

Kuwait affirms commitment to protection of minorities globally

Ambassador Al-Budaiwi attends Belgian confab

BRUSSELS, May 14, (KUNA): Kuwait underlined Monday its full belief in the importance of joint international efforts in protecting minorities and ensuring their security around the globe.

Kuwait's hosting of the International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq (KICRI) last February, in addition to an international donors conference for the Rohingya in October 2017, is a reflection of its various efforts and important contributions towards ensuring protection for minorities around the world, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Belgium, EU, and NATO Jassem Al-Budaiwi told KUNA.

The Kuwaiti diplomat made his remarks on the sidelines of the third International Conference on the Victims of Ethnic and Religious Violence in the Middle East, which began in Brussels earlier.

The Belgian Conference is an extension of the Paris Conference, held in September 2015, and the Madrid Conference in 2017, he noted, adding both conferences were significant and came out with needed recommendations to help those minorities.

"Ethnic and religious diversity represent the true identity of the Middle East region, and preserving it is essential for ensuring a future where peace, stability, and freedom prevail in the region," he said.

During the post-conflict reconstruction phase, special protection should be provided to religious and ethnic minorities and necessary measures should be taken to ensure a safe and lasting return that preserves the dignity of the displaced, said Al-Budaiwi.

The international community's efforts must be combined to ensure the protection of minorities and bring those who commit crimes against them to international justice, he said.

Today's conference is aimed to address the steps taken and the urgent steps to be taken within the framework of the Paris Executive Plan, adopted in this regard on Sept 8, 2015, added Al-Budaiwi.

The one-day conference is co-chaired by Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Didier Reynders and his Lebanese colleague Gebran Bassil.

In his opening address, Reynders

Cultural office honors Kuwaiti grads in Cairo

CAIRO, May 14, (KUNA): Amid joyful atmospheres, the Cultural Office of the Kuwaiti Embassy held on Saturday an honoring ceremony for the Kuwaitis graduated from Egyptian universities for the academic year 2017-18.

In a speech at the ceremony, Fatma Senan, representative of Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Hamed Al-Azmi, lauded the comprehensive renaissance witnessed by Kuwait's educational sector, thanks to the wise vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

She referred to the role by His Highness the Amir in supporting the country's sons and daughters to complete their studies, which provide them with knowledge and science and other skills.

Such things enable the Kuwaiti graduates to contribute to the march of development and prosperity in the country in all domains, she noted.

She expressed her gratitude to Egyptian officials who helped these people be able to face the future's challenges, in line with highest scientific standards so as to continue development in both public and private sectors.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt Mohammad Al-Thuwaikh stressed that Kuwait has been sparing no efforts to back its citizens studying abroad, urging them to continue education and learning to be benefit their country. Speaking to KUNA in a statement on the sidelines of the ceremony, the ambassador congratulated the fresh graduates and their families on this occasion. For his part, Ahmad Al-Mutairi, head of the office, told the graduates that they would be the future, saying "If you are part of present, you will be the entire future." He affirmed that the country remains strengthened, strong and stable by the hands of its citizens who contribute to its development and progress.

Bassil urged the international community to exert further efforts toward dealing with extremism and fanaticism in the Middle East region, noting his country hosts a large number of Syrian refugees that make up now nearly half of Lebanon's population.

On his part, Jan Kubis, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Iraq, praised Kuwait for its reconciliation efforts in the region. "I would like to join our keynote speakers to express our admiration and gratitude to the State of Kuwait for facilitating a very important reconstruction and rehabilitation conference and for the countries of the region that pledged massive support," said the UN official in his speech.

He said the UN has created special investigating team to deal with the horrendous crimes committed by the so-called Islamic State (IS) in Iraq.

A large number of ministers, heads of international organizations, and representatives of a number of ethnic and religious communities are taking part in the conference.



Al-Azmi

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The American University of Kuwait received its Institutional Accreditation from the Private Universities Council (PUC), Ministry of Higher Education in the State of Kuwait, and has a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation with Dartmouth College (Hanover, New Hampshire - USA).

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