

Other Voices

'He didn't say it'

Mistaken attributions

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

For many years, a popular quote by Muhammad Abdu, the Egyptian religious scholar, Islamic jurist and liberal reformer who's considered among the key founding figures of Islamic modernization, has been circulated by many individuals on media—and even quoted him in some books.

The story says Muhammad Abdu in 1881 traveled to Paris to attend a meeting and upon his return home said "I went to the West and saw Islam but no Muslims; and when I came back to the East, I saw Muslims, but no Islam."

The saying has become so popular with the progression of social media that we usually lose sight of giving Muhammad Abdu the credit, although further research has led us to believe that he never attended any forum in Paris; neither did he make the aforementioned statement.

Muhammad Abdu was born in 1844 and died relatively young in 1905. His father was from Turkmenistan and his mother an Egyptian. He was well-known for his affinity to renewing the understanding of Islam and his companionship with Jamal Al-Din Al-Afghani. The two coordinated to start an intellectual movement in the late 19th century and early 20th century to revive radical Islam and advocate pan-Islamism.

Abdu studied in Tanta City, Egypt and in 1866, enrolled in Al-Azhar University. He graduated 11 years later and was granted a degree to teach history at Cairo's teacher's training college Dar Al-Ulum Institute. Despite his tendencies toward peace and reconciliation that dismissed violence and clashes, he supported the revolt against the British led by Egyptian Commander Ahmad Orabi. The revolution was unsuccessful and Orabi was exiled to Ceylon Island while Muhammad Abdu

was jailed for three years before his exile to Lebanon.

His teacher and companion Jamal Al-Din Al-Afghani invited him to Paris, so he left Lebanon directly for Paris in 1884 where he joined an Islamic revolutionary journal (Al-Urwah Al-Wuthqa) that promoted anti-British views. One year later, he left Paris for Beirut and helped establish an Islamic educational system.

He worked as a teacher at the Sultani School in 1886 and remarried after his first wife died. Driven by his irresistible yearning for the homeland, he returned to Egypt in 1889 thanks to amnesty earned by Khediev Tawfiq for defending Lord Cromer. The amnesty was attached to condition that Abdu will give up politics. He began his legal career, and on June 3, 1899, he was appointed the Grand Mufti of Egypt—the highest Islamic title.

Back to the saying attributed to Muhammad Abdu, we have to state our doubts. Islam is a general conception that differs based on individuals and societies. Abdu had witnessed in Paris the European lifestyle, which cannot be measured according to specific criteria. He judged and compared Islam with the lifestyle in different aspects. I doubt he would have made such a statement if he traveled to a Sunni Muslim country? If Abdu truly made that statement, then it will add to the virtues of Paris (the capital of light). Paris is not a mere capital of a state, it is considered the mother of culture, literature, brotherhood and equality in the modern age.

On the other hand, our ignorance and backwardness is the fruit of our own culture and upbringing. It is not acceptable to blame someone else. Muhammad Abdu did not see Islam in Paris but a product of European civilization, and rather than identifying it with any other religion, it should be attributed to Catholicism. I doubt a liberal reformer like Muhammad Abdu would have made such a statement. It is nonsense and absolutely wrong.

email: habibi.enta1@gmail.com



Al-Sarraf



Ramadan lanterns at Souq Al-Mubarakiya. (Hatem Alsheikh — KUNA)

Death for Kuwaiti citizen in woman's kidnap, violent rape

Ukrainian charging KD 1,000/night for sex arrested

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

**KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Court of Cassation has sentenced a Kuwaiti man to death by hanging for allegedly impersonating the police, and kidnapping and engaging an Asian woman in an immoral act under armed threat.**

Lawyer Abdul Hamid Al-Sarraf on behalf of the plaintiff urged the court to slam the suspect with a stiffer punishment than the life imprisonment verdict by the Court of First Instance. He premised his request on the fact that the man is an ex-convict and a hardened criminal who's not ready to repent. After the judgment was pronounced, Lawyer Al-Sarraf commended the court for upholding the rule of law to serve as a deterrent to others with criminal tendencies.

**KD 1,000 per night:** A Ukrainian woman, who entered the country on visit visa, was arrested as she engaged in prostitution for eight days during which she charged KD 1,000 per night, reports Al-Rai daily.

Acting on a tip-off about the immoral acts of the woman in an apartment in Shaab, the officers put the suspect under surveillance to verify the information.

Once the information was verified, the officers obtained search and arrest warrants from the Public Prosecution and they arranged an entrapment. A secret agent contacted the woman who agreed to spend one day with him provided he pay half of the fee and then the balance will be paid upon completion of her 'work'. On the agreed date and time, police raided the apartment where the woman was arrested red handed with a huge amount of money in her possession.

According to security source, the suspect is known internationally to be involved in online prostitution. She appears in pornographic films and receives bookings through a certain website.

A case was registered and the woman was referred to the concerned authorities in preparation for her deportation.

**Man acquitted of forgery:** The Court of Appeals upheld the verdict of the First Instance Court, which acquitted a person of forging an official document that he used to issue 97 work permits.

The Public Prosecution charged the accused and others of forging official document — the feedback report for work permit applications used by the Public Authority for Manpower, hence, 97 work permits were issued based on forged application documents.

Lawyer for the accused, Attorney Fayed Al-Mutairi, argued that his client is a law-abiding person, indicating there is no manpower registered under him given that he owns a trademark and he provided relevant documents to support his claim.

After the acquittal decision by the lower court, the Public Prosecu-



Kuwait's Army Chief Lt-Gen Mohammad Al-Khudher with officers from the GCC.

