

### Arabic Transcript:

اتذكر اني زوجي تعرض الى انفجار الامم المتحدة بال 2003 من صار ومات بي رئيسه ديميلو ( الله يرحمه). جان زوجي بالمبنى نفسه وصار الانفجار ف ... طبعا هي دخلت شظايا بسجمه والله ستر عليه والحمدلله والشكر نجه من الكارثة هاي. ف .. بيومها يعني ... صار عندي هستيريا يعني مدا اعرف ... ائيست كلت خلص هو مات. فطلعت بالشارع ما اعرف وين اروح ... فشافني جاري فمن بعيد انشرتله كلتله وسام ... ابو زهراء ... وما اعرف ..يعني حتى ما اعرف اكمل الحجى لان كلش منهاره ... فكلي اهدئي اهدئي خلص ... طلع سيارته واخذني لموقع الامم المتحدة صاير بعيد شويه عن بيتنه ... يعني شتردين ... وبعدين رجعي ... ولكيت الجوارين ... هاي الي ذبت جكليت على زوجي ... يعني على سلامته ... هاي الي تهلهل لان هو نجه من الحادث ... يعني الكل الكل ... كل الناس جايه يوميه وكلش شويه ... وهذا الي جاب ... يعني احنه عدنه فد شي مثلا من يصير فد حادث او فد واحد يخترع او فد شي يصير بي ف .. يشربوه ورد ماوي. ورد ماوي اعشاب هي ... يشربها ... يخررها شلون الجاري بالقوري ويشربها حتى اعصابه تهدي. جارتني جابتلي قوري كامل حتى اني واو لادي وزوجي نشربها لان كلنه صارت عدنه حاله عصبية يعني اتفاجئه بالحادثه ... المهم ... او مثلا من صار وفات عدنه .. اني رحت عند اهلي اهلي .. يعني والدتي .. فوالدتي بيتها بعيد ... اجوي جاراتي لبيت اهلي حتى ديعزوني. ف اكو تواصل بيناته ، اكو الفه واكو محبه ... ماعدنه هذا التباعد ابد. يعني مثلا يوم الما ... مثلا خلي نكول 3 ايام او اسبوع متشاوفنه ..يجون يدكون الباب وين انتي اشو ماكو ... يعني العلاقه كلش حلوة بيناتنه.

### English Translation:

I remember that in the UN attack in 2003 when their president at that time, Sergio de Mello<sup>1</sup> was killed...my husband was in the same building...and was severely injured...but thank God he survived from that disaster...in that day...I was going crazy and I didn't know what to do...I gave up and thought that he died...I went in the street and I wasn't sure what to do...so my neighbor, Wesam, saw me, and I waved to him...and I was mumbling...*Abu Zahraa*<sup>2</sup>...Wesam ...I don't know...I couldn't finish a sentence because I had a mental breakdown at this point... he calmed me down and brought his car and took me to the place which is a little bit far from where we are...and he brought me back...and I found the neighbors there waiting...one of them was throwing sweets on my husband because he was safe...and the other one was singing because he survived...everyone was there...and for the few days after...everyone came to visit ...at all times...someone brought...when an accident happen and someone is shocked...they give him the water that flowers have been steeped...those are herbs...a person drinks from the pot like they do with tea...so that their nerves calm...my neighbor brought a whole pot so that my husband and my children would drink it...because we were all shocked...or when we had a death in the family...I went to my family's house to be with my mother...and my mother's house is far away...but my neighbors came there to say sorry and join me mourning...we have strong connections...we love each other.... And we're never cold to each other...if it happens and I don't see my neighbors for three days or a week...they'd come and knock at the door and ask where I am...we have good relations.

<sup>1</sup> Sergio de Mello was the U.S. Secretary-General's Special Representative in Iraq.

<sup>2</sup> She is referring to her husband but uses a form of address incorporating name of their child, "Father of Zahraa"

**About CultureTalk:** CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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