

Other Voices

Change or perish

To be or not to be

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

Secularism is not a denial of religion, but a denial of the role of clergy in managing and directing the State. This was what the intellectual Faraj Fouda called for, and that is why the Brotherhood assassinated him because they wanted to rule and dominate.

Like humans and companies, countries need to develop, change and keep pace with the times, and if they fail in the area of modernization, they will decay and die, or at least will lie buried under the rest of the nations.

Any modern State faces problems when it comes to providing security, food safety, welfare, social peace and democracy, problems that cannot be encountered without constant modernization and development.

Political systems and large international firms have just vanished because they failed to cope with the development. Other countries and companies have failed to predict the change, the change adopted by their rivals and have chosen the declining path in which once they were leaders.

We also believe that international companies, if they want to succeed, are looking at what their customers need, how to satisfy their tastes and make the necessary technical and contractual changes, which are required continuously, without regard to the nationality of these customers and their walks of life and beliefs.

The same applies to governments, which should not be biased towards a specific religion, in a changing world of multi-ethnicity, animosity, religions and even philosophies. Religion belongs to the individual components of society and groups, and the State must

not look after a specific category, no matter how big in number.

The State is obliged to deal with all on equal footing. Gone are the days when a State would pamper one dominating race. The State that fails to treat all on equal footing shall face problems and prone to fragmentation and disintegration of the society. There is no place for bad intentions

Anyone who believes that his or her tribe, origin, religion, sect or gender is better than others will inevitably fail to deal fairly with their compatriots in the area of logic, equality and justice in rights and duties, which is what a modern state seeks, if we want to continue to exist and develop.

Therefore we must choose between a State which is biased towards a people, unjust, turbulent, fearful, tyrannical and a multicultural State which is open to all, and treat everyone on an equal footing, without distinction between race, ethnicity, religion or others.

The first State is not immune to the difference and turmoil because the conflict within the majority is always possible no matter how coherent it is because the conflict will inevitably result from a word or interpretation of a phrase or greed in the rule.

The examples contrary to what we have said and the light of persistence of the steadfastness and survival of some States, despite the insistence on the imposition of their religious belief and interpretation of own religion on everyone will not last forever, and if it does, this might be due to the richness of those critical countries, and the policies of oppression and abuse, and not because they are right, or their model is applicable and followed by others.

We repeat that our Constitution needs a larger secular dose, and the people need a wider margin of freedom. The audio visual law has become obsolete, while injustice has been the order of the day and the time has come for its amendment.

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Al-Sarraf



A silhouette of Kuwait City during sunset. (KUNA — Abdullah Jadaan)

Justice Palace is loaded with security, 'royal', terror rulings

Saudi prince acquitted of abducting his kids

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 25: The court premises Thursday witnessed series of judicial verdicts at various levels in cases related to the national security, Amiri authority and the judiciary, as well as regional issues such as an attack on a sisterly country, and terrorism.

The Misdemeanor Court chaired by Judge Saud Al-Sane' sentenced a Kuwaiti blogger Saqer Al-Hashash to 20 years in prison in absentia over two cases concerning abuse of the personality of His Highness the Amir, and assaulting the judiciary via social media.

The Public Prosecution Department charged Al-Hashash based on a petition submitted by the Department of Criminal Investigation in the Ministry of Interior. He was accused of deliberately tweeting statements considered to defame and trample on the rights of HH the Amir and his authority, and spreading hoax information against the judiciary. He was also charged for abuse of use of smart phone.

In another judgment, the Misdemeanor Court sentenced the blogger Abdullah Al-Saleh to 10 years in prison with hard labor in two cases filed against him by the State Security Department. He was accused of defaming Saudi Arabia, UAE and Bahrain. The total years of jail terms handed him have thus totaled 26 years in series of cases.

Meanwhile, the Misdemeanor Court presided by Judge Sale, Al-Asousi cancelled a previous decision that acquitted fugitive Hamad Al-Haroun and sentenced him to three years imprisonment in the "Qatar Bank" case. A circuit in the Appeals Court slammed 15 years imprisonment sentence on a Lebanese expatriate with hard labor, and upheld the verdict to imprison 6 others (2 Kuwaitis, 2 Saudis, an Egyptian and a Syrian) to 10 years behind bars with hard labor in a State Security case related to financing of terrorism.

