

Letters to the Editor

30 September
Rendsburg, Germany
(via e-mail)

Dear Editor:

I have just been reading the new *Al-Raida* (No. 73) and was very happy to come across the news that *Al-Raida* and the Institute for Women's Studies now have an e-mail address [jabunasr@flame.beirut.lau.edu.lb]. This will definitely facilitate our communications and enable me to send you reports on my now-completed field research in South Lebanon. Now I am back in Germany and confronted with the most difficult part of the research process: the writing of my thesis, which carries the title "Gender and Migration in the Global Village: Lebanese Women at Home and in West Africa." While reading the most recent issue of *Al-Raida*, the article "One Day in the South" by Nada Awar caught my attention. It really brought all of the events of last April back to me, when I experienced war for the first time in my life. For me, it is really important to know about the Institute for Women's Studies and to receive *Al-Raida*; it is like being in Lebanon, although I am now so far away. I really enjoyed meeting all of the women at the Institute.

Sincerely,
Anja Peleikis,
Anthropologist

Announcement

Al-Raida is looking for foreign correspondents to write stories on topics and issues of concern to women throughout the Arab world. If you are a professional or freelance journalist or researcher living in an Arab country, please consider submitting reports on legislation, events, conferences, debates and performances related to women and women's issues. If your article is accepted for publication, you will receive a payment of US\$100.

3 October 1996
Beirut, Lebanon

Dear Editor:

With genuine eagerness, as usual, I started to read *Al-Raida* (Vol. XIII, No. 73). An Opinion article by Dr. Nadia El-Cheikh, whom I honor and respect, aroused my interest. Upon reading the Opinion, I was shocked to discover that it did not portray the content of the debate on the television program, *Ash-Shater Yehki* ("The Wise One Speaks") about abortion accurately, especially regarding the following points:

1) Dr. El-Cheikh attributed to me the comment, "I am, of course, against abortion." This is very similar to saying that in the Qur'an it is written "do not pray" without referring to the rest of the verse: "while you are drinking." My full statement was "I am, of course, against abortion being used as a method of contraception."

2) Dr. Cheikh says that the panel of discussants on the program had a uniform opinion, *i.e.*, against abortion. But three of us justified abortion in a scientific and realistic manner: Dr. Fouad Bustani, Dr. Zeina Saba, and I. Our mission was difficult considering that the majority of the other participants did not agree with us. Nevertheless, Bustani, Saba and I gave clear opinions that did not incriminate abortion while also calling for humanizing laws to ensure the availability of safe abortions in Lebanon.

What Dr. Cheikh says in the second part of her article is not more persuasive than what we said during the broadcast of the program. Of course, everyone is free to have any opinion; we certainly defend freedom of thought and expression as well as all other kinds of freedom. However, it is not proper to present someone's opinion in a manner which distorts it.

Please take note of this, and kindly accept what I have said.

Sincerely,
Laure Moughaizel, Attorney

Notice Notice Notice Notice

The quarterly journal of the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World, *Al-Raida*, established in 1976, is not associated in any way, shape or form with another publication of the same name currently being published by Dr. Raja' Mukaddam.