



KUNA photo

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas meets the Ministry of Education delegation from Kuwait.

Kuwait sends 4 seawater desalination units to Iraq

Kuwait's support to Palestine hailed

Other Voices

Promises in vain

What blocked my story?

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

For technical reasons I have published my new story in Beirut "Abdullatif Al-Armani (Armenian)" which includes approximately 150 pages. I have submitted copies of the story to the Kuwait Books Censorship Department of the Ministry of Information for approval so that I can sell the books in Kuwait.

The story is in the hands of the censorship for two months during which I have received several promises that approval will be granted after the books have been read and cleared. After waiting for 70 days I got fed up, took it as refusal and therefore I write this article.

The story is simple and free of terrible taboos: sex, religion, and politics. It is about an Armenian migrant who left his village in Turkey and went to Aleppo and chose it as his homeland, where he married and gave birth to a son.

The boy grew up and fell in love with a Muslim girl and married her. Because of his difficult social and family status, he decided to leave his hometown with his small family to Baghdad. The wife chose to return to her homeland to join her family while the husband decided to remain in Baghdad, but after some time he changed his mind and decided to seek work in Kuwait and made considerable wealth. Here the story ends. This is a true story and I was part of it.

I am not sorry for preventing me from publishing my story. Many books and stories have gained more popularity after they were banned. My story is also available in Beirut in the libraries of Antoine, Bissan, Book House and the Nile and Euphrates sites in Lebanon, phone 39037895, who usually deliver it to any address in Lebanon, free of charge. Preventing the publication of



Al-Sarraf

such a simple story is shameful in our time which does not go in line with the vision of the leadership - the vision of Kuwait 2035, openness to the world, bringing investments in hundreds of billions of dollars and give Kuwait a place among the civilized world. If we are afraid of a story that does not exceed 150 pages and has collected dust in the drawers of our censorship for seventy days, how can we meet the challenges of modernization and openness in future?

The continued control of the superficial and naive mentality of the censor on our culture about what we may read or see is truly shameful, especially after I knew that the prohibition is primarily related to the design of the story's cover which shows the image of a cross on an old wooden door.

This is an intellectual poor police surveillance viewpoint which is the one that stood in the way of the story's release. Yes, a picture of a cross on a wooden door on the cover of a book prohibited its sale in Kuwait.

I am not surprised by the matter, the mentality that prevented the book from being sold in Kuwait because the cover bears the image of a cross is the same mind that has already prevented world literary works to be read by the public!

It is their right, which we do not dispute to prevent the publication of any books, novels and magazines, but please do not talk much about openness to the world and attracting investments. Those who show cowardice in front of a simple story, I mean my story, do not deserve to be entrusted with even to build a livestock pen.

* Note: The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced he has signed an agreement with the UAE to operate manned space flight in the near future.

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KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13, (KUNA): At the discretion of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the State of Kuwait on Monday sent four seawater desalination units to Iraq.

A technical team of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Electricity and Water delivered the units to officials of the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources at the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border on Monday, the Kuwaiti ministry's undersecretary Mohammad Bushehri said in a press statement.

The production capacity of the four seawater desalination units amounts to one million imperial gallons, he said.

Kuwaiti General Consul in Iraq's Basra Province Yousef Al-Sabbagh was present at the reception.

Thanking and appreciating Kuwait's fresh aid, Iraqi officials said the desalination units would be used mainly in rural and outlying areas in Iraq.

They added that the Kuwaiti aid would effectively contribute to the provision of potable water to the residents of southern Iraq.

Kuwait had granted Iraq 17 mobile power generators with a total capacity of 30,000 kilowatts, in order to ease out the neighboring country's power shortage.

Supporter

Meanwhile, the State of Kuwait has always been a supporter of Palestine and its people, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said on Sunday.

This came during a meeting between President Abbas and a Kuwaiti delegation from the Ministry of Education, in charge of interviewing and hiring Palestinian teachers to work in Kuwait, in the presence of Palestinian Minister of Education Sabri Sidem, according to Palestinian news agency (Wafa).

The agency said that President Abbas welcomed the delegation, affirming importance of their visit and the great confidence placed in the Palestinian teachers in general.

President Abbas also called on the rest of Arab countries to follow suit by enabling the Palestinian teacher to work in their nations due to their "excellent ability and innovation."

The Palestinian leader praised past efforts exerted by the Palestinian teachers who taught in Kuwait and conveyed a clear picture of the Palestinian teacher and his/her abilities.

President Abbas also praised His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, the government, and the people for their support to the Palestinian just cause.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education said Abbas instructed Civil Affairs Authority to ensure that the Kuwaiti delegation would be able to visit Gaza Strip.

Earlier, the Ministry said the Kuwaiti delegation, which was seeking Palestinian math teachers, decided to extend their stay until Tuesday.

