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International New York Times

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, APRIL 9-10, 2016

Olympus, a shadowy fixer and an ethical lapse

TOKYO

Camera manufacturer uses connections in China customs dispute

BY JONATHAN SOBLE

Managers at an Olympus factory in southern China struggled for years to resolve a thorny dispute with local customs authorities.

Then, Olympus found an unlikely helper: an obscure Chinese company that ran the factory's cafeteria.

The caterer had connections. In 2013, Olympus hired the company, Anyuan, to be a fixer, acting as a go-between with government officials in the customs case.

The activities in China, laid bare in a confidential 57-page report on the investigation, as well as internal memos and emails that were reviewed by The New York Times, exposed a series of ethical lapses and a corporate culture undermined by weak oversight.

The company's dealings with a shadowy middleman took place just two years after Olympus faced a major ethical crisis, admitting in 2011 to a \$1.7 billion accounting fraud.

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Rahila Amos, a Nigerian grandmother, said that she was abducted by Boko Haram and that the group's use of women as weapons is a carefully considered strategy that some captives accept.

Boko Haram turns female captives into weapons

MINAWAO REFUGEE CAMP, CAMEROON

Group sends out women and girls as bombers who can inflict a terrible toll

BY DIONNE SEARCEY

Hold the bomb under your armpit to keep it steady, the women and girls were taught.

Sever your enemy's head from behind, to minimize struggling.

"If you cut from the back of the neck, they die faster," said Rahila Amos, a Nigerian grandmother describing the meticulous instruction she received from Boko Haram to become a suicide bomber.

Of all the horrors of Boko Haram's rampage across West Africa — the attacks on mosques, churches and schools; the mass killings of civilians; the entire villages left in ashes after militants tear through — one of the most baffling has been its ability to turn captured women and girls into killers.

Boko Haram, one of the world's deadliest extremist groups, has used at least 105 women and girls in suicide attacks since June 2014, when a woman set off a bomb at an army barracks in Nigeria, according to The Long War Journal, which tracks terrorist activity.

Since then, women and girls, often with bombs hidden in baskets or under their clothes, have killed hundreds of people in attacks on fish and vegetable markets, schools, a river dock and even camps for people who fled their homes to escape the violence.

"This isn't something you can defeat or eradicate outright," said Issa Tchirima Bakary, the minister of communications in Cameroon, where 22 female suicide bombers have been identified since the start of this year.

Soldiers cannot open fire on every woman or girl who looks suspicious, he added.

"They know where we have the Achilles' heel," Mr. Bakary said of Boko Haram.

Boko Haram's abuse of women first shocked the world two years ago, when it stormed a school in Nigeria and fled with about 300 girls, many of whom were never found. Hundreds of other women and girls have been abducted, imprisoned, raped and sometimes intentionally impregnated, perhaps with the goal of creating a new generation of fighters.

Ms. Amos, 47, said the fighters had come to her village in the morning, firing weapons as they spilled out of cars and rounded up women and children.

Not long afterward, Ms. Amos, a Christian, said she was forced to enroll in Boko Haram's classes on its version of Islam, a first step on her way toward being taught the art of suicide bombing.

After months of training, Ms. Amos said, she was finally able to escape her captors one day when they had assembled for evening preaching. She stayed behind, gathering two of her young children and a grandchild so they could make a run for the Cameroonian border.

"I don't want to take a bomb," she said inside this refugee camp in Cameroon that stretches across a vast landscape dotted by tents and mud huts.

The authorities in Cameroon and Nigeria said that many of the experiences detailed by Ms. Amos matched the accounts of other women and girls who have escaped Boko Haram, or who have been arrested before they could deto-

BOKO HARAM, PAGE 5

Pope opens a path for the modern family

ROME

BY JIM YARDLEY AND LAURIE GOODSTEIN

In a broad proclamation on family life, Pope Francis on Friday called for the Roman Catholic Church to be more welcoming and less judgmental, and he seemingly signaled a pastoral path for divorced and remarried Catholics to receive holy communion.

