

EDITORIAL

大公社評

Imposing heavy punishment to deter "intermediaries"

A 29-year-old Mainland woman surnamed Xu was sentenced to 10 months' imprisonment by a Hong Kong court yesterday, for violating her condition of stay and making false claims to the Immigration Department about arranging for pregnant Mainland women to give birth in Hong Kong. This is the first time a court has jailed an "intermediary" for arranging for pregnant Mainland women to deliver babies in Hong Kong. It is learned that following this, a few dozen other cases of a similar nature will be proceeded with.

In this case, the sentence of 10 months' imprisonment is in no sense a harsh punishment. The accused in this case is not wicked in the extreme but what she did has had an extremely bad effect on society. Without such "intermediaries" rushing for profits, pregnant Mainland women, who and their husbands are not Hong Kong permanent residents, coming to give birth would have hardly posed such a big problem as it is now, causing a serious storm in society. Some pregnant Mainland women from inland provinces originally were not aware they could come to give birth in Hong Kong. Nor did they know how to go about it. Thus none would have dared to "gate-crash" with a big belly. It is these "intermediaries" who have spread the message through various channels that Hong Kong's hospital services are first class, and that a child born in Hong Kong has automatic right of abode and, in future, would enjoy free education... And they have made a great show of their "full services" from antenatal check-up to after-birth care, with charges amounting to several thousand dollars.

With such messages spreading from one to 10 and from 10 to 100, the numbers of pregnant Mainland women coming to give birth in Hong Kong have been **on the rise**, setting a record 36,000 last year – accounting for nearly 40% of newborn babies in Hong Kong. This indeed has seriously affected local pregnant women and will become a burden for Hong Kong society in future. The situation must not be allowed to continue.

Thus yesterday's court ruling should have the effect of "killing the chicken to frighten the monkeys" and effectively stem the influx of pregnant Mainland women. The latest news from Shenzhen, the "headquarters" of such "intermediaries", show that, after learning the woman surnamed Xu was jailed for 10 months yesterday, most of the "intermediary" companies immediately closed doors and ceased operations. Thus it is expected that in the short term there will be a sharp drop in the number of "gate-crashing" pregnant Mainland women.

It must be pointed out that this court ruling is not only in keeping with the interests of Hong Kong society but also a good thing for pregnant Mainland women. In fact, it is risky for a pregnant Mainland woman to "gate-crash" and give birth in Hong Kong. Like the one involved in yesterday's court case, she had made no appointment beforehand nor did she have any antenatal check-up, but when she arrived at the Lok Ma Chau check point to "gate-crash" at 1.00 am on 15 January, she immediately cried that she was going into labour. Customs officers immediately called an ambulance to rush her to hospital where she gave birth to a baby boy. But the woman surnamed Xu, her "intermediary" who was accompanying her to "gate-crash" into Hong Kong, pretended they did not know each other. She **showed her true colours** only when questioned by suspicious Customs officers. The pregnant woman could have died had something gone wrong with her when she was crossing the border. But then her

"intermediary" would have simply tried to flee and get away with it.

The somewhat heavy punishment given to an "intermediary" in the first court case convincingly shows that this influx of pregnant Mainland women could be solved in accordance with the law. Since his duty visit to Beijing last December, the Chief Executive has repeatedly laid stress on solving the problem with administrative means, proposing four measures. One of them is to crack down on "intermediary" companies. Such policy orientation now seems practical and effective. After a lengthy investigation, the SAR Government has found clues to a number of "intermediary" companies and their business operations, and passed them on to Guangdong Provincial Government. The Guangdong side has promised to follow up. As for proposals made by some political parties such as asking the National People's Congress (NPC) for an interpretation or revision of the Basic Law or denying right of abode to babies born to parents who are both not Hong Kong permanent residents, they are impractical and unnecessary. In regard to the Basic Law, after the 2001 interpretation by the NPC, the definition is clear and unambiguous that only a baby born to a Hong Kong permanent resident has the right of abode. But at that time the Civic Party and its ilk immediately launched a "dress black protest" against the NPC interpretation and then came forward to help Chung Fong Yuen (a baby boy born in Hong Kong to non-HK-resident parents) file a lawsuit with the Court of Final Appeal ruling in his favour. This is the very cause for today's flooding in of pregnant Mainland women into Hong Kong. Therefore, with yesterday's court ruling to jail an "intermediary" for 10 month, plus Immigration Department tightening border checks and public hospitals sharply increasing charges for emergency services, the influx of pregnant Mainland women is likely to be gradually solved. But the Civic Party is the chief culprit in the creation of this problem, and their plot to create trouble for Hong Kong must be further exposed.

14 February 2012

WORDS AND USAGE

①In no sense (idiom) - Not in any way. (絕非,決不)

Examples: 1. He is in no sense a genius. 2. In no sense do I agree with this suggestion.

② On the rise (idiom) – Increasing in frequency or intensity. (上漲,增加) Examples: 1. Police say that youth crime is on the rise again. 2. Food allergies are believed to be on the rise.

