



14 August 2008

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Complaint: Defamation of Witchcraft and self-defined Witches

The South African Pagan Rights Alliance objects to the propagation of highly implausible and physiologically impossible assertions that Witchcraft caused an 18-year-old woman to give birth to crockery as reported in the appended story entitled 'Woman gives birth to cups' published on 14 August by IOL.

The allegations made by the President of the Mozambican Association of Traditional Healers Aulerio Demoraz represent the worst form of religiously motivated propaganda against Witchcraft and are defamatory to self-defined Witches who regard Witchcraft as a bone-fide religion.

In publishing these ridiculous allegations, IOL contravenes the South African Press Code which determines that the press should avoid discriminatory or denigratory references to people's religion and refrain from referring to a person's religion in a prejudicial or pejorative context. The content of this article does not in any way significantly add to the reader's understanding of Witchcraft. The article instead only serves to further negatively stereotype Witchcraft as harmful by portraying Witches as a danger to the communities within which we live and work. These harmful stereotypical definitions merely serve to justify irrational public fear of Witchcraft as an allegedly harmful practice.

South African Witches regard harmful stereotypical definitions of Witchcraft as injurious to our dignity. The South African Pagan Rights Alliance demands an immediate public retraction of prejudicial statements made against Witchcraft.

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Woman gives birth to cups

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?click_id=29&art_id=nw20080814073609904C407570&set_id=1

August 14 2008 at 09:05AM

Maputo - A Mozambican woman recently gave birth to three cups in the southern province of Gaza, independent television channel Stv reported on Thursday, showing images of the crockery.

The channel said the 18-year-old woman who lives in Xai Xai, gave birth to the cups on her way to hospital after she had complained of labour pains.

Images of the three cups were shown on the television station and the woman said she was three months pregnant at the time of the "birth".

The Mozambican association of traditional healers (Ametramo) told the station that there was nothing strange about the story.

Ametramo president Aulerio Demoraz said similar cases had occurred in other parts of the world due to witchcraft.

He said the woman needed to be treated with traditional medicines in order to exorcise the "evil spirits" which made her give birth to the cups. - Sapa