

Seminar
WHY YEMEN MATTERS IN 2014 AND BEYOND
and
Lecture
YEMEN AFTER THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE
CONFERENCE, WHAT NEXT?



Monday 17 February 2014

Organised by

The British-Yemeni Society

and

London Middle East Institute, SOAS

SEMINAR: WHY YEMEN MATTERS IN 2014 AND BEYOND

In November 2011, an agreement brokered by the GCC brought an end to Yemen's tumultuous uprising. The National Dialogue Conference, which concluded in January after almost a year of deliberations, opened a window of opportunity for change, bringing Yemen's main political forces together with groups that had been politically marginalised. Yet, the risk of collapse is serious, and, if Yemen is to remain a viable state it must address numerous political, social and economic challenges. To mark the publication of the book *Why Yemen Matters: a Society in Transition*, which discusses the country's major crises, the British-Yemeni Society and the London Middle East Institute at SOAS have organised a half-day seminar with the support of the MBI Al Jaber Foundation.

14.00-15.30

SESSION 1: SOCIAL ASPECTS

Chair: Dr Noel Brehony

Rural Society: Economic Situation and Potential

Helen Lackner (British-Yemeni Society)

People and Politics: Challenges and Opportunities Surrounding Yemen's Demographic Growth

Professor Allan Hill (Southampton University)

Urban Issues: Some Anthropological Observations

Dr Franck Mermier (CNRS Paris)

15.30-16.00

Tea Break

16.00-17.30

SESSION 2: CURRENT POLITICAL DILEMMAS

Chair: Helen Lackner

Tribes in Yemen's Power Equation

Dr Khaled Fattah (Lund University)

Perspectives on Sa'dah

Dr Gabriele vom Bruck (SOAS, University of London)

The Southern Question

Dr Noel Brehony (British-Yemeni Society)

BRITISH-YEMENI SOCIETY ANNUAL LECTURE

18.00-19.00

**Ambassador Amat al-Alim Alsoswa
YEMEN AFTER THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE
CONFERENCE, WHAT NEXT?**

Amat al-Alim Alsoswa is one of the most senior female Yemeni politicians. She was a member of the State Building Committee of the National Dialogue Conference in 2013, and chaired its subcommittee tasked with the design of the Constitutional Drafting Committee. Between 2005 and 2012 she was UN Assistant Secretary-General responsible for the UNDP Bureau for Arab States, where she initiated the highly acclaimed Arab Human Development Reports. In Yemen, she was both the first woman minister and the first Minister for Human Rights from 2003, having previously been Yemen's first Ambassador to the Netherlands and other countries. She was Deputy Director of Programmes at Sana'a TV between 1984 and 1986, and she also taught Politics at Sana'a University. She is a recipient of the W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award, and was appointed an Officer of the Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur of the French Republic.

The British Yemeni Society is a UK charity that seeks to advance public education and knowledge of the history, geography, economy and culture of Yemen through lectures, conferences, the publication of an annual journal and, when conditions permit, visits to Yemen. In January 2013 it organised, in association with the London Middle East Institute at SOAS, a major academic conference on Yemen – the first held in the UK for over a decade. 350 people took part and 40 papers were presented. It plans to follow this up with further conferences, seminars and workshops. The book *Why Yemen Matters: a Society in Transition* draws on the papers presented at the 2013 conference and is intended to help those involved and interested in the future of Yemen to have a deeper understanding of the country's problems and assist in finding solutions.

The British Yemeni Society is inaugurating a series of annual public lectures to reach out to a wider audience as part its objectives of increasing knowledge of Yemen in the UK. Each year the BYS will invite a distinguished Yemeni or Briton to speak on a topic of current interest. The completion of the National Dialogue Conference is a significant milestone in Yemen's attempts, with strong international support, to build a better future for its people. The Society is delighted that Amat al-Alim Alsoswa has agreed to give the first of these lectures, taking as her theme Yemen after the National Dialogue Conference.

The British Yemeni Society welcomes new members. Further details about the society and how to join are at <http://www.al-bab.com/bys/>

The BYS Yemen Seminar & Annual Lecture

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Lecture: YEMEN AFTER THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE CONFERENCE, WHAT NEXT?

Venue

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre
SOAS University of London
Thornhaugh Street
Russell Square
London WC1H 0XG

Admission

Seminar: £10

£5 members of the British-Yemeni Society
students free

Lecture: Open to the public

Organised by

The British-Yemeni Society (BYS)
and the London Middle East Institute, SOAS (LMEI)

Supported by

MBI Al Jaber Foundation

Registration

Registration at: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/events/>



The British-Yemeni Society

