their studies abroad—was stressed by the Union.

The Union also demanded the employment of all unemployed doctors, pharmacists, and technicians in all areas of expertise. The statement disclosed that Yemen needs upwards of 40,000 doctors, pharmacists, and dentists according to international standards. The number of doctors practicing in Yemen presently does not exceed 6,000 doctors, according to Ministry of Health statistics.

The Union of Physicians and Pharmacists demanded the immediate replacement of foreign personnel with nationals as the jobs reserved for foreigners amounts to double the number reserved for Yemenis.

## JMP holds symposium on reform

By: Yemen Times Staff

HODEIDAH, June 8 — Under the theme a “Comprehensive Awareness of JMP's [Joint Meeting Parties] Program for Comprehensive National and Political Reform,” the executive committee for the JMP front held its first political symposium. Syndicates, civil society organizations, representatives from branch offices, and interested non-party members attended the activity.

Adnan Hajar of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) presented a

paper titled “Constitutional and Legal Reforms” that stressed the importance of peaceful and democratic action in order to achieve inclusive reforms of Yemen's governmental system. Furthermore, he said that Yemenis deserve a real parliamentary system as opposed to the nominal one that currently exists.

Hajar added that the legal system needs to be reformed by making it financially, administratively, and juridically independent from other branches of government. Likewise, the electoral system and the division

of power among local authorities also need to be changed. According to Hajar, government offices should maintain their impartiality and should not be corrupted to work in the interest of only one political party. Finally, Hajar demanded that the government rectify the country's water and electricity problems.

Dr. Taher Al-Mamari, a member of the Nasserite Unionist Party, spoke about rights and liberties that the Yemeni state should guarantee regardless of citizenship, political affiliation, or other attributes. Other rights that

should be guaranteed include the right to form associations, the freedom of speech, and to demonstrate. Al-Mamari called for the abolition of illegal prisons and a new law on demonstrations.

Hasan Saghir, General Secretary Executive of the Islah (Reform) Party, noted the guarantees necessary for the holding of free and fair elections. Further, Saghir said that the electoral administration must be reformed. He emphasized that the media should maintain objectivity and neutrality when reporting on events.

## Al-Sallam Mental Hospital exhausts food and medicinal supplies

HODEIDA, June 10 — An official source at the Al-Sallam Mental Hospital in the Hodeida governorate disclosed Saturday that the hospital's food and medicinal supplies allotted for the treatment of inmates have been exhausted one month faster than scheduled. The source attributed the cause of the premature need to restock the hospital's pharmacy and kitchen to the number of beggars and mentally-sick people that security forces in Sana'a brought to the hospi-

tal prior to the commencement of the Yemeni unity festivities on May 22. The hospital's administration had to feed and provide medical services to some 350 new inmates, thus resulting in the quicker dissipation of pharmaceutical and food stocks.

Supplementary food and medicinal supplies have not been provided to the hospital for new inmates since their entry, even though they remain resident there currently. The hospital's administration was forced to provide

them with food and medications from the supplies allocated to 170 inmates who were resident at the hospital before the 350 new inmates arrived. A hospital source, who preferred not to be identified, warned that hunger has become a threat to all inmates at the hospital if foodstuffs are not sent within the next twenty-four hours.

The same source told the News.Yemen website, which published the news on Saturday, that the hospital's administration has made

contact with governorate security forces and the local authorities calling for the provision of food and pharmaceuticals in order to support current inmates at the hospital. Furthermore, the administration asked for a solution to be found for the new inmates whether that means releasing them or increasing the hospital's allotment of food and medical supplies so they can be properly cared for. No measures, so far, have been taken to resolve the problem.

## Workshop emphasizes building youth capacities

SANA'A, June 10 — The Ibhaz Foundation for Innovation and Childhood and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), a German foundation, held a six-day training workshop on human rights for youth working with children. Local civil society organizations (CSO) also participated.

The course aimed to build youth capacities in general, those working with children in particular, by using the Itigahat Guide: a training manual on human rights. Other objectives of the workshop were to identify ways of suitably using the guide in relation to the capacities of youth, children's reality; to increase awareness of children's issues to CSOs and youth working with children; and to develop a work plan with up-to-date and effective ideas.

Maha Salah, Chairman of the Ibhaz Foundation, said that the workshop was not planned in a vacuum as the Foundation has offered other activities

in regard to children's rights in the past. According to Maha, the workshop intended to develop youth's abilities when working with children by making youth aware of human rights issues so as to enhance their effectiveness. She emphasized the importance of holding such training courses as they build capacities.

Felix Eikendery, Resident Representative of the FES, said such workshops and symposiums are very impor-

tant, particularly when they focus on human and children's rights as such workshops provide the know-how necessary to allow youth workers to operate



The trainees at the workshop.

PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYASI

more effectively. Working for children rights today will help create a better tomorrow, said Eikendery. At the conclusion of his speech, Eikendery wished

that all participants would benefit from knowledge gained from the workshop, and be content with their dedication to creating a better future for children.

## Office of Endowments to seize cemetery in Aden

ADEN, June 10 — Many areas in Aden on Saturday were the scene of protests—sometimes approaching riots—in the wake of an attempt by a government official to seize a cemetery in order to break-up the land and sell it as various private plots.

Sources in Aden, who wish to remain unidentified, said that residents in the districts of Al-Shaab, Al-Hassawa, Abu-Harba, and other nearby areas took to the streets in a demonstration that blocked the road to the area and burned old tires in the wake of Fahd Abdulaziz's—director of the Office of Endowments in Aden—attempt to forcefully enter a cemetery in order to sell off the land.

Residents say that the seizure was an attempt by a ‘land Mafia’ to switch the status of the land to private ownership. Knowing what was brewing, citizens tried to prevent seizure of the land by

building a wall around the cemetery's perimeter some months ago. Yet, their work was partially destroyed by unknown hoodlums who pulled down parts of the wall. Currently, the prosecutor's office is still conducting investigations into that act of vandalism.

One of the area's residents, A'rif Al-Halimi told the Shoura.net that the commander of the security sector of Buraika and the chief of police of the Al-Shaab district told local residents who were protesting that orders existed preventing the exploitation of the cemetery's land.

Al-Halimi, a lawyer, made it clear that the Office of Endowments in Aden is in the vanguard of those attempting to confiscate the cemetery's land. He indicated that the office has met with resentment from local residents who unanimously refuse the sale of the cemetery's land.

## Japan funds disaster protection in Shuqra

ABYAN, June 7 — The government of Japan decided to grant \$90,000 (USD) to the Local Council of the Abyan Governorate under the Japanese scheme called “Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project” (GGP) which aims at supporting small-scale community-based projects in fields that concern meeting basic human needs such as primary healthcare, basic education, and public welfare in developing countries.

The GGP grant will contribute to the costs of construction of a series of walls that will protect the town of Shuqra from flooding and wave action. One of the biggest fishing complexes in Yemen, the town of Shuqra has frequently been afflicted by natural disasters that have

caused many casualties along with the destruction of buildings. The erection of a new line of barriers is anticipated to save lives and protect property from future natural disasters.

Farid Ahmed Mogawar, Governor of Abyan and Chairman of the Local Council of the Abyan Governorate and Yuichi Ishii, Ambassador of Japan, signed the agreement on June 7.

This is the second project to be financed by Japan under the GGP scheme in the Japanese fiscal year running from April 2006 to March 2007. During the last Japanese fiscal year, Japan funded twenty projects under the GGP scheme totaling \$1,807,292 (USD).

### Continued from page 1

#### Yemeni, two Saudis commit suicide at Guantánamo

U.S. authorities previously downplayed the number of detainees involved in the hunger strike to avoid international criticism. They don't consider a detainee to be on hunger strike until he's refused all food for at least three days in succession. Lawyers say some hunger striking detainees have been accepting meals, but then throwing the food away to avoid being force-fed.

The spokesperson claimed that the increased number of hunger strikers is an “attention-getting” tactic and “consistent with Al-Qaeda practice.” However,

Amnesty International has received consistent reports that the strikers' aim is to protest against their continued indefinite detention without charge or trial, camp conditions and mistreatment by camp guards.

The most recent communication from a hunger striker was a note passed to his lawyer in March by Ahmed Errachidi, a Moroccan national and long-term UK resident. Indicating that he joined the strike out of desperation regarding his continued detention, he wrote, “Enough is enough. I have the right to protest peacefully. I'm not harming them [the U.S.]. I must be allowed to demonstrate peacefully. I don't want to die; I want to live, but I'm not living here. My struggle is not to die, but it's a struggle for the Truth



# Funerals for Gaza beach victims

**Thousands of people have attended the funeral of seven members of a Palestinian family killed in an explosion on a Gaza beach on Friday.**

**T**here were emotional scenes as the bodies of a husband, wife, four daughters and a son were carried to the cemetery in the town of Beit Lahiya.

Palestinian militant group Hamas accuses Israel of killing the family.

Hamas said it fired rockets at Israel for the first time since its truce 16 months ago, in response to the deaths.

There were no Israeli reports of

damage from the Hamas rockets, but one reportedly fell on the Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza.

In a separate incident, the vehicle of a senior Gaza general, Rashid Abu Shbak, was caught in a gunbattle between security forces and Hamas gunmen at the funeral of a security officer.

