



EDITORIAL

大公社評

中文基本功

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

依法重判「中介人」可起阻嚇作用

一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。



▲香港入境處首次檢控協助內地孕婦來港產子的中介人

有關案例，判刑十個月，並不為過。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。

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。

必須指出的是，法院此一判決，既符合港人社會利益，對內地

"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.

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WORDS AND USAGE

- 1 In 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. (露出真面目)
Examples: 1. At last he showed his true colours. 2. She never shows her true colours.

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眾辨別正誤。我最欣賞的是把「盤滿鉢滿」改用「盆滿鉢滿」。

想起兩個例子，其中一個是「弋人何慕」，我寫成「弋人何慕」，有人當成寫別字，改慕為募。當時查辭典，只有「弋人何慕」而無「弋人何慕」故也。其實，「弋人何慕」是已死了的成語，千百年來，用的是「弋人何慕」。

「一」直用了八九百年；而「弋人何慕」，除了辭典收錄，根本沒有人用。

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」。

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。

容若

觸景立畫

墨西哥 坎昆



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。

戀水

SOHO DIARY



Greece: Now What?

Hark Yeung (yeung@harkyeung.com)

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.

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.

通識記憶體

內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。

上周末港首宗產子「中介人」入獄的個案，可能會令欲來港產子的內地孕婦趨於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》》》》

也有報章指出，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，始終還是在法律層面上解決，港府拖拖拉拉，只會令問題積重難返。

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