DIWANIYA ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'US heading for confrontation'

'Sanctions list on increase'

"THE list of countries which are currently subjected to the American sanctions seems to be too long and this list continues to expand throughout the continents of the world," columnist *Nasser Khamies Al-Mutairi* wrote for *Annahar* daily.

"The oldest sanctions imposed were on North Korea since 1950, Cuba 1962, Iran 1979, Syria 1986, China 1989, and the Sudan 1997.

"With regard to Russia, Moscow fell under the US sanctions in 2012 which were tightened in 2014 in the wake of the Ukrainian crisis but the latest sanctions came on Turkey.

"However, the American sanctions on these countries continue between easing and tightening. They represent an American political tool to force the target countries on a specific path or discourage certain political behavior that conflicts with US interests in the regions of the world.

"But it is needless to say that the American sanctions and throughout its history, had never concluded to the change of the ruling regime of any of the targeted states, unless the sanctions would have been imposed through an international resolution to be followed by a direct military option as it had occurred in Iraq during 2003.

"It is clear that the impact on the behavior of the countries targeted by the US sanctions is few and limited. The continued sanctions on these countries for many years reveal the stubbornness and steadfastness of the countries under the stick of international sanctions and the continued state of crisis and hostility against the US administration.

"Not just that the US sanctions have brought adverse consequences which are likely to strengthen the ruling regime of the targeted state. In other words, the sanctions have given support and solidarity to the regime because the media of this particular regime has exploited the sanctions to mobilize the public opinion in support of the pertinent regime.

"However, it looks like the appetite of the US President Donald Trump seems to be open for expanding the scope of the economic sanctions on other countries including Europe as well.

"This may put Washington in a confrontation with the world in future, and economic sanctions may explode into a confrontation and armed conflict."

Also:

"The US President Donald Trump has said that US sanctions against Iran as the toughest of its kind," columnist *Fares Adel Al-Salem* wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"He has also said the sanctions will be tightened in November this year hinting the US will not economically deal with those who deal with Iran.

"This statement may lead to a major escalation and it will be but natural to see international companies to be affected by the cessation of their dealings in the United States more than Iran, including those and this will result in these firms exiting from the Iranian market in

"But the question is, how does this decision will affect us? What are the consequences of US decisions on the countries of the region? Frankly speaking, the sanctions will limit Iran's ability to produce and export crude oil.

"In this connection, the Americans have begun a campaign to boycott Iran's oil, limiting OPEC's output, and its second post-Venezuela member will bring down its output too much because of its differences with the superpowers.

"However, the double pressure on OPEC shall threaten to keep the output reduction agreement with foreign producers such as Russia, particularly following the increasing disruption of Iranian supplies, if the major consumer countries abide by US decisions and comply with them at the expense of their own interests.

"Anyway, if this happened, then the coordination among the oil producing countries will no longer exist and as such the war among these producers over the marketing quota of the crude oil, will once again be resumed, given the fact this development will coincide with the increasing prices of the oil.

"But the question here is: How can we go beyond this stage? And how we shall ease just a single part of the market fluctuation that may face us? This is what we should plan with.

"In this context, we would like to point out here that Iran does not have big investments in the petrochemical market like the Arab Gulf countries and this means we have to continue and expand in this area to ensure higher revenues, even if the price of a barrel falls if the US administration removes these sanctions or big consumer countries such as China and India do not comply with the US decisions.

"In view of its recent economic policy with the world, the petrochemical investment process is a preventive shield against any US sanctions on Iran or in case of failure of these sanctions."

"The policy of merging persons with disabilities with their peers is one of the health phenomena that started to spread in Kuwait. I hope this phenomenon will permeate all schools, offices, clubs, markets, beaches, etc," columnist *Zainab Al-Hasawi* wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"Merging enhances their self-confidence and gives them a sense of safety. They feel the importance of their role in life, thereby, achieving the required psychological equilibrium and integration in society and then work better. It also results in excellence for everyone, as education is provided at the maximum level allowed by their abilities within the classroom and ordinary school.

"Integration brings them experience and knowledge, thus, raising their life, professional and practical levels. It helps them gain material potential to make them less dependent on others and provide them with appropriate jobs in the future and to start their own family.

"As for parents, it improves their attitude towards their children and they feel proud of what

they provide. It helps them accept the disability, adapt to the situation and even overcome difficulties. It also gives them the opportunity to get rid of negative feelings like shame and frustration.

"The importance of integration for teachers lies in the fact that they develop their professional skills in planning, teamwork and cooperation, as well as accept the opinion of others and use new strategies in teaching. It supports the status of the teacher, because it will contribute to the development of modern educational systems and participate in decision making. It provides appropriate support from specialists.

"Integration is also an investment that improves economic performance and raises the efficiency of the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities and to tap their potential, which is one of the most important means to raise the efficiency of human capital.