The Prosecution had charged the first suspect in the case for perpetrating acts of aggression against a friendly country and subjecting the country to the risk of severing ties with the country in question. The charges included fighting in the ranks of a banned terrorist organization and collecting donations on its behalf. The second suspect was accused of training DAESH members to use arms. All the accused were implicated



A Municipality inspector seals a restaurant.

Violations detected in stables raid

The Public Hygiene and Road Works Department at the Kuwait Municipality branch in Jahra, in cooperation with the Public Authority for Sports, carried out an extensive inspection campaign in the stables of Jahra Equestrian Club which resulted in impounding 10 abandoned

vehicles, issuance of one violation, citation and closure of a restaurant.

In a press statement, Director of the department Fahad Al-Qureina explained the campaign was aimed at curbing violations like hawking, and operating unlicensed restaurants and mobile

shops, in addition to tracking abandoned vehicles.

The three-and-a-half-hour campaign started at 9:00 am during which 10 vehicles were impounded — two mobile shops were shut, in addition to confiscating 40 bags of charcoal and 30 bags of firewood.

on the financing of terrorism.

The suspects admitted to the Public Prosecution that they transferred money to DAESH under the guise of collecting donations for Syrian people. They affirmed that organizers of the donation campaign did not know their motives.

Prince acquitted: The Criminal Court chaired by Judge Ahmad Al-Yasin acquitted a Saudi prince of abducting his children from the ex-wife who's a Kuwaiti.

In the previous session, the court removed arrest order against the defendant to enable him attend the hearing session and to defend himself against the allegation by his ex-wife in Kuwait.

The man allegedly abducted his underage children from their mother without any use of force, threat or trick. He is said to have picked them up from their mother's residence in

Kuwait where they were living, and later took them outside the country without her consent or knowledge.

He was accused of taking the action to break communication link between the children and their mother. The woman said she was married to the prince with whom she had the children while living together in Saudi Arabia as a family until she got divorced and returned to Kuwait.

The defendant and the plaintiff had made a gentleman's agreement that the woman should take custody of the children, and that the man was free to visit them at his convenience without necessarily involving the judiciary. However, the man came on that fateful day to take the children without returning them or notifying anybody of their whereabouts.

According to the prosecution officer, it has already been established that the man took the children out of the country based on the record of the

exit channels administration.

Murder hearing delayed: The Criminal Court postponed until Feb 4, 2018 the session on the case of murdering young Muslim cleric Abdul-Rahman Al-Sannafi.

The court took this decision after listening to the testimonies of the case prosecutor and witnesses.

After the session, lawyer of the victim's family Attorney Abdullah Al-Dhiyab disclosed the prosecuting officer affirmed in his testimony that the results of investigations proved the murder was premeditated. He pointed out the defendant took a knife which he intended to use on the victim and waited for the suitable time to commit the crime.

The officer said the defendant and the person driving the vehicle in which the crime was committed, followed the victim when he got out of a mosque and entered a nearby supermarket.

Drunk trio attack policeman

quarrel between them.

A case of intentional murder was filed against him and he was referred to the Public Prosecution.

Police attacked: Three Kuwaiti citizens were arrested for attacking a policeman in Salmiya area as well as consuming liquor and possessing three liquor bottles.

A video clip of the incident, which was captured by one of the suspects and uploaded on the Internet, went viral on social media.

The General Department of Public Relations and Security Media of Ministry of Interior revealed in a press statement that a case has been filed against the three citizens who were detained in a police station for necessary legal action.

It explained that the policeman who is affiliated to Public Security Sector was patrolling Salmiya area when he noticed a motorist driving his vehicle recklessly. He ordered the motorist to pull over and checked the IDs of the motorist and his two passengers to discover they are all Kuwaiti citizens.

He also noticed their disoriented state and checked the vehicle to find three liquor bottles. While trying to arrest them, two of the suspects including the motorist attacked the policeman while the third suspect filmed the incident.

Eventually, other police teams arrived at the location and arrested the suspects, referring them with the liquor bottles to the nearest police station.

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Two cheat Kuwaiti: Police have arrested a Nepalese man for betrayal of trust and stealing 45,000 from the company he works in, reports Al-Rai daily. According to the daily, the man stole the money in cooperation with an Indian employee.

The arrest came after the Kuwaiti owner of the company filed a complaint with the Nuqra Police Station accusing two employees in his company — of betrayal of trust.

The complainant said the suspects imported goods worth KD 45,000 from India without his knowledge and kept money for themselves.