## Militant flags

Israel, which has been shelling open areas of northern Gaza to prevent rocket attacks, promised to investigate the deaths but said their cause was not yet clear.

"If innocent civilians have been killed by an Israeli shell, that is totally unacceptable," said government spokesman Mark Regev.

"It will be investigated thoroughly and if people have to pay a price with their careers because of negligence or some other factor, then that will be done ..."

Thousands gathered for the funeral at the central mosque in Beit Lahiya, with many praying on the road outside because of the crowds.

Later the mourners surged down the main street carrying the dead wrapped in white shrouds and green Islamic flags.

Many flew the black and green flags of Palestinian militant groups, and armed men fired into the air in a last salute to the dead. Gunmen with loudspeakers called for revenge.

At the cemetery, seven-year-old Huda Ghalia, the last surviving family member, asked for forgiveness as she bent down to kiss her father's face, Reuters news agency reported.

Huda, who was asleep under a blanket when the explosion occurred, has been symbolically adopted by Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Ismail Haniya.

Meanwhile, there has been further criticism of Israel over the killings.

Jordan described the attack as a crime, and said it would further increase tensions, while Turkey said the killings were a severe blow to

efforts to bring peace to the region.

## Symbolic attacks

Hamas government spokesman Ghazi Hamad told the BBC that Friday's deaths had changed what he called "the rules of the game", and that suicide attacks could resume.

The BBC's Simon Wilson in Jerusalem says that Saturday's rocket attacks appear mainly symbolic.

But a spokesman for Hamas's armed wing, the Izzedine al-Qassam brigade, said next time the rockets would be longer range and hit deeper inside Israel.

Under the ceasefire arrangement agreed with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, Hamas has enjoyed enormous political success, taking power with a landslide victory in parliamentary elections in January.

So far this does not amount to a complete change in Hamas's position but if it were to return to widespread militant activity, the question would be how Israel might respond, our correspondent adds.

In the past, it has refused to differentiate between political and armed wings, assassinating a number of Hamas leaders, including its wheelchair-bound founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

Source: [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)



Many mourners were in tears as the procession poured through the town

# Klinsmann delighted with win

**G**erman coach Jurgen Klinsmann was overjoyed as his side responded to enormous domestic pressure to produce a commanding performance in their opening match.

"We are delighted," Klinsmann said. "It is looking positive after this."

"We absorbed a lot of pressure and I was happy with the performance."

The 1990 World Cup winner was confident his side was ready for such a performance.

"You could see the energy in the changing room," he said.

The hosts are also set to receive a further boost for their next group match against Poland with the return of captain Michael Ballack.

"We hope Michael will be back for the Poland game," he added.

Meanwhile, Germany and Costa Rica also set a new record for the amount of goals scored in the opening game of the tournament.

The hosts' tally was the first time a side has scored more than 3 goals in the opening match of the tournament since 1962.

Between 1966 and 1978 not a single goal was scored in the opening match, while between 1982 and 1994 no side scored more than one goal in the curtain raiser.

Germany's efforts were also the first time since 1962 that a side has won the first match of the World Cup by two goals.

Source: [www.aljazeera.net](http://www.aljazeera.net)



All smiles from the 'Golden Bomber'



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- Acquire, maintain, control and disseminate the physical and virtual collection of the organization's documents and publications.
- Maintain current knowledge of all operations in Yemen and ensure that all relevant documentation is available in a timely manner.
- Routinely advise the organization's staff on proper disclosure procedures; provide expert advice to external audiences on the implementation of the policy and contribute to the country's media monitoring services. Provide input and content for the Public Information Center's web site and ensure its information is up-to-date.
- Under appropriate guidance, and as needed, implement partnerships with libraries, public institutions and organizations to extend and diffuse access to the organization's information and knowledge in various areas of Yemen. Liaise with information professionals from development agencies to build and sustain partnerships in information outreach activities.
- Draft, edit, produce, and distribute routine outreach materials such as brochures, email bulletins, press releases, etc.

For full consideration, please send your CV and a letter of application before June 25, 2006 attn: Office Administrator via e-mail: [WBYemen@worldbank.org](mailto:WBYemen@worldbank.org)

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of the United Nations World Food Programme in Yemen is currently seeking qualified candidate for the following post in its sub-office in Hodieda:

**Post Title:** Logistics Assistant  
**Duty Station:** Hodieda  
**UN Category:** SC-5  
**Duration of:** 12 months Service Contract (after 3 months probationary period)  
**Closing Date:** 16 June 2006

This position is open to Yemeni nationals and prefer to be from Hodieda city. Qualified female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

### Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the direct supervision of the Transport and Logistics Officer for Yemen, the Logistics Assistant will be responsible for the following duties:

- Overall management of WFP Hodieda sub-office.
- Supervise WFP operation in Hodieda sub-office including the food movement from the port of Hodieda to different destinations.
- Maintain record for all food movement and ensure food releases are made according to WFP procedures.
- Supervise all food arrival/releases to/from the projects warehouses.
- Conduct field visits to ensure smooth running of WFP operation at the field level and suggest corrective measures, report to project officers on findings and recommendations.
- Collect regional and statistical information related to needs in various locations.
- Assist the sub stations in the distribution and control of food and non-food aid.
- Initiate regular visits to stores to ensure conformity with regulations for storage of food and non-food items.
- Delivery WFP standard waybills to Govt., non govt., and others involved in the transport of WFP operations; ensure that the proper paperwork has been prepared.
- Assist with the accounting, reporting on food and non food items and ensuring that
- Internal control systems are functioning and that all relevant records are maintained.
- Assist in contingency planning and logistics preparedness reviews.
- Supervise staff as required.
- Perform other related duties as required

### Qualifications:

**Education:** University Degree in related field.

**Experience:** 3 years of progressively responsible experience in port operation, shipping, warehouse management/accounting, clearing and forwarding.

**Language:** Fluency in both written and oral English and Arabic.

**Essential Qualifications:** Training and/or experience utilizing computers including word processing, spreadsheet, database/Access and other standard software packages. Ability to work courtesy, tactfully and effectively with people of different national and cultural backgrounds essential.

**Desirable Qualifications:** Knowledge of relevant WFP or UN policies as well as relevant regulations and procedures.

All applications to be submitted to WFP office in Sana'a not later than 18 June 06 in closed envelop clearly marked:

(Application for Logistics Assistant Post (WFP Hodieda) , at the following address:

World Food Programme , Sana'a , Villa No.22-Nwakshut St. No. 21, Diplomatic Area, P.O.Box 7181, Republic of Yemen Tel : 01-214100/101, Fax 01205515.  
 Only short listed candidates will be contacted.



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# The role of media in society

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

Press history shows that it was born to educate people about happenings that affect or were likely to affect them, as well as agitate on their behalf to resolve their grievances and protect their interests.

The press also assumed a certain code of private and public conduct which those in authority were expected to follow. Any deviation from assumed norms came in for a severe rebuke from the press. This not only helped keep those in power in check and on the right path, but it did something more.

By discussing the standards of private and public morals, it also held before the public at large a set of ethical guidelines and indirectly influenced their pattern of private and public behavior. The press became society's mirror for all purposes, focusing on news making individuals and events.

The press can inform all those concerned about achievements in agriculture, industry, education, health, medicine and science and technology, carrying into every home the fruits of research in these and other fields in as simple and plain a language as possible and help individuals in self-advancement. The press also can bring to public attention the achievements of individuals and organizations, including non-governmental organizations, in various fields.

As a mass communicator, print media can achieve what a nation-builder can by educating, motivating, exhorting and rewarding individuals. Media can foster and promote the good and expose and condemn evil. Media can hold before the public an ideal and castigate the deviant. It can promote tolerance, brotherhood and unity and root out intolerance, divisiveness, enmity and hatred. It can prevent conflicts and violence and build up peaceful relations and respect for rule of law. Media can curb confrontation and help

solve problems amicably.

The press also can move a nation to progress, ushering in prosperity and happiness for all. To this end, it can focus attention of the public and the powers that be on areas and individuals needing development and betterment, discuss and suggest necessary measures, as well as the best ways and means of implementing them. It can highlight measures, schemes and projects planned by authorities at various levels, depicting their gains and failures, pointing out their non-implementation, as well as delays, waste and malpractices in their operations.

The press also can invite policy-makers' attention to the need for social welfare schemes for weaker and vulnerable sections of society. The need to democratize the press by inducting in it representatives of the have-nots and making it a voice for their grievances and aspirations can't be overemphasized.

To qualify as society's watchdog, the press must represent society as a whole and monitor the interests of all sections. The press's social audit can't ignore this vital aspect of its structure and functioning. Communication no longer remains an incidental service; rather, it has become a primary service and as such, an essential institution of modern society.

In a truly democratic society, communication constitutes its foundation; therefore, mass media rightly have come to be regarded as the state's fourth organ. As a unique means of written mass communication, the press was the fourth organ's sole constituent until the advent of radio and television. Though electronic media now holds sway, the press has not lost its hold on the public, continuing to play its powerful role as informer and educator and the purveyor of news and modern views.