"Certainly, the economic and social returns exceed what is spent on their rehabilitation programs. Therefore, we have to take advantage of the energies they have and provide them jobs in appropriate professional fields as productive individuals in society."

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"All indications show that Israel will do everything to prevent any actions that might obstruct its project related to Judaization of Jerusalem and the entire Palestine except for Gaza, which is difficult for Israel to swallow," *Dr Hesham Al-Diwan* wrote for *Al-Shahed* daily.

"I am sure Israel has a number of readymade scenarios that can match any potential hypotheses including launching wars against Iran and Hezbollah inside Iraq or attacking the Syrian army under the pretext of the presence of Iranian targets close to the occupied Golan Heights.

"Arabs are leading their worst era due to sectarian disputes and their contradictory viewpoints about DAESH and the different military opposition groups in Syria. The fact that Donald Trump is the President of United States of America and the fact that a number of European countries are ruled by parties loyal to international Zionism are among the reasons why Israel is able to do whatever it wants. Gaza is still the only place where Israel is afraid to approach, out of fear of sticking there and suffering troubles.

"Therefore, as long as some Arabs are submissive to Israel either willingly or unwillingly, the way will stay paved for Tel Aviv and international Zionism to make their dreams come true. The Prime Minister of the colonizing state of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu admitted this when he commented on the approval of Knesset of the so-called Jewish State law by saying, "This is not only a victory for Israel but a victory for the international Zionism that waited for so long to witness this day".

"The law means receiving Zionist colonizers from all over the world and allowing them to stay in Palestine forever. The law means Arabs, Muslims, Christians or Druze have no right in this land. Consequently, the Zionist authorities have the right to demolish any landmarks or monuments including the places of worship in Palestine.

"Thus, the Israeli objection to the Arab and Muslim military existence for defending Syria is against its agenda for Judaization of Palestine and destroying the Islamic landmarks there. Perhaps the current Israeli government or probably the coming one will dare to destroy the Christian landmarks such as the Church of Holy Sepulcher that has the tomb of Jesus Christ and other Christian monuments.

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"The Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Alaa Hashmi's call for the Kuwaiti government to adopt the term "Saddam invasion" instead of "Iraqi invasion" to describe the Iraqi invasion in Kuwait forced me to revisit the resolutions of the UN Security Council on August 2, 1990, beginning with resolution No. 660/90 and all subsequent resolutions", *Hassan Ali Karam* wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"I did not find the name Saddam Hussein in any of those resolutions but I found "Iraqi government"

"What happened on the dawn of that black day was not based on the decision of Saddam Hussein alone but a decision taken by the Iraqi government and implemented by the Iraqi army that was positioned on the Kuwaiti borders before the sinful invasion.

"It is true that Saddam Hussein was an authoritarian ruler, and constitutional institutions had no reference to his decisions and views, but these institutions at least have a legal status internationally.

"For example, the recognition of the borders of Kuwait in accordance with UN Security Council resolution No. 833/93 was presented to the Iraqi People's Assembly and the Parliament, and was voted on and approved by majority of the members except for one member. The decision was then approved by the Iraqi government and signed by Saddam Hussein and the rest of the Baathist Troika.

"Perhaps Saddam Hussein took the decision to invade Kuwait, but he did not move a tank and attack the border. The Iraqi army, with tanks, armored personnel carriers, and planes, invaded our country while we were fast asleep. We had woken up to find the Iraqi People's Army occupying the streets, neighborhoods, markets and state institutions of Kuwait.

"Yes, there are those who claim that the invasion was the decision of Saddam Hussein, and we also agree that the invasion was a sectarian decision. However, what do these people say when more than five million Iraqis between day and night occupied Kuwait and turned it into an Iraqi province? These people were celebrating on the Kuwaiti streets. What will they say about Saddam's speech in that morning when the Iraqi occupying forces escaped Kuwait in which he said Iraqis should remember that Iraq occupied Kuwait? He did not say he occupied Kuwait or ordered its invasion."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

News in Brief

Operations start Aug 15: Kuwait Airways said Monday official operation of its Terminal Four (T4) would start on Wednesday and would be specially designated for flights departing to and arriving from Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Kuwait Airways will start using T4, to be only used by the national carrier, for its Dubai trips as of Wednesday, the airlines said in a statement and urged passengers or people receiving them to head to the new terminal.

Operation will increase gradually, said Kuwait Airways.

Kuwait Airways is the Arabian Gulf's oldest airlines. It was established in 1953 and Kuwait Government became full owner in 1962.

Six people rescued: Marine firefighters rescued six people who were on board a wooden boat before it capsized close to the Port of Doha on Monday.

None of the crew members sustained any injuries, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate said in a statement.

However, one of the firefighters broke his arm during the rescue efforts.