③ In keeping with sth (idiom) - In agreement with something. (符合,與 ……一致)

Examples: 1. The new windows are in keeping with the colonial style of the house. 2. Her deeds are in keeping with her words.

4 Labour (noun) - The process or effort of childbirth or the time during which childbirth takes place. (分娩,臨盆)

Examples: 1. No two labours are ever the same. 2. She went into labour at eleven o'clock last night.

⑤ Show one's (true) colours (idiom) - To show what one is really like. (露 出眞面目)

Examples: 1. At last he showed his true colours. 2. She never shows her true colours

依法重判「中介人」可起阻嚇作用

成語不盡是一成不變 改得好可以除舊換新

一月廿五日亞洲電視有個由香港 電台拍的《正斗中文》節目,看內容 是教人認字,適合一般文化程度的觀 衆辨別正誤。我最欣賞的是把「盤滿 缽滿」改用「盆滿缽滿」。這不是說 前者有錯。不,一向用「盤」,有其 道理,因爲盤與缽都是淺口的,可以 對稱。但主持認為以「盆」代「盤」 ,可盛更多金銀,這自然有其理由。 成語,不盡是一成不變的,問題在大 家是否接受。接受了,可以除舊換新 ;不接受只有一仍舊貫

想起兩個例子,其中一個是「弋 人何篡」,我寫成「弋人何慕」,有 人當成寫別字,改慕爲篡。當時查辭 典,只有「弋人何篡」而無「弋人何 慕」故也。其實,「弋人何篡」是已 死了的成語,千百年來,用的是「弋 人何慕 | 。原來,此語之變,始於唐 代的張九齡,其詩有「弋者何所慕」 之句,而定於宋人蘇軾,其詩有句曰 「弋人悵何慕」。從此,「弋人何慕

觸景立書

ヘ九百年;而「七人何算 |,除了辭典收錄,根本沒有人用。

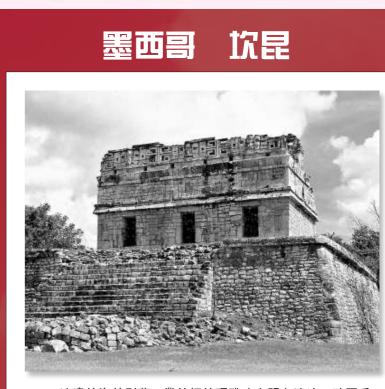
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另一個例子是「每下愈況」,我 也曾寫成「每況愈下」,被人改回原 樣,原因也是當時辭典只有「每下愈 況」而無「每況愈下」。其實,「每 況愈下」也由「每下愈況」改成,此 語一改,意思大變。我用「每況愈下 」形容愈來愈糟,根本十分恰當,改 回「每下愈況」反而脫節,因爲這不 是形容愈來愈糟之語,改者不知漢字 源流, 讀死書, 以為辭典的記載高於 一切,變成食古不化。「每況愈下」 用來形容愈來愈糟,也八百多年了。

那位改盤為盆的是資深傳媒人, 我想起二十多年前,電台、電視人讀 「之子于歸」一語,只有他一人讀準 ·一般人把于讀成於是錯的,他讀成 余才正確。在《詩經》中,「之子于 歸|、「君子于役|的于都要讀余。 「厚今薄古」,難免讀錯

容若



這邊的海特別藍,叢林裡的瑪雅(文明)遺迹,時隔千 年依然震撼人心。

名二十九歲內地姓徐女子 ,昨日在本港法院被判入 獄十個月,罪名是提供虛假文 件及違反入境條例,協助內地 孕婦來港衝關產子。這是本港 首宗產子「中介人」入獄案例 ,據悉隨後還有數十宗同類案 件將會陸續提控。

有關案例,判刑十個月, 並不爲過。案中被告, 並非什 麼「十惡不赦」,但所作所為 卻足以造成極壞的社會影響。 在近來嚴重困擾港人社會的 「雙非」孕婦問題上,若不是 這些「中介人」公司從中圖利 ,局面不致如此一發不可收拾 。一些内地省份的孕婦,本來 根本不知道可以來港產子,也



▲香港入境處首次檢控協助内地孕婦來港產子的中介人

不知道「門路」何在,斷不敢一個人挺着大肚子來闖關;但就是這 些「中介人」公司,通過種種渠道在內地散播消息,說醫院設備如 何一流,孩子在港出生就有港人身份證,將來可以享受免費教育 ……而且大事招徠可以提供「一條龍」服務,由產前檢查報告到 「坐月」照顧都可以一手包辦,收費三數千元不等。

如此一傳十、十傳百,「雙非」孕婦來港產子人數節節上升, 去年更創下了破紀錄的約三萬六千名,佔了全年嬰兒出生數目的將 近四成,對本港孕婦及日後社會負擔的影響的確非常嚴重,情況實 不能再繼續。

因此,昨日法庭的判決,對眼前有效堵截「雙非」孕婦繼續湧 港,應該可以起到「殺雞儆猴」的作用。據「中介人」公司「大本 營」深圳方面的消息,昨日在獲悉此名徐姓女子被判入獄十個月後 ,大部分「中介人」公司已經立即偃旗息鼓,不敢再接生意,估計 「雙非」孕婦衝關現象短期內將會明顯下降。