Today, the press has become a more powerful institution than the state's other three organs, as it can comment



The press in Yemen is playing a major role nowadays in highlighting major social and political issues.

YT PHOTO

on and criticize functioning of the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. It can make and mar individuals and institutions, as well as mobilize public opinion and overthrow governments.

Vast sections of the public, both as individuals and members of certain groups, are victims of exploitation, discrimination and of unjust and inequitable social and economic order. They have unarticulated grievances that go unheeded even if articulated, so they urgently need relief.

Can't the press act as a tribune – a kind of day-to-day Parliament of the people – presenting their grievances to authorities and pursuing them until they are redressed? Not that the grievances of those who can articulate aren't published, but even those aren't picked up as a cause to be pursued.

Corruption, nepotism and many other malpractices in the functioning of those vested with public power, as well as non-implementation and faulty

implementation of various schemes and projects, can be exposed legitimately via press columns.

Investigative journalism must not be only an occasional phenomenon, nor must it concentrate only on major scams and scandals, nor is it undertaken by large newspapers alone. Even small newspapers must act as society's watchdog. Large newspapers can and should assist small ones on this behalf and secure their services for this purpose. Large newspapers also can extend their protective umbrella to small ones by ensuring security for them on such occasions by highlighting their precarious condition and pressures exerted upon them.

As a catalyst for change, the press has a considerable role to play because it's an input into development itself and into social change, which, when occurring, is accelerated by the development process. Society is in the process of modernization – of transitioning from

traditional to modern – and this produces tremendous pressures and a great deal of strain on the public, which we are witnessing today.

One of the problems with reporting on development and change is that it's not an event but a process. Therefore, it's something that doesn't necessarily catch the eye, so it's relegated due to not being an event. It's not time-bound therefore, it can be done tomorrow, which becomes the day after and so it continues.

Many events later occur due to unnoticed and unanticipated social change because things come to a boil, then there's an explosion and the event makes news. However, the preceding chain of events that built up that pressure went unnoticed, which is something newspapers must look at more carefully.

Editors and journalists must make development news and news about social change newsworthy and such

stories must compete with sports, political news, scams, sensations, high society news or whatever else. They should relate development to the public's mind to see how such change and development processes impact their lives, if such happens. When it does happen, the whole web opens, but it's equally important if it doesn't happen. Very often, there's a big story in relating what happens as opposed to something that doesn't happen.

As the fourth estate, the press is accountable to the people as a wielder of power over them, as an exerciser of freedom of expression for and on behalf of society and as a recipient of the people's patronage. Practices of misinformation, disinformation and suppressing news and views can continue unchecked on a very large scale because most individuals don't exercise their fundamental right to obtain or receive correct information from the press.



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## Words of Wisdom



Parents and family elders are not providing good role models, either. Many adults spend their time chewing qat and watching satellite TV programs that represent the lowest common denominator, the children's recreational needs are mostly neglected, leaving them to wander off into the streets and mix with bad company.

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

OUR  
OPINION'Normal  
operating  
procedures'

According to U.S. military reports, the troops who participated in the deaths of Iraqi civilians in the town of Ishaqi in March were found to have followed 'normal operating procedures' when they attacked the house. This is not the only incident of its kind, and U.S. forces in Iraq still face scrutiny for the actions of marines in two other incidents in which civilians were killed. Last November, 24 civilians were slaughtered in Haditha, a town located in north-western Iraq. On April 26, an Iraqi man in the Baghdad suburb of Hamandiyah was killed by American forces. According to media reports, the victim was dragged from his house, shot, and a firearm was planted on his person. Two weeks ago a pregnant woman in labor and her cousin were killed by gunfire in Samarra when their car failed to stop at an American checkpoint on their way to a hospital.

A rule of thumb in the media industry has it that if one incident is reported there are many others of the same kind that have not yet reached the public. I believe this is the case in Iraq, particularly when actions known to result in civilian deaths are treated simply as 'normal operating procedures'. If these are normal procedures, I can not think of abnormal ones, or rather I do not dare to. Perhaps the lectures that soldiers will be required to attend on battlefield ethics in June will make a difference and lessen the possibility that American troops "snap" when they wage war on Iraqi civilians.

I am glad that the Iraqi government finally found that its limits of toleration had been reached concerning what constitutes acceptable action on the part of coalition forces occupying its land. At least, this is the impression that Baghdad seemed to convey to the world. With journalists reporting from the field, it would be difficult to try and turn the usual blind eye on the occupiers' conduct... or was it liberators?

Nadia Al-Sakkaf  
Editor-in-Chief

## Palestinians: Unite then fight

The Palestinian issue remains unsolved despite the recent growth of other tragic affairs. The issue is influenced by the feeble state of Arab emotions and thoughts on the topic, since taking into consideration the plight of the Palestinians inside their small homeland without any thought of their sufferings is futile. We fear that any bullets held in reserve may be used to kill friends instead of enemies and occupiers whose modus operandi is to kill and capture natives, demolish homes, and spread terror across Palestine, which adversaries would like to transform into a cemetery for Palestinian natives. Maliciously, enemies exploit the lack of discretion among Palestinians currently, which previously was



By: Dr. Abdulaziz  
Al-Maqaleh

the foremost quality that typified strugglers throughout years of confrontations and bloody clashes with the occupiers that have not ceased since the occupation began.

Many Arab, Islamic and global issues are provoking discord presently making observers feel endlessly perplexed. This perplexity only worsens with the Palestinian situation as internal and external factors continue to exacerbate the conflict. The Palestinian issue and its effects has been, and still is, the primary reason for what happens politically in Arab and Islamic nations, as well as to what happens to local Palestinians who are primarily concerned with the issue. Relationships between locals has raised concern, particularly as the Israeli whip of terrorism has inflicted casualties—both civilian and combatant—on the Palestinian side,

while its rockets make no distinction between Fateh and Hamas.

Differing viewpoints on issues like this are bound to occur and these issues necessitate increasing political and intellectual awareness among people and the establishment of a new era of proper democracy from which positive stands and sound viewpoints stem. Proper democracy is a must so that better solutions can be sought without reaching deadlocks or facing hurdles. With its various factions, the Palestinian Liberation Movement is merely the ideal exemplar of such a need for Proper Democracy. How is it possible for a mélange of viewpoints, backed by armed factions, to provide a road towards the attainment of liberation, while the destruction of the occupation regime remains a thorny task? Is the Palestinian Authority's frustration behind such a multitude of viewpoints? What kind of authority is the PA in any case as the occupation regime controls it? What would happen if

the Authority was liberated and the Palestinians supplanted the occupation regime and its panoptic monitoring apparatus?

Resolving the differences and disputes between government officials and those in the streets is the responsibility of the Palestinians themselves. Secondly, it is the duty of every Arab nationalist to alleviate the torment that ordinary citizens in the occupied land endure. Quick solutions to these differences and disputes will not only alleviate the daily miseries that Palestinians face, but will also help to provide an environment conducive to the escalation of the brave resistance against its adversaries and to confirm the permanence of the Palestinian strategy of confrontation with the occupation regime.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh is a prominent Yemeni poet and intellectual. He is the director of the Yemeni Center for Studies.

Questions & answers on  
the Arabs' reality (3-3)

The difference between the legitimate strife and that swerving from the right course is that the legitimate struggle has its own rules and codes of ethics and has its own many characteristics. More important of these characteristics are the unanimity, issuance of opinions from good and versed sources that are fully understanding the facts of life and religion as well as working to avert dangers and to subdue seditions and to support the nation's interests. Unfortunately, we have been experiencing exploitation of opinions in favor of and for political ends. Enemies managed to use those opinions as pretexts and excuses for the implementation of their concocted intentions and goals. The most apparent examples in this regard are what we witness at present of disasters in Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq.



By: Prof. Abdulaziz  
Al-Tarb

An answer to the question related to the first mistake in education to be corrected is the state of individualism and egoism dominating the education process. We have been suffering for long from these two plagues at all levels, both in the private and public sectors. The spirit of team work is absent from any work or project and the society of enemies of success is widening its circle. It is working on destroying any successful work; deform the image of any successful man and

to hinder the building of any project. We will end up as finished unless we abandon these two plagues and adopt the principle of teamwork that is harmonious and cohesive. Related to this is also the cause of absence of creativity. There are many causes for the absence of creativity which is a shameful aspect in our life. The mistakes committed over decades have resulted in the brain drain. It is a human, economic and scientific exhaustion unprecedented in any nation of the world. That has produced depletion of the water of life and spaces of hope for the youth got narrow. Other reasons begin with the ossified educational curricula, absence of intensive care, nonexistence of creation opportunities and loss of interest in establishment of research centers and allocation of huge appropriations for them as it is done in advanced countries. Another main reason is that of not keeping pace with the age of the revolution of technology of science and communication. That has led to this backwardness. There are now serious attempts to catch up with the march and reform the failure. Nevertheless, not to draw a special strategy for encouraging creativity and care for the talented would remain the fundamental factor of the absence of creation indefinitely.