Police have arrested the Nepalese while the Indian reportedly left the country three years ago.

Other Voices

Is management the cause?

"Do not try to make circumstances fit your plans. Make plans that fit the circumstances," US senior military officer General George Smith Patton Jr. (1885 – 1945).

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By Yousef Awadh Al-Azmi

IN ANY company, establishment or even the private or government sector, the most essential thing is prudent management. This means the management of any entity should show a good sense of its capability and carefully calculated managerial judgment when handling practical matters.

In other words, a prudent management respects the ability of an entity and avoids falling for unrealistic ambitions, because confident progress even if at a slow pace is better than rapid unsteady success.

In the field of major construction companies, a prudent management is the key factor in running the business. In this regard, I don't only mean the contracted projects, but the entire management of the company through the formulation of a comprehensive idea about the reality of the project which is about to be executed.

This includes activation of risk management due to its importance in this kind of companies considering the effects on the flow of work from every angle. If risk management is ineffective, there is no point in justifying failures or mistakes.

Recently, a major construction company in Britain — the Carillion Construction Company, collapsed despite its brilliant global reputation. There have been several speculations on the reasons behind what is considered a surprising collapse. However, those interested in such affairs would have anticipated its natural collapse due to some precursors which started last July, when the company sustained a heavy blow that led to the stepping down of its CEO Richard Howson.

The British government attempted to bail out the company from the crisis by providing several grants of millions of pounds, including the railway line project. This is in addition to allowing the company to continue working on the huge

contract with the British military, but the company reached a point where it could no longer nurse the damage and recuperate.

All the steps taken by the British government to rescue Carillion Construction Company could be compared to painkillers given to a sick person on deathbed.

This company was established in 1999 and it achieved rapid successes, up to the point of taking over rival companies and expanding its services overseas. Interestingly, the report on its collapse focused on two things: delayed contractual payments of major projects in three Middle Eastern countries and pitching for contracts at any price — unfeasible contracts.

It is very clear that bad management was the main reason behind the collapse, especially in terms of project contracts in the Middle East — with countries known for ill-treatment when it comes to settling contractual payments. This is in addition to the unstable currency and economy, let alone the widespread corruption.

This is why it is necessary for companies venturing into overseas contracts — whether in the Middle East or elsewhere — to gather enough information on the political, social and commercial conditions of the targeted country; as well as laws governing the labor sector, customs and exemptions in addition to difficulties in transporting capital assets.

With regard to pitching for unfeasible contracts at any price, here we understand that the problem is internal before becoming external as far as the company goes. We also reiterate the effect of bad management, especially in terms of risks.

The space is not enough for me to dig further into the issue, but the most pressing issue is related solely to management. This does not necessarily mean that the management is corrupt. On the contrary, the management could uphold principles of integrity but, unfortunately, it could lack capabilities which are necessary for innovative and prudent management.

Currently, Carillion is in a very difficult situation. It has been put under liquidation and the issue could extend to prosecution. Only time can tell, especially after the government's failure to bail it out, since the collapse has put the future of Carillion's 19,500 employees at risk and put pressure on the government.

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News in Brief

Gamblers held: Three Asian expatriates were arrested for gambling behind an empty housing complex in Capital Governorate, says Al-Seyassah.

According to security sources, Capital securitymen were patrolling the area when they inspected the location and found some Asian expatriates gambling. When they approached the suspects, they started to run away but securitymen chased them and eventually arrested them.

The suspects were referred to the concerned authorities for necessary legal action.

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Chalet robbed: Unknown individuals stole building materials worth KD 1,200 from a chalet owned by a Kuwaiti citizen in Doha area, says Al-Seyassah.

The owner informed Doha securitymen that he went to the chalet and discovered that it was broken into and a number of materials intended for the construction of a building had been stolen.

Officers from the General Department for Criminal Evidences were summoned to the location and fingerprints were lifted to identify the thieves.

By Meshal Al-Sanousi
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 25: An Egyptian expatriate was stabbed to death by another in Kabad area.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior received information about the incident, securitymen and paramedics rushed to the location and found the victim lying in a pool of blood. They examined him to realize he had succumbed to three stab wounds on his chest.

Securitymen conducted investigations and discovered that the victim was stabbed by his 1964-born Egyptian colleague.

After they arrested the suspect, the latter confessed to stabbing the victim three times using a knife during a