必須指出的是,法院此一判決,既符合港人社會利益,對內地

孕婦同樣也是一件好事。其實 ,「雙非|孕婦來港衝關產子 是有一定風險的,像案中的 「雙非」孕婦,事前全無預約 、亦無檢查,就在上月十五日 凌晨一時到落馬洲「衝關」, 一到關口立即表示要「生」了 , 關員急召救護車送院, 產下 一子。而當時陪同過關的姓徐 「中介人」裝作不認識該名孕 婦,其後關員起疑,盤問之下 始揭發真相。如果該名孕婦在 過關時有所阻滯,隨時會「搞 出人命」,「中介人」逃之夭

首宗 「中介人」 重判的案 例,亦有力說明了「雙非|孕 婦問題的解決之道,是依法辦

夭,是不會負責的。

事。特首自去年十二月上京述職以來,已一再強調要以行政手段予 以解決,提出了四項打擊「招數」,其中一「招」就是嚴打「中介 人」公司。這一取向看來是切實可行和有效的,特區政府經過長時 間調查,已經掌握了一批「中介人」公司的線索和作案手法,並且 把這些資料交給了廣東省政府,省當局已承諾會跟進處理。而本港 一些政黨在「雙非」問題提出了「釋法」、「修改基本法」以及不 發身份證的建議,其實這些建議並不可行、亦無必要。從基本法而 言,經過二〇〇一年全國人大「釋法」,港人是在港出生、而出生 前父或母一方必須已經是港人,定義已經是清晰無含糊,只是當年 公民黨一夥「大狀」發起「黑衣遊行」反釋法,「莊豐源案」得直 ,才造成今日大批「雙非」孕婦湧港的後果。因此,昨日法院依法 辦事重判「中介人」入獄十個月,加上海關進一步加強堵截、公院 急症室提高收費,「雙非」孕婦湧港問題有望逐步得到解決,對 「始作俑者」的公民黨則須繼續揭露其亂港圖謀。

2012/02/14 大公報社評

通識記憶體

内地孕婦來港產子一般都會聘請中介公司幫忙,中介公司的收 費亦隨床位數目、政府打擊力度以及醫院產子名額等而隨時調整。 早前有記者「放蛇」發現,內地中介公司收費已由前年的數萬元人 民幣,暴增至現時20萬元起計。

上周本港首宗產子「中介人」入獄的個案,可能會令欲來港產 子的内地孕婦趁肚未大就先自行入境等待分娩,而中介收費預計需 18 萬元至 20 萬元人民幣

之前曾有中介人陪同內地孕婦「闖關」,亦因該案的關係,令 中介公司現時不再陪同及接送孕婦過關

有中介機構認為特首4招打擊招數毫無影響,直言仍有辦法預 約床位,有中介人更表示「去年超過4萬孕婦到香港,每個人以5

中介公司收費動輒20萬

萬元算,香港有超過20億的收入」。雖然港人反對,雙非孕婦仍為 香港創造極大產值,相信遏制內地孕婦的政策不會很快出台。

堵塞法律漏洞才能治本》》》》

也有報道指出,雖然中介人罪成,但孕婦成功闖關入境,並獲 入境處安排白車送往醫院分娩。也就是說,只要雙非孕婦情況危急 或聲稱臨盆在即,入境處出於人道考慮,無法拒之門外。可見光是 打擊中介只能治標,不能治本,更何況隨着香港和內地交流頻密, 愈來愈多內地人熟知有關門路及法律漏洞,毋須中介協助,照樣可 以闖關入境;雙非問題是司法判決搞出來的麻煩,始終還是要在法 律層面上解決,港府拖拖拉拉,只會令問題積重難返





Greece: Now What?

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In the 1970s, when someone talked about Greece and the country's capital, Athens, I would think of the ancient Greek myths (神話), the blue sky and the sea. The idea of the Olympics and ancient Greek architectures would also come to my mind. At that time, I had the feeling that Greece was a lucky country because it had such a rich cultural heritage(文化遺產).

In the late 1980s, I visited Greece for the first time and saw what I had seen in photos. Athens was much quieter even compared with some of the cities in the then Eastern Europe.

"This is not the tourist season," someone told me. Then we had nothing to talk about.

Now people in Hong Kong probably have a very different idea about Greece. For about a year, the problems in Greece have made news very often.

There are a lot of terms that are not found in Greek myths: massive debts, huge bailout, austerity measures, riots and tear gas...

If I talked about all these while visiting Greece in the late 1980s, perhaps people in Athens would not understand what I was saying, even though I spoke in their language.

Now, if I go there and talked about all these, people will immediately get my point even though I speak in English. They will probably tell me that they have lost their jobs and their dreams, and that they are really unlucky because their economy has turned so bad. Even their English are not good, I think we can still communicate because now I know more about Greece and people there have more to say to a foreigner. So, the barrier of communication is not just a matter of language.