This situation leads us to the question related to the role of the Arab media. We are now at the age of the media, especially that of satellite and internet. This has doubled the duties of media men and increased the danger of information in all walks of life particularly in the area of enlightenment and guidance and the formation of the society's personality, negatively and positively. He is very mistaken who thinks that the role of the media is confined to entertainment and conveyance of the piece of information and event. It is particularly so with regard to going too far in the spread of trivialities and rendering the media industry to a negative factor encouraging deviation and contributing to superficiality of brains and misleading the youth. The media are a goal and constructive role contributing to rectifying the mistakes and dissemination of knowledge. The media role is also to raise the level of audience and present the best as well as unifying the word and, fighting sedition and putting an end to those who use information as a Trojan horse to infiltrate into the nation's body for the spread of diseases.

Another important and urgent question is that related to the duty of the woman towards the society and the society's duty towards the woman. The woman constitutes half and more of the society. Her role defines her duties in bringing up generations and educating her children in a good way. She would encourage her children to go after science and knowledge and entertain commendable morals. An Arab poet once described the great role of the woman by indicating that the good care in bringing up the woman produces good generations. The woman is an essential knuckle in entity of the society, without it there is no renaissance in the soci-

ety. However, her role as a good mother must not cancel her other role in the society especially the social, scientific, cultural and charitable contributions as well as in decision-making. How come we brush her off this matter and then ask her to produce for us sensible human and good generation capable of shouldering the responsibility? Therefore this defect should be cured. Every individual has to shoulder his responsibility in carrying out his duties and gaining his rights. The woman is the pillar of the society, the family, the homeland and the nation. The situations will not be corrected and good unless she obtains her essential rights, which are very many, the religion of Islam has approved for her and gave the guarantee of dignified life and the distinguished role.

This is a little number of questions and answers. In each question there is a space for thousands of articles and each answer represents an in brief image on the reality and conditions of the nation, hoping that in submitting them there is a call for conducting detailed and frank dialogue on their meanings and expansion in deriving one thousand questions and one that may not be enough to explain the suffering and emphasis on the necessities of coming out of this dark tunnel where our nation is hiding.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb is an economist and a professor of Political Science. He is the head of a number of professional associations, such as the Arab Group for Investment and Development.

## Letters to the Editor

Wake-up call for the Department of  
Drug Control

It is a wake up call indeed. While I am still in a state of shock, I am confused by the fact that it could not have taken all that medicine prescribed by a physician without at least a little positive effect. The effect of the medicine was missing.

The pain I suffered and the sleepless nights were unforgivable. Well, I decided to approach the pharmacist who sold me the medicine for an explanation. I looked at him straight in his eyes for an answer as to why the medicine did not work. His response was that it was a cheap type of drug that I had used. However the expensive brand brings in quick relief, according to him. Oh me! While hiding my angry emotions, I told him I would pay anything to relieve the pain. The so-called pharmacist did not strike me at all as professional.

Incredible damage is being caused to public health. I gathered my strength and headed to the Department of Drug Control, taking with me the empty packs of pills which had no effect. I told them that I found the packs did not bear the name of origin of the country which manufactured the medicine. The responsible official was convinced that I had the right to take-up a case. I told him I am modest citizen and presume your institution has the mandate to correct things in the interest of public health but that they should not expect me to do anything more.

Ali Sherif  
alisherif50@hotmail.com

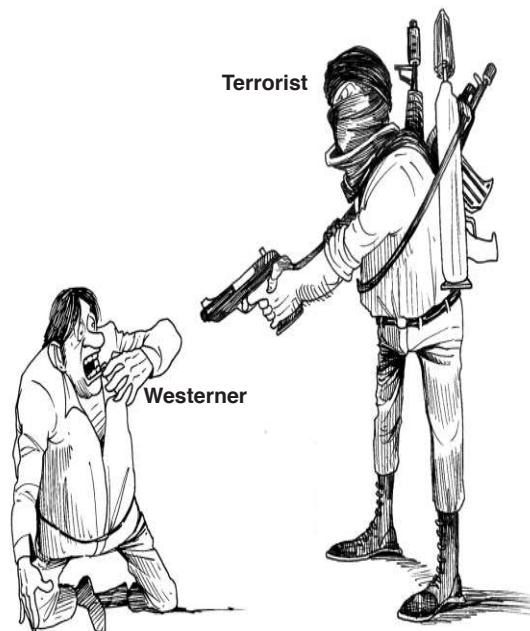
## Words of praise

It's been a while since I last read some articles from my beloved newspaper, the Yemen Times. I neither lose contact with it, nor did I forget

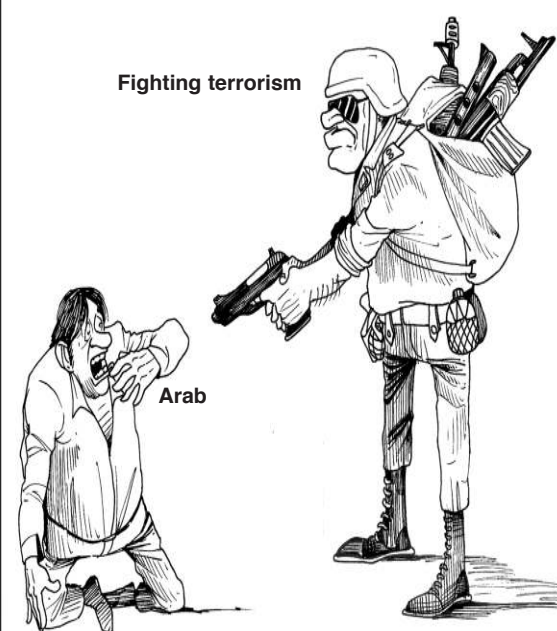
about it. The fact is that I was busy undertaking my studies here in America. If I did not say it before to any one, I am going to say it a million times that the Yemen Times did help my English develop a great deal. I used to write all the new words that I had no idea what they meant and look them up in the dictionary. Then I would use them in a kind of proper context kind of similar to the one I found them in. To tell the truth, up to date I still do the same thing every time I come across a word I do not know. Definitely I do that after I try to figure out what the word means in relation to the entire context of the paragraph. However, I can not really express my love and gratitude to Yemen Time's staff through these few words; I really have to write more. I am going to do that later on Inshallah.

Ali Al-Faqero-illallah  
firstali82@hotmail.com

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Managing Editor  
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Al-Saqqaf, Raidan  
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Patterson, Dana

## Offices

Aden Bureau:  
Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed  
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596  
Fax: +967 (2) 347056  
Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau:  
Imad Ahmed Abdullah  
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,  
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157  
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz  
Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

Hodeidah Bureau:  
Mazen Abdulghani Al-Saqqaf,  
Mobile: 711404122

Ibb correspondent:  
Nashwan Dammaj  
Mobile: (+967) 733840609,  
Email: naschuan2000@yahoo.com

Hadramout Correspondent:  
Saeed Al-Batati  
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# Yemen Press Review

By: Mohammed Khidhr

**Al-Wahdawi**  
weekly, organ of  
the Nasserite  
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Organization  
(NUO), 6 June  
2006.

## Main headlines

- NUO secretary general: the upcoming elections are the genuine passage to change
- Al-Houthi accuses the army of violating the citizens' rights and launching large arrests campaign, Renewal of armed confrontations between the Houthis and army in Saada
- In the case of al-Hamidi killing, a sheikh hands over one of the accused, the relatives demand handing over the gang
- Al-Wahdawi correspondent in Dhalie attacked
- The private sector raises one billion riyals to finance the president's electoral campaign
- Political security in Hudeida arrests a mosque Imam
- Dengue disease re-appears in Taiz governorate
- The national conference sticking to fight the culture of defeatism

Writer Ahmed Saleh Ghalib al-Faqieh says in his article our region is witnessing and organized effort directed by the United States of America, Israel and sometimes France aiming at dismemberment of the region's states. The method used in this effort is done through instigation of ethnic and sectarian groups that have grievances and complaints against their governments. They are then pushed to demand for political formulas that could lead to partition and divide the structure of those states due to the comprehensive weakness of those states and the hidden

failure in them.

In Egypt there are symptoms of sectarian sedition between the Muslims and the Copts and an ethnic disturbance between the Bedouins of Sinai and the rest of the Egyptians. In Iraq there are ethnic seditions between the Kurds and Arabs and Turkmens as well as sectarian disturbances between the Muslims and Christians and between the Sunnis and Shiites. In the Sudan there is an ethnic riot between the Africans and the Arabs and others between the north, the south, the west and the east and sectarian disturbances between the Muslims and the Christians. In the Arab Maghreb there are signs of disturbances between the Arabs and the Berber. In Yemen signs of seditions between the north and the south and signs of sectarian disturbance and in bargain there signs of riots between the Sunnis and the Shiites and the same situation in Saudi Arabia. In Syria there are disturbances between the Arabs and Kurds and sectarian ones between the Alawites and the Sunnis. In addition, in turkey there is an ethnic sedition between the Turks and the Kurds.

As for Iran there are signs of national seditions between the Azeri and the Persians and between the Arabs and Persians and Turkmens as well as a general disturbance between the Shiites and the Sunnis.

The states mentioned above govern those seditions through agitating them or calming them down in accordance with circumstances and their own political and economic interests in the region. However the ability of those countries to flare up and subdue those seditions is attributed to that the regimes in our region are unjust and many of them lack the popular legitimacy and most of them have not been able to build the modern state where the citizens are equal before the law and no control of one ethnic or

sectarian over the wealth and power enslaving the other citizens. This structural disorder would continue posing a threat to unity of and security and stability of those countries and consequently their economic progress in general.