Mol photo

Army chief receives GCC officials

Chief of General Staff of Kuwaiti Army Lieutenant-General Mohammad Al-Khudher received in his office the deputy chiefs of GCC armed forces operations who are in the country to attend the 23rd meeting of the Joint GCC Operations and Training

Committee. The meeting discussed issues of mutual concern bordering on military operations in the region and ways to strengthen and develop integrated defense mechanism.

Lieutenant General Al-Khudher

affirmed the importance of the meeting in strengthening cooperation among the GCC countries in a step toward attaining an integrated defense of the highest order through exchange of experience and expertise among members amid consolidation of views.

One hurt in all-Syrian fight

Shopowner molests his employee

By Munaif Nayef  
Al-Seyassah Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 10:** The owner of an unlicensed medical center has been arrested for kidnapping and molesting his female Arab employee in Salmiya area.

According to security sources, the Arab woman went to Salmiya Police Station and filed a case against her employer. She explained to securitymen that he used to send her love messages but she ignored him thinking that he will eventually stop. One day, she saw him waiting for her inside his vehicle, and he told her he will drop her. When she refused, he forced her into the car, hit her and then touched her inappropriately. When she started

shouting for help from passersby, he pushed her out of the vehicle and drove off.

Using the details of the suspect provided by the victim, securitymen arrested the suspect and referred him to the Public Prosecution for further investigations.

**All-Syrian fight:** A Syrian expatriate sustained head and hand injuries during a quarrel that broke out between him and two other compatriots in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area, says Al-Seyassah.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior received information about the quarrel, securitymen and paramedics rushed to the location and found the in-

jured man. Before he was taken to the nearest hospital, he provided information about the other two individuals.

Securitymen arrested the two suspects who revealed that the quarrel was based on ongoing disputes between them and the injured man.

Necessary action was taken against all three suspects.

Meanwhile, an Egyptian woman filed a case at Salmiya Police Station against an unknown man, explaining that the suspect had been stalking and harassing her, which forced her to ask passersby for help. He then threw stones at her and fled from the location.

Securitymen launched investigations to find and arrest the suspects.



KFSD photo

Smoke rises from the vehicle which caught fire on the Fourth Ring Road.

One dead in traffic accident

By Munaif Nayef  
Al-Seyassah Staff

A person whose identity is yet-to-be disclosed perished in a traffic accident along the Sixth Ring Road and two Egyptians suffered various degrees of injuries.

The injured people were taken to Jahra Hospital for treatment and the body of the victim was deposited to Forensics.

Meanwhile, firemen dealt with a fire that erupted in a US-made vehicle on the Fourth Ring Road opposite Sulai-bikhat. No human casualty was recorded.

News in Brief

**Breach of trust:** A Kuwaiti lady employed by the Interior Ministry at Kuwait International Airport was arrested in Ardiya area for breach of trust after refusing to return a rented car, says Al-Seyassah.

A security source said the lady had taken a car from the rental office and declined to return it three days after the contract expired. All attempts to reach her proved futile after switching off her mobile.

Owner of the office filed a complaint in Ardiya Police Station and her details were circulated to security checkpoints to facilitate arrest. The car has since been handed over to the owner. Legal action will be taken against her.

Also, a Pakistani national evading three years imprisonment sentence for a crime was chased and arrested on foot by security operatives.

referred with the confiscated items to the Drugs Control General Department for necessary legal action.

**Patient insults doctor:** A female doctor filed a complaint at a police station accusing an Egyptian patient of insulting her in public, reports Al-Rai daily. While the Egyptian was in queue at the clinic, he blocked the entrance to the doctor's office. When the doctor asked him to remain on the line, he got angry and insulted her in the public.

A case was registered and police will summon the Egyptian soon to verify the complaint and take the necessary action if proven guilty.

**Fight over parking:** Two citizens were caught in brawl over parking space in front of a commercial complex in Jahra. They were referred to Jahra Hospital amid injuries, says Al-Seyassah.

The Operations Room of the Interior Ministry received information about the incident and dispatched a team of securitymen with paramedics to the scene. The officers resolved the quarrel and referred the two feuding parties to the area police station for questioning.

A security source noted the two citizens argued over parking space before exchanging blows. Necessary action was taken against them.

**Drug addicts held:** Two unidentified drug addicts were arrested in Jahra area in possession of heroin, syringes, and papers used for smoking hashish, says Al-Seyassah.

According to security sources, securitymen were on patrol duty when they noticed a parked vehicle with two individuals sleeping inside. They approached the vehicle and roused the individuals to discover they were in a disoriented state. They checked the vehicle and found the abovementioned items.

The two suspects were arrested and

**Fake cop robs B'deshi:** Officers from Ahmadi Investigation Unit are looking for a youth who impersonated police and stole the driving license of a Bangladeshi, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source revealed the Bangladeshi, who was born 1978, filed a complaint at Ahmadi Police Station stating that the suspect stole his driving license after their cars collided. When the complainant asked for KD 50 from the suspect as payment for repairing the damage that the latter caused to his car, the suspect introduced himself as police and demanded for the license which he took and then fled from the scene.

**Bachelors evacuated:** As part of continuous efforts to enforce laws, the Audit and Engineering Follow Up Department at the Kuwait Municipality branch in Ahmadi issued evacuation notices to five bachelors' accommodations in Ahmadi Governorate, reports Al-Anba daily.

Meanwhile, the branch closed four commercial shops for violating the Municipality laws.