The 256-page document, known as an apostolic exhortation and titled "Amor-

Francis' vision suggests a door for divorced and remarried people to receive communion.

is Laetitia," Latin for "The Joy of Love," offers no new rules or marching orders, and from the outset Francis makes plain that no top-down edicts are coming. Alluding to the diversity and complexity of a global church, Francis effectively pushes decision making downward to bishops and priests, stating that a differ-

ent country or region "can seek solutions better suited to its culture and sensitive to its traditions and local needs."

But Francis also makes clear the vision he wants local bishops and priests to follow: as a church that greets families with empathy and comfort rather than with unbending rules and rigid codes of conduct. And he dedicates much of one chapter to discussing the latitude priests can exercise in helping people who do not meet the church's ideal of marriage. He calls for priests to welcome single parents, gay people and unmarried straight

couples who are living together, even as he declares that same-sex unions should not be equated with marriage.

"A pastor cannot feel that it is enough to simply apply moral laws to those living in 'irregular' situations, as if they were stones to throw at people's lives," he wrote.

The scope of "Amoris Laetitia" is typical Francis: a broad-ranging blend of biblical passages, meditations on marital love, homespun advice on familial matters, passages bemoaning the fren-

VATICAN, PAGE 4



Relatives at the Kambol graveyard on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, burning fake American currency as an offering to ancestors.

For ghosts in Cambodia, the U.S. dollar is still king

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

Local currency won't do as relatives burn a fake fortune to honor the dead

BY JULIA WALLACE

One recent morning, Suon Sokhum, a colonel in the Cambodian Army, was shopping for gifts for his ancestors.

Qingming, the annual festival to honor the dead, was coming up, and throughout the Chinese diaspora in Southeast Asia, people burn offerings to provide for their ancestors in the spirit world.

At a stall on the southern fringe of one of the city's oldest markets, he browsed votive wares ranging from traditional red candles to glossy Lexus sport utility vehicles made of cardboard, finally settling on several sets of paper clothing and four neat stacks of replica \$100 bills.

Col. Suon Sokhum paid for the presents in local currency, the riel, but

said he would never consider offering riel to his ancestors. They, like ghosts and spirits throughout Cambodia, prefer dollars.

"It's too small," he said of the riel, which trades around 4,000 to a dollar. "I want a bigger note. If we give the big note, the ancestors can get a lot of money. If we give them small money, they will need so many notes that they'll go crazy carrying them around."

So on the holiday this week, along with cardboard cars, cellphones and other supplies their ancestors might need, Cambodians burned millions of fake United States dollars, much to the chagrin of the government.

The government has been trying to wean the economy off dollars, which are used here in tandem with the riel. Riel are usually used for small purchases, and dollars for most other things.

The national bank has provided incentives for making deposits in riel and has waged a yearslong public relations campaign to promote its wider adoption.

Still, many people prefer to keep dollars, wary of the volatility of local cur-

CAMBODIA, PAGE 5

CURRENCIES NEW YORK, FRIDAY 11:00AM PREVIOUS

STOCK INDEXES FRIDAY

INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER Myanmar frees activists from jail

U.S. Treasury secretary in spotlight Whether Iran sanctions or rules that helped foil a giant tax-dodging deal,



ENGINE CUTTING OUT A fuel-saving feature that turns a car's engine off when the car stops isn't always popular. BUSINESS, 12

ONLINE AT INYT.COM Nine strokes, then on to 2nd hole

Rocky road for insider trading law While a securities fraud case is waiting for the Supreme Court, a conflict remains over what is needed to prove a trading violation.

NEWSSTAND PRICES

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A gap in political rights in China In Hong Kong, a pro-democracy leader forms a new political party.

The cheating politicians of Iceland It is usually easier to solve problems in small nations than in large societies.