**As-Sahwa weekly,**  
8 June 2006.

## Main headlines

- JMP refuses formation of polling committees, renews its sticking to reformation of elections process
- During the 4th teachers conference, sheikh al-Ahmar criticizes the decision of punishing protesters
- Yemeni-Saudi relations after the final signing of borders agreement
- Palestinian acceptance for conducting dialogue in Sana'a
- Condemned arresting their activists, JMP branches in the governorates demand their leadership for quick decision its presidential nominee
- Controversy on next journalists chairman and terms of candidacy

Writer Zaid al-Shami writes saying our state is still knocking at all doors in quest of loans and assistance. The history of our governments is associated with asking assistance from others. When politicians and media men talk about bilateral cooperation with other states the meaning is confined to what the friendly and sisterly countries would offer us of grants and loans.

Our problems do not lie in shortage of self resources but in the misconduct, in the corruption that kills everything, in the irrational management of public funds. We feel sad and pained for the image presented about our people and describing them as needy. If we do not help ourselves others' assistance would not benefit us.

Our state hastens its steps to join international, regional, Gulf, Asian and African organizations, goes everywhere presenting our problems and the difficulties we are facing and gets some assistance.

Today we want to join the Gulf Cooperation Council and the brothers in the Gulf States tell us frankly that our economy is need of qualification and its prerequisites are estimated at more than \$ 40 billion. Some of our officials have thought that the Gulf States will open their treasuries and pay the required amount in order to get the full membership of the GCC. However, the qualification begins with the wise governance and the clean and competent management, the independent judiciary and security and stability and all that should be done by us.



**26 September**  
weekly, organ of  
the Yemen Armed  
Forces, 8 June  
2006.

## Main headlines

- Emissary of Abu Mazin in Sana'a in a few days, Large-scale welcome for president Saleh's invitation to host Palestinian-Palestinian dialogue
- Palestinian leaders: We appreciate Yemen's efforts and keenness on realization of national reconciliation
- Increments in salaries of military pensioners, paid
- Conference on democracy, reform and freedom of expression to be held on 25 June, FM al-Qirbi: Arab countries, Asian, European countries and America to discuss democracy development and the woman role
- Saudi foreign minister: Saudi Arabia would do what it can to qualify Yemen's economy
- Iranian emissary discusses Iran's nuclear dossier in Sana'a
- Yemen takes part in the Arab-Turkish forum
- To review arrangements for donors conference, Yemeni-Gulf working team meets in Sana'a
- Five British military vessels on a visit to Aden
- Higher education minister calls on Al-Eman University to define its legal status

In its editorial the newspaper mentions that dialogue is the virtue of democracy and its basis for management of disputes and contradiction however great they are. Dialogue is the criterion of political maturity expressing high awareness in sensing the national responsibility

especially at this stage that necessitates dialogue by all partners of political life on the Yemeni arena. Putting all issues and topics the table of dialogue is the logical and objective alternative of tense stances and biddings that usually take the mind away from correct understanding of the other party and create a deformed image of the nature and volume of the issues and problems that may emerge as a natural result of in the contexts of the democratic process. Complications are a phenomenon caused by the feeling of owning the truth and a sense that what one says is correct and what the other says is wrong. This situation leads us to be in contradiction with democracy in its pluralist political concept and its conditions of respect of the opinion and other opinion and the work for providing the opportunity of expression as long as the end is the national interest. In this context comes president Ali Abdullah Saleh's repeated invitation to the political parties and forces to the dialogue table and response of the opposition parties to it means there is a common comprehension of the necessity of dialogue and mutual realization of this stage's dictates at a time the country is ion the threshold of the presidential and local elections scheduled in September.



**Al-Nidaa weekly,**  
7 June 2006.

## Main headlines

- The president meets the five members of the JMP leadership
  - Described as dual propaganda, Official campaign on awareness against corruption
  - Al-Kahili appeals to the president and interior ministry for rapid action to help release his kidnapped son
  - 330 sits-in staged by motorcyclists
  - Medical sources in Taiz mention about disappearance of medical apparatuses from Al-Jumhuri hospital
- Writer Abdulbari Tahir says in an article presently there is preparedness for holding an election of a new chairman for the journalists following the resignation of their chairman Mahboob Ali from his post.

The writer says since the establishment of the Yemen unity on 22 May 1990 and unification of the Journalists Syndicate, the issue of the syndicate law has become one of the problems on which argument and dispute are focused. While the state is keen to re-draft the law in a way increasing the narrow margin of democracy and contributing to strangling the freedoms and confiscation of opinion, the journalists and their syndicate refuse any amendments to the worst of the law No. 25 for the year 1990, or to legislate an alternative law that double the chains on press freedoms and targets the democratic margin the present law contains.

The conferences of the unified syndicate since June 7, 1990 and those that followed the legislation were always present strongly. If the main cause behind the assumption of Mahboob Ali the chairmanship of the syndicate was the accepting of conducting amendments on the press law, the passing on of five draft laws is an important background for his resignation. Chairman Mahboob Ali was more prone to the required amendments and closer to accept some of the proposed drafts. On the other hand, the syndicate's council and the journalists were very far from accepting amendments or a law restricting press freedoms and outflanking the narrow margin that the present law provides, despite of many restrictions and punitive article it contains. Resignation of the former chairman of journalists has opened he door to dialogue between the governance and the syndicate council. In a friendly meeting held lately between the prime minister Abduqader Bajammal and the syndicate's council there has been achieved an almost an accord determining the elections and competition for the post of the chairman and completion of the council of its period according to the basic law of the syndicate.

The main task of the journalists is to be keen on democratic competition on the basis of programs the candidates' commitment to rejection of the five proposed drafts and to commit themselves to the decisions of the journalists general assemblies in Sana'a, Aden and Hadramout.

## COMMON SENSE

### The carnage in Iraq and elsewhere: The heretical Zerqawi phenomenon

With all the propaganda leading to the horrendous invasion of Iraq and the lies and deceptions that came with it, one of the most perplexing phenomenon that emerged out of the invasion was the Zerqawi phenomenon. Abu Musab Al-Zerqawi



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

was no more than a heretofore unknown gangster and opportunist, who saw in death a lucrative contracting career - a way to propel himself to international stardom notwithstanding all the damage and corruptions he introduced into Islam and the genuine right to resist aggression and foreign occupation.

For all the sadness that occupation has brought to Iraq, undoubtedly what Zerqawi brought to Iraq (and elsewhere in the area) was by far more ugly and sadistic than just giving the occupier a healthy excuse to carry on with the mayhem they have brought on to Iraq and the region.

No one is suggesting that Abu Musab is a direct creation of this unholy occupation of Iraq, in which hundreds, if not thousands of innocent Iraqis and other Arabs and Moslems, as well as non-Arabs and non-Moslems lost their lives. But for sure, the occupation did create the venue that allowed the likes of Zerqawi and other hoodlums to take the limelight in a bloody escapade of death and wanton blood spilling that defied explanation and reasoning. Surely, as an occupier the United States and its make-shift coalition cannot declare innocence for such a tragic sequence of horrendous bloodletting that turned the stomach of all peoples with any decent degree of religious or moral inclinations.

Abu Musab defied and annulled all that Islam brought with it in terms of moral ideology and surely defied all the understood rules of resistance to foreign occupation.

Islam does not relish in the bloodshed that Zerqawi proudly boasted of undertaking, and there is ample reference that would put Zerqawi in the bottom pits of hell for all his cor-

ruption of Islamic moral dictates, and the death he unleashed, not just against non-Moslems, but against Moslems as well. That Zerqawi had to be killed by the very forces that

set the grounds for his emergence is surely an ominous sign that the Al-Mighty has His own ways of dealing with heretics. One really expects all Moslems to puke at the kind of bloodshed that Zerqawi advocated for and practiced. In addition, fomenting sectarian strife among Moslems is another attribute of Zerqawi that is anathema to Islam. Putting it simply, Zerqawi is as anathema to Islam as Sharon, Bush and Olmert combined!

Moslems must understand that it is really up to them to insure that the likes of Zerqawi are never allowed to disseminate their doctrine of hatred and lack of sanctify of human life and the world must be made to understand that Moslems have never and will never find places in their hearts for the kind of resistance adopted by such morons, who equate glory with the wanton and gory displays of bloodletting that defies any semblance of human conscience.

Moslems throughout the world know well that there is no glory nor service to Allah by the mere spilling of blood in a random and incoherent manner that defies any moral persuasion and conscience. Moreover, it is time for Moslems to realize that the kind of rhetoric followed by Zerqawi and his mentors (whether it is Bin Laden or Dhawahiri), as corny as it already appears to most knowledgeable Moslems, is an unhealthy projection of Islam that needs to be corrected, before not just non Moslems are misled to believe about Islamic doctrine, but before they become part and parcel to the beliefs of many misguided Islamic youth, who have become the medians of death propagated by heretical morons of the likes of Zerqawi.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.

