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## **'It's a very big torture': the children growing up in hiding in Dubai**

“饱受折磨”：迪拜那些在藏匿中长大的孩子

A sweltering, windowless room in an old district of Dubai, no more than 5 metres by 3 metres in size, is the only home to a six-year-old boy from the Philippines.

迪拜老城区里一个闷热无窗的房间，面积不超过 5 米乘 3 米，这是一个六岁菲律宾男孩唯一的家。

His name is Jerry and he shares a tiny bed with his mother, Neng. Growing up without a birth certificate means he has no access to education and has never visited a doctor.

Officially, this little boy does not exist.

男孩的名字叫杰瑞，和他名叫“嫩”的母亲共用一张小床。杰瑞没有出生证，在这种情况下长大意味着他没办法接受教育，也从没看过医生。这是个官方记录上都不存在的小男孩。

Having sex outside of marriage is a crime under the country's Islamic laws, with convictions resulting in prison terms of up to one year. In some cases, even reporting a rape has been

regarded by the authorities as illicit sex, and has led to victims being jailed.

根据该国伊斯兰法律，婚外性行为属于犯罪行为，定罪后可判处多达一年的刑期。在某些情况下，甚至因强奸而报案也会被当局认定为通奸罪，并导致受害者入狱。

"The moment that you get pregnant, and you cannot tell anyone and you don't know what to do, it's a very big torture," says Neng.

“从你怀孕的那一刻起，你就不能告诉任何人，你也不知道该怎么办，这令人饱受折磨，”嫩如此说道。

It is almost impossible to know how many children are in the same position as Jerry across the country. Each month, about 40 mothers with children born out of wedlock seek assistance from the Philippines Consulate in Dubai, according to a spokesperson for the consulate. This figure is likely to be a fraction of the number of mothers who are living in hiding in the country with their children.

到底全国有多少孩子和杰瑞有着一样的遭遇，这几乎无从知晓。菲律宾驻迪拜领事馆的发言人称，每月约有 40 名非婚生子的母亲带着孩子向领事馆寻求帮助。而在迪拜，带着孩子藏身的母亲这么多，这一数字很可能只是冰山一角。

Yet there are signs of hope for these families. In the cases the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children has worked on, the courts have been flexible and the mother has not served a jail term. This approach could be rolled out for wider implementation.

然而，这些家庭仍有希望的曙光。在迪拜妇女儿童基金会开展工作的案件中，法院开始懂得变通，母亲也免去了牢狱之灾。这一途径或许可以推广并得到更广泛的实施。

----- 文章来源 / 卫报

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### 重点词汇

**sweltering** /'sweltərɪŋ/

adj. 热得难受的

- sweltering heat

### **birth certificate**

出生证明

### **has access to sth.**

有使用权；有接触的机会

- Students today have access to Internet resources.

**Islamic**/ɪzˈlæmɪk/

adj. 与伊斯兰有关的

- Islamic State

**conviction**/kənˈvɪkʃn/

n. 定罪，判罪 (convict v.)

- a convicted murderer
- He was convicted of fraud.
- He had no previous convictions.

**prison term**

刑期

- = jail term

**up to**

到达 (某数量，程度等)

**illicit**/ɪˈlɪsɪt/

adj. 违法的，违规的；不正当的

- = illegal

**in the same position**

和...处于同样的处境，有相同的感受

- I think 99 percent of the people who watch the show are in the same position as me.

**wedlock**/ˈwedlɔːk/

n. 已婚状态 (wed v.)

**fraction**/ˈfrækʃn/

n. 极小的部分

- I raised my voice a fraction.
- a fraction of courses from LAIX

**flexible**/ˈfleksəbl/

adj. 可变动的；可变通的

- The schedule is flexible.

**roll out**

推出（新产品，新制度）

- roll out new products
- roll out a series of tax cuts

**implementation** /ˌɪmplɪˈmeɪntəʃn/

n. 实施 (implement v.)

- to implement changes/reforms/policies (v.)