

Mother misses you both

By

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“Dearest Kalsoom and Yousif,

This is Heyat BB your mother from Daira Din Panah, Kot Addu, Muzafargah.

Its two years now since we met last. Your father never allowed me meeting you despite numerous requests and appeals by friends and foes alike.

Your farther divorced me in the fourteenth year of our marriage. He then got remarried to someone in Rawalpindi.

Your Mamu (My Brother) too divorced his wife who is the sister of your father. Thanks God they had no children.

The Panchayt decided that you, Kalsoom will live with me and your father will provide me your monthly maintenance allowance. And you, Yousif, will live with your father.

The panchyat did also give this verdict no party can hold back any child from the other.

I and your Nana (Maternal Grandfather) agreed with this decree. In addition we declared, we shall not take your maintenance from your father.

Respecting the verdicts of the elders, Kalsoom I allowed your father to take you along one day to participate in a marriage ceremony.

*He did never return you to me.
He has never allowed me
meeting you and Yousif since
then.*

*Yousif, I know you are in
Rawlapindi. And Kalsoom, you
are in BB Pataywalay.*

*I cannot fight with your father
for your custody in courts of
laws. Your maternal grandfather*

*is too old to exert his influence
on him. I have no other source
to fall back upon meeting you.*

*If ever you find this please let
me know you miss me too.*

*Your
Mother*

Heyat BB, 45

I miss you both.”



Food for thought for the practitioners of child rights active in the area

- This is a case of child abuse as according to several UNCRC Articles but more explicitly under articles, **Article 9**: “You should not be separated from your parents unless it is for your own good – for example, if a parent is mistreating or neglecting you. If your parents have separated, you have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this might harm you.”

- Plan Pakistan has a well developed Child Protection Policy.
- Plans Partners and Staff might read it and report the cases of child abuse as desired by set procedure
- There is a gap in current program on being silent on how to protect children legally in cases of reported child abuse.

--Ends