## SILVER LINING

### The Hadramawt as Yemen's gateway to investment

Last week I paid a visit to Mukalla in the Hadramawt to cover the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council meetings. I was really impressed by the improvement the city is making. Good roads have been built. Streets have been cleaned-up and beautified. The Khour, or water route running through the city, is impressive. I have been told this route was used as a sewer formerly, but now is has been transformed into a beautiful waterway moderating the hot weather of the city.

Celebrating Unification Day last year in Mukalla was a driving force behind the improvements the city has seen, as the political leadership wanted to show that Unification has been positive for the city.

However, I argue that improvements in Mukalla are not due solely to political decision making in Sana'a. Rather, a committed governor, Abduqader Hilal, has initiated many changes himself. Hilal has shown competence and commitment in doing his work and has established good contacts with Hadhrami businessmen leading to increasing investment in the city. Hilal talked to journalists about the ongoing activities in his governorate, and audience members could see that the man has got a vision of how to lead the governorate. The people of Hadramawt truly respect Hilal and feel that he is serious and wants to make a difference there.

We know that the Hadramawt contains the largest petroleum deposits of any governorate in Yemen. Many outstanding businessmen in Saudi Arabia trace their roots to the area.. Even though Sana'a pays special attention to the area, the fact that Mukalla has a competent leader is an important element for its success.

We have seen what Ahmed Al-Kuhlani had done in Sana'a and we expect him to continue working with the same zeal in Aden. The same thing was done by Dr. Yahia Al-Shuaibi when he governed Aden and we hope he will continue in the same manner in Sana'a. Such examples of competent and able



By: Mohammed  
Al-Qadhi

people show that commitment and willingness to make a change is very important.

I believe that the Hadramawt can be the Yemeni gateway to the Gulf countries, principally to Saudi Arabia where businessmen of Hadhrami origin can bring in big investment projects. For attracting such investors, we

need law enforcement, transparency, and an independent judiciary which all contribute to the creation of a more favorable environment for investment. Even such changes are made to enforce the rule of law, foreign investors will find Yemen an attractive place to bring their money.

But, what is annoying to any visitor to the governorate are the large walled-in masses of land. These pieces of land belong to influential tribal and military figures coming from the Hadramawt. They were not purchased but donated by notables at the center of power in Yemen. What is interesting is that even pieces of land on the top of hills have been encircled while the people of the Hadramawt have never thought of living on these hills and have preferred the valleys for generations.

The Hadramawt is not an ordinary governorate and has produced a number of well-known politicians, businessmen, men of letters, poets, musicians, singers... etc. It is also known for its peaceful people gifted with entrepreneurial minds. I was impressed by the Al-Mutawasityah school and its library that date back to the 1940s. At the wall of the school, which is now a museum, one can see the list of graduating classes of students, including Ali Salem Al-Beidh, Haider Al-Attass, Faraj bin Ghanim and many others who ran the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen prior to Unification in 1990 and since the 1994 civil war have been tagged as secessionists. It is a pity to see such well-educated and experienced figures are now tainted exiles.

Mohammed Al-Qadhi is a Yemeni journalist and columnist.  
mhalqadhi@hotmail.com

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يسكنه فسيح جناته وأن يلهم أهله وذوية الصبر والسلوان....

ولا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله العلي العظيم

إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون

هيئة تحرير وموظفي صحيفة يمن تايمز



# Old City of Sana'a: Ancient metropolitan planning amid modern disorder

By: Mustafa Ragih

The sa'ilah (water course) surrounding the Old City doesn't give a creatively new picture of Sana'a city. Rather, it provides a platform from which a foreign tourist or passerby can contemplate a city that has preserved its brilliance throughout millennia.

Earlier, the self-motivated individual had to delve into neighborhoods and building spaces to rediscover the warmth of an ancient civilization and examine its inside.

Now, the sa'ilah does nothing but attract one to the gorgeous house fronts lining its banks in calmness and elegance. The scene must be completed inside.

The metered Raha taxi driver wasn't comfortable with a passenger's request for him to slow down. Simultaneously, he turned up the volume of the cassette player, giving vent to the voice and melody of Yemeni singer Mohammed Sa'd Abdullah, who best performs Sana'a songs:

*May Allah, with health and safety, let me approach my pretty beloved,*

*That beloved who has beauty, handsomeness and all that is nice.*

*All is dross that is neither Sana'a nor its people. Sana'a has every art:*

*Water and the greenery of its hills, filled with prettiness.*

*There, time laughs much at the tears of clouds.*

*May Allah send much rain to that abode.*

The striking impression of a passerby is the apparent incongruity between two scenes, those called old and new. As soon as one passes Shu'oob Bridge, the characteristics of old architecture fade away, melting into modern building fronts in a horrific view of atrocity, randomness, disorder and tastelessness.

This is no nostalgia for bygone days. However, it is a matter of a particularly modern metropolitan style manifested inside the Old City of Sana'a disappearing in the concrete and stone structures called the new city of Sana'a.

The first type of architecture is called new, but it incorporates all signs of modernism and order. Ironically, the second is called modern while it has nothing to do with modernism. It can be described as a Frankenstein that doesn't hold the qualities of the old, such as its dense meanings, nor does it hold qualities of the modern, except for the faceless concrete. There is no planning or harmony, thus, it doesn't reflect anything of the personality of the place or its dwellers.

Dwellers of the new city are a mixture of individuals gathered in the city without full integration. Their gathering doesn't lead to any sort of agreement on certain modern values that distinguish their gathering. When one contemplates the new city of Sana'a, he will find it based demographically on localism, as those from a certain area of Yemen gath-



A view from the Old City of Sana'a: the space is utilized efficiently and wonderfully.

er in one place in the city.

When one looks at the Old City, he will find everything in order. From the sa'ilah's bank, one views the city but finds nothing inharmonious and nothing disturbing the scene's aesthetics, completeness, homogeneity or constituents.

Ventilation and lighting inside the rooms of Old Sana'a houses form the structure's basis, as though mainly erected to supply dwellers with air and illumination. This knowledge not only is the privilege of bricklayers, as all citizens share it and consider it a truism.

There's no place for isolation when constructing outside space. Individuals divided their space as though ordering their private lives. Gardens are an essential component of every neighborhood and miqshamas (vegetable fields) are part of this green pattern.

The space of the Old City of Sana'a is "spacious" with many amenities like gardens, bath houses, metropolitan design, etc. In contrast, the space of new Sana'a is overcrowded with shops and randomly built houses, high walls and hill-occupying military camps that look utterly ugly. The space of the new portion of the city is filled with dust, pavements and heavy bus traffic throughout the day.

Constructing the city's spaces reflects citizens' thoughts and their ideas about their life. There is no possibility for human interaction and such possibilities are close to zero as long as there remain few gardens, parks, theaters, swimming pools, cultural and sports clubs, etc.

The community's elite keep their distance and construct their own life beyond high fences: private swimming pools, gardens, tennis courts and the like. They seek to increase the gap between them and everyone else by further heightening their walls. This is a manifestation of a closed community wherein "walls" are built at various levels.

Human relationships become sophisticated in such an atmosphere. Amid walls, relationships become suspicious and distrustful – a daily gossip marathon.

In line with its architectural superiority reflecting an elevated pattern of human relationships, the Old City of Sana'a has produced a highly magnificent artistic mode – Sana'a singing. With its own rituals and melodious rhythms, it's an art whose cadence and tunes express a civilized life and open-mindedness. Life is captured there and its moments utilized to the very last.

Such art constitutes valuable material, but becomes hackneyed and distorted in



The culture of installing high walls adds to the ugliness of new Sana'a and reflects social barriers.

poor performances. However, nobody has proposed the idea of establishing an institute for Sana'a singing to preserve it and save it from extinction.

**Sana'a housing system, past and present**

Historical references show that the Sana'a housing system deteriorated after 1962, degrading from previous stages. This degradation alienated the city from its former identity not only in terms of metropolitan planning, but also environ-

mentally and socially.

It would've been good if such separation marked the birth of better manifestations consistent with the age. If so, such change could have been appreciable, even if it transcended traditional metropolitan planning. However, the reality of the housing system deteriorated, disregarding the environment and humans.

Although humans tend toward modernism and renewal, present housing and environmental reality necessitates a return to the traditional metropolitan housing system adopted in the Old City of Sana'a – with all its environmental balance, social relations, good neighboring, cooperation and intimacy – provided that such a return doesn't deprive citizens of the advantages of modernism and age-dictated renewal.

Tradition shouldn't fetter movement or advancement because the population of Sana'a now grows in eight months approximately as much as its net accumulation since its founding in 1962.

**The historic city of Old Sana'a**

Located on a rectangular plateau in the center of a chain of high mountains, most notably Nuqum, Sana'a is an ancient metropolis with an elevation of 2,200 meters and an area of 184 hectares. The city dates back to the time of Noah's son Shem, who is mentioned in divine books; thus, it is considered among the world's oldest cities.

In pre-Islamic ages, Sana'a not only was an important metropolis, but also a trade station and a famous Arab area marketplace. It continued to hold the same reputation in Islamic times.

Under Islam, Sana'a took on new characteristics when some of the Prophet Mohammed's (pbuh) companions arrived and established one of the oldest mosques, the Grand Mosque. Al-Razi and other historians state that Sana'a became perfected under Islam, as its wealth increased and those from various areas came to it.

Sana'a expanded at various times, one of which was under the reign of the 11th century Hamdanite state, as well as the Ayyubide. Al-Nahreen neighborhood was added to the city's western side, at the southern end of which the sultan's headquarters were established. To the present day, it still bears the name "Bustan Al-Sultan" (Al-Sultan's Garden), across which the "Al-Ghail Al-Aswad" (Black Spring) ran.

During the 16th century's first Ottoman era, another neighborhood was constructed on the western side called "Bir Al-Azab" (Al-Azab's Well), in the eastern part of which Al-Bakeeriyah Mosque was constructed in the Ottoman style.

During their last presence, opposite the city's wall, the Ottomans constructed buildings differing from the prevailing style. They were used as barracks and named "Al-'Urdhi."

The Old City of Sana'a experienced

## The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam 33

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

For and out, above, below,  
'Tis nothing but a magic  
shadow-show,  
Play'd in a box whose candle is  
the sun,  
Round which we phantom  
figures come and go.

changes, renewals, expansion and contraction that can't be traced accurately. However, what is certain is that the ancient city has withstood wars, sieges and catastrophes throughout the ages. It remains a living landmark of original Arab-Islamic civilization with a high level of artistic quality yoking crafts-

manship and architectural aesthetics, thus giving itself ceaseless life.

Throughout the ages, Sana'a has remained a significant metropolis bearing the past's features in its palaces, wall, mosques and marketplaces. It has the right to pride itself on being one of the most majestic cities in the world.

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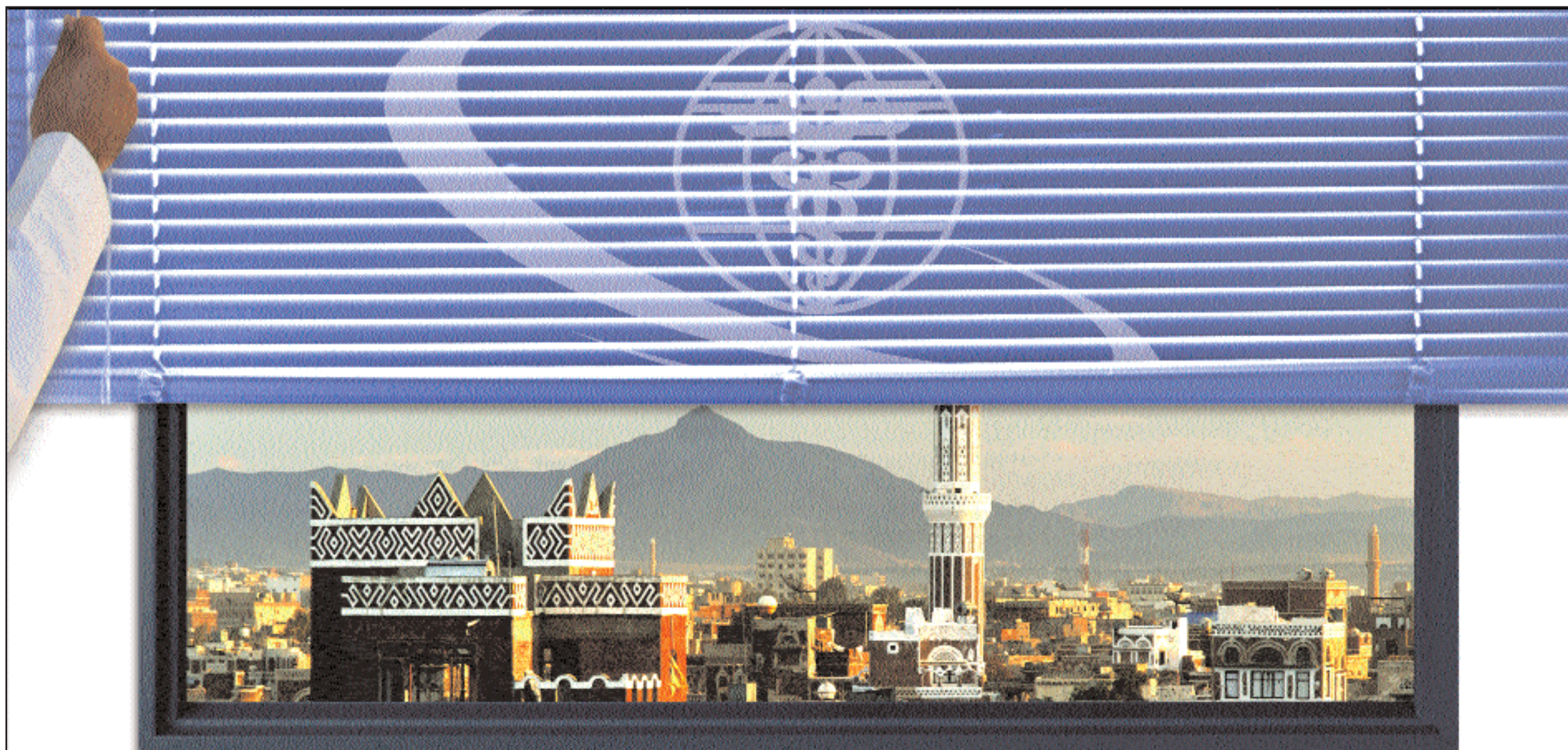
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# Female genital mutilation, the taboo subject

By: Amel Al-Ariqi  
amel11ariqi@yahoo.com

**F**emale genital mutilation (FGM) is a very serious subject but also a very sensitive issue in Yemen. Many people dare not speak about it, while some would rather forget it, claiming that it's not a real problem in Yemen. However, such denial doesn't prevent the fact that many international organizations classify Yemen as one of at least 28 nations worldwide that practice FGM.

According to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which funded the 1997 Yemen Demographic Mother and Child Health Survey, 23 percent of Yemeni women have undergone FGM procedures. In sparsely-populated Red Sea and Aden coastal regions, the figure rises to 69 percent, compared with 15 percent in the heavily-populated highlands and five percent in plateau and desert regions.

**“Most educated Yemenis denied the custom's existence, attributing it only to limited coastal pockets of populations where African immigrants live.”**

The Pacific Institute for Women's Health (PIWH) conducted a 2000 study on FGM, focusing on five Yemeni governorates – Sana'a city, Hodeidah, Hadramout, Aden and Al-Mahara. The study, which included 2,163 women, sought to determine the extent of the practice and analyze its attitudinal and physiological aspects.

The PIWH study indicated that more than 97 percent of respondents in Hodeidah had experienced FGM, 96 percent in Al-Mahara and Hadramout, 82 percent in Aden and 45.5 percent in Sana'a.

Some professionals who read the study were shocked and disputed the figures, saying that the areas where interviews were conducted had a high percentage of immigrant populations, leading to inflated numbers of women who had FGM performed on them.

However, Soheir Stolba, Ph.D., who worked in Yemen in this field, confirmed, “Most educated Yemenis denied the custom's existence, attributing it only to limited coastal pockets of populations where African immigrants live. My continued work on this phenomenon over a six-year period revealed that FGM is deeply rooted in Yemen.”

**Female circumcision and Takmeed**  
Often referred to as ‘female circumcision,’ FGM includes all procedures



A Study says 23 percent of Yemeni women have undergone FGM.

involving partial or total removal of external female genitalia or other injury to female genital organs.

Stolba referred to another practice performed on female genitalia in Yemeni coastal areas, known locally as Al-Takmeed. On the fourth day after a baby girl's birth, her mother or an older female household member prepares a compress to use on the genitalia. The compress is a soft cotton material inside of which heated salt and/or sand is placed, along with oil and herbs.

The mother heats the compress and places it on the infant's genitalia, pressing repeatedly for about an hour. This continues for a period varying between 40 days and four months. The procedure's physical effect may affect nerve endings and decrease sexual excitement of the girl or woman on whom it is performed.

According to UNICEF, FGM still is practiced on approximately two million girls annually. Amnesty International estimates that some 135 million girls worldwide have undergone some form of FGM.

**Immediate complications include severe pain, shock, hemorrhaging, urine retention, ulcerating the genital region and injuring adjacent tissue.**

#### Health consequences of FGM

FGM's immediate and long-term health consequences vary according to the type and severity of the procedure performed. Immediate complications include severe pain, shock, hemorrhaging, urine retention, ulcerating the genital region and injuring adjacent tissue. Bleeding and infection can cause death.

According to Stolba, infection results from using unsterile cutting instruments like razor blades or scissors and improperly treated tetanus infection can be lethal. Unsterile instruments also may contribute to the spread of HIV, as in some African nations. Additionally, urine and feces easily can infect the wounds.

Most cutting is done without anesthesia in an unsterile environment, such as a girls' home (a secluded hut) or a traditional barber shop. Even when local anesthesia is used, pain in the highly sensitive clitoral area returns within two or three hours of the operation.

Swelling resulting from trauma in front of the vulva may cause a girl to withhold urinating for hours, fearing a burning sensation and/or pain. According to Stolba, this also may lead to or exacerbate kidney and bladder infections.

Regarding psychosexual and psychological health, FGM may leave a lasting mark on the life and mind of the woman who has experienced it. In the longer term, women may suffer feelings of incompleteness, anxiety and depression.

The most common complications are scarring and reproductive tract infections (RTIs), which often are ignored and unreported by women for fear of being accused of infidelity or lack of cleanliness. Stolba noted that women tolerate the pain and often experience complications resulting from repeated RTIs.

A newly-published (June 2) World Health Organization (WHO) study showed that women who've had FGM are significantly more likely to experience difficulties during childbirth and their babies are more likely to die as a result of the practice.

Serious complications during childbirth include the need to have a Caesarean section, dangerously heavy bleeding after the baby's birth and prolonged hospitalization following the birth. The study found that the degree of complications increased according to the extent and severity of FGM.

“As a result of this study, for the first time, we have evidence that deliveries among women subjected to FGM are significantly more likely to be complicated and dangerous,” said Joy Phumaphi, Assistant Director-General of Family and Community Health at WHO.

The study also found that FGM put women's babies in substantial danger during childbirth, as researchers found that there was an increased need to resuscitate infants whose

mothers had FGM.

“This research was conducted in hospitals where the obstetric staff is used to dealing with women who have had FGM. The consequences for the countless women and babies who deliver at home – without the help of experienced staff – are likely to be even worse,” added WHO's Dr. Paul Van Look, Director of the Special Program for Human Reproduction Research, which organized the study.

#### Who and where?

Returning to the PIWH study, many Yemeni parents take their daughters to trained medical personnel, as educated parents able to pay the high price of physicians prefer using them. “Many parents prefer using physicians or nurses because they want the procedure performed under hygienic conditions,” the study mentioned.

However, another study revealed that trained medical personnel perform only 10 percent of such operations. Women specialized in ear piercing, birthing attendants, rayissas (women skilled in female circumcision) and relatives conduct most FGM procedures.

According to the study, the procedure is conducted 95 percent of the time at home and mothers are the primary decision-makers in determining if their daughters will undergo it.

**Stolba referred to another practice performed on female genitalia in Yemeni coastal areas, known locally as Al-Takmeed.**

USAID's Demographic and Health Survey found that nearly all reported procedures (97 percent) occurred during the first month of life. Health facilities housed only three percent of these, while 97 percent were performed at home, with a traditional birthing attendant (68 percent) or elderly female relative (19 percent) usually performing the procedure. Nurses, midwives and doctors perform seven percent of FGM procedures, whereas barbers perform five percent. The usual tool is a razor blade, although scissors are used 20 percent of the time.

#### Why FGM still is practiced

Studies reveal that FGM is not indigenous to Yemen. In the past, Yemeni populations didn't practice FGM, so its history in Yemen seems to be recent, but there is no definitive data on such history. However, many Yemenis believe recent migrations from Africa, particularly from Somalia and other East African nations, to Yemeni coastal towns have led to the custom's spread in large cities like Aden and Hodeidah.

The practice found fertile ground in Yemeni conservatism, with Yemeni society creating a new form of FGM called Takmeed.

**(WHO) study showed that women who've had FGM are significantly more likely to experience difficulties during childbirth and their babies are more likely to die as a result of the practice.**

“The reasons for female genital cutting vary from one place to another, even within the same country,” Stolba said. The most common reasons given in Yemen are cleanliness and religious/cultural tradition, as well as a common belief that the practice serves to temper female sexual urges.

“Those who support the practice claim it's an important part of the ritual of becoming a woman. Some groups suggest it has religious significance, especially common among some conservative Muslims. However, it's important to note that there is no doctrinal basis for female genital cutting in either Islam or Christianity. Furthermore, there are no Qur'anic citations that support this practice,” she explained.

#### Challenges and efforts

FGM is not a priority issue for any Yemeni group, as men don't talk about the custom and women seem content with the situation because they think it's sanctioned by religion. Not many choose to talk about FGM politically or developmentally due to fear from conservative segments of the population. Moreover, there's no law against FGM in Yemen; however, a January 9, 2001 ministerial decree prohibits the practice in both government and private health facilities.

Despite public sensitivity about the issue, campaigns to eliminate FGM are being conducted in some regions. In a departure from the past, some of the largest public and private NGOs devoted to women's issues are run-

ning public awareness campaigns.

“Conservative groups have rejected international assistance to fight female genital cutting. Some consider foreign funding for public education initiatives a form of meddling or a conspiracy to cast a negative image on non-Western cultures. Others defend the practice and condemn international and local organizations that advocate eliminating it,” Stolba noted.

“It's crucial for local groups where FGM is practiced to be involved and advocate its elimination. Outsiders' interference can only make matters worse if they're not working closely with local groups. However, outsiders may work collaboratively with local women's organizations to facilitate access to funding or provide technical assistance, if needed,” she added.

“It's important to realize that the battle to eliminate female genital cutting is a process that starts with educating parents and community leaders about its negative health impact on girls' and women's health,” Stolba emphasized.

**the procedure is conducted 95 percent of the time at home and mothers are the primary decision-makers in determining if their daughters will undergo it.**

According to her, this process can be conducted by increased funding to government health care agencies to educate and train health care practitioners, increased public education efforts by NGOs and other entities and sensitive yet informative media campaigns. “In time, this practice can be eliminated gradually” she added.

An important aspect of such effort will be to take this campaign to conservative rural areas via government health care practitioners at rural clinics, training and re-educating traditional midwives and community education efforts by NGOs working in rural areas.

## Appeal for funding help

Seven-month-old Abdulsalam Shaya'a Al-Jabri has suffered from complex congenital heart disease since birth.

According to a medical report issued by Al-Thawra Hospital in Sana'a, the child needs cardiac surgery. As there are no facilities for such treatment in Yemen, the report recommended treating the infant abroad.

The child's family, which is experiencing difficult circumstances, is appealing to good citizens to help cover expenses of his traveling abroad and his medication.

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## French photographer exhibits Yemen photos

By: Yemen Times Staff

**D**e Xavier Lambours exhibited 80 photos in an exhibition that kicked off June 6 at the Henri de Monfreid Cultural Center (French Cultural Center) in Sana'a. The collection depicts the French photographer's experience in Yemen, which began with his first visit in 1975. Back in France, his Yemen photos allowed him to have a career in a photo establishment.

"At that time, Yemen was a new place for Europeans," he recollected. "It wasn't easy to come. I came as an unguided tourist and traveled by taxi with locals, which I liked, because I wanted to travel on my own and get close to Yemenis."

Arriving in Sana'a, Lambours visited various other cities including Sa'ada, Jibla, Ibb, Thula, Hodeidah, Bait Al-Faqeeh, Zabid, Mokha and Taiz. His second visit occurred in July 2004.

"Yemen has changed a lot now," he noted. "In 1975, the population of Sana'a was estimated at 50,000 and they were mainly in the Old City, whereas in 2004, the Old City appeared



Lambours with one of his photos.



(Left) A view at Al-Tahrir Square, showing part of Bab Al-Sabah taken by Lambours in 1975. (Right) The same scene as taken in 2006.

very small to me in the wide expanse of the new part. The whole city houses millions of people."

However, he indicated that Yemeni customs remain the same, as does its people's mentality in that they are very friendly and welcome guests.

### Qat a major threat

Lambours mentioned that qat is more prevalent now than before. "It not only affects people, but also the environment. We find that plastic bags are ubiquitous and this is detrimental to the environment. It's serious pollution," he added.

In his photos, Lambours doesn't mean to accommodate tourist attractions. Rather, he captures realistic moments from the streets, worksites, landscapes, mountainscapes, etc.

### Black and white and color photos

Half of Lambours' 80-photograph collection is black and white while the other half is color. "The black and white are classical. In Yemen, I think I've done everything I wanted in black and white and now I've begun using color. Black and white makes certain scenes stronger and makes it easy to go to the hearts of people. Using color, I go to another world. When people see my photos, I want them to enter my world. When they go to Yemen, I want them to recognize my view of Yemen. It's my personal view of Yemen," he explained.

However, Lambours said he still is discovering the right color for Yemen. His choice of scenes is impulsive – when he sees something really compelling, he snaps it. "The scene must be worthy," he noted.

Lambours still is working on a photo-supported book written by him and others. Photos to be included mostly aren't tourist-oriented because he chooses to depict real people and show different things.

"In beautiful books, we provide the same boringly beautiful things, but I want to offer an interesting book. I want people to ask questions," he explained.

Lambours is interested in the richness of Yemeni culture, a fact he encountered during his trips to areas like Munabih in northernmost Yemen and the Isle of Socotra. He particularly was interested when he discovered Aden. "It's a melting pot with its own distinctive features," he said. He intends taking many photos in the Old City of Sana'a because he's concerned that it might change.

One of Lambours' observations about Yemenis is their openness to other cultures and peoples. For him, the role of art is to bring people closer to each

other. "We must learn to live together and stop wars. I dream of a world where people are together, accept differences and learn from each other."

Lambours concluded with a wish to return to Yemeni locales like Hodeidah governorate's Jabal Bura', as well as discover areas like Al-Jawf and Shabwa.

Lambours is a professional photographer who has shot a fictional movie and participated in photo exhibitions.



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