

Other Voices

Phenomenon of ex-minister

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

The phenomenon of former minister Nayef Al-Ajmi is worth highlighting not because it is 'strange', but because of the way the successive governments have dealt with it.

Nayef Muhammad Hajjaj Al-Ajmi is considered an Islamic preacher, and he emerged as an imam of a mosque and preacher. Earlier he was the Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, before the United States indirectly objected to his appointment, arguing that he supported the armed groups in Syria with money and weapons. This prompted him to resign from the government in 2014, a few months after its formation.



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Al-Ajmi graduated from the Faculty of Sharia at Kuwait University in 1996, and returned to teaching there after obtaining his PhD from the University of Cairo's law school in 2004. Like other activists in the field of Salafi Da'awah, he was appointed to several Sharia bodies of private companies operating within the so-called non-usurious systems. He was and still is close to government entities.

Despite all the confusion surrounding his activities, the extremism he has portrayed in many situations, and the extremism he has demonstrated through the social media, the government acceptance of him has not wavered.

The Sheikh or Hajj Nayef recently issued a fatwa prohibiting citizens from subscribing to the Zour Power Company on the pretext of suspicion that the company deals in usury, a charge that we have already mentioned, because the entire country from the government, to the food companies, farms, poultry raising, flour, oil extraction and refining, private hospitals, medicines and feed

producers, and dozens of other activities, are dealing with interest, so where is the question of usury?

However, the government responded to Al-Ajmi's fatwa and transferred it to the Endowments 'Awqaf' for its authenticity. This prompted scores of citizens to refrain from subscribing to the new joint-stock company.

The question is: How did this civil state, with its constitution, its institutions, its Parliament, its banks and its Central Bank, allow itself to submit to the opinion of a common man, who has no official capacity but has thrust himself into a rivalry with the judiciary and the civil institutions that are indispensable legally, constitutionally ... and logically?

How did the state allow the same former minister of justice and Awqaf, which had earlier asked him to quit from this sensitive ministry, to occupy the platform of the most important mosque and deliver a sermon, which I do not think is authorized to broadcast, with all its controversial contents, on state television.

There are questions and some people already know their answers, but some people do not want to ring the bell and announce the fact that the country continues to be held hostage by forces of darkness whose influence has receded throughout the world but these forces have found Kuwait as their haven.

Note: One week ago I wrote about the mistake of believing that the 'fish & chips' the famous English meal, which the Muslims in Britain tend to think and believe, that it is fried in beer!

A decent reader of my article drew my attention to the fact that some restaurants are already preparing a paste with flour, garlic powder and eggs, with salt and pepper, and kneading it all with beer, boiling the dough with oil in high temperature and then dip the fish in the dough ... the option is yours.

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A panoramic view of Kuwait City during sunset. (Ahmad Al-Failakawi - KUNA)

The perfect crime ... material, equipment worth over KD 390,000 'stolen' from abandoned site

Bangladeshi robbed of cash by trio film-style

**KUWAIT CITY, Dec 10:** The Al-Qabas daily has learned that equipment and construction material worth more than 390,000 dinars has been stolen from a construction site in the Jahra Governorate from a project which was stalled for more than two years ago for various reasons, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The report of the experts from the Ministry of Justice, a copy of which has been obtained by the daily, show the Construction and Maintenance Department of the Ministry of Interior had taken the workers and engineers off its site without allowing them to take out their equipment, machinery and materials when work on the project was stopped in 2017 due to the contractor's failure to obtain a change order.

The Ministry of Justice was asked last week to send a specialized team to look at the site and to ensure its safety and the safety of the construction equipment and materials, which the contractor now claims has been stolen.

The report says some of the Ministry of Interior officials involved in the project learned of the theft, and after registering a complaint at the area police station, they did not inform the other relevant authorities, such as the project contractor who owns the equipment and other devices since the project was at the center of the dispute between the contractor and the ministry.

The daily added, following the dispute the project site was closed and the contractor was not allowed to take his equipment.

According to the report, the stolen goods include 35 construction materials, site installations and electrical appliances, which cannot be stolen, except by destroying the site or entering illegally, in addition to stealing tons of iron, wood, and machinery that can only be taken using huge cranes and entering by the main gate using heavy duty trucks and trailer trucks.

The report pointed out that the theft, and after its discovery last Wednesday, showed that the project was not subject to destruction in any aspect or there was no forced entry.

Whoever stole the material and equipment used cranes and trucks, said the representative of the Ministry of Interior, who accompanied the representative from the Ministry of Justice and the contractor during the visit.

**Well-planned robbery:** Police are looking for three unidentified persons for stealing 1,350 dinars from a Bangladeshi, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the complainant he was driving in Fintas and another vehicle collided with his vehicle. He told the police he thought it was just an accident but was surprised when three men got out of the car, assaulted him and took the money from him.

He told police although he does not know the men; it appears they were certain that he was carrying a large sum of money, because the crime was so well planned.

He has given the Fintas police the description of the men and their vehicle. Police are looking for the suspects. He also said the men must have followed him from a local bank branch.

**Aluminium rods stolen:** The Ahmadi police are looking for unidentified thieves for stealing aluminium barriers from a pedestrian bridge in Mahboula, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to security sources the



Top and above: The site from where the construction material and other equipment was stolen.



Car of a stunt driver stuck in the sand in an unknown area. Mol photo

Traffic officer abused, drifter flees

Two young boys abused a traffic officer when they were stopped at a checkpoint in Sabahiya area for driving in a reckless manner. They fled the scene with the help of two other companions in another car.

A patrolman affiliated to the Ahmadi Traffic Department spotted the boys

performing stunts with their vehicle and requested the driver to show his ID. At this moment, the two companions blocked the road to traffic and aided the suspects to run away after abusing the traffic man. Investigation is ongoing to arrest the suspects and take necessary action against them.

News in Brief

**Coke, opium seized:** The customs officers at the Kuwait International Airport have arrested an unidentified Lebanese passenger for attempting to smuggle in to the country small quantities of cocaine and opium into the country, reports Al-Anba daily.

The woman was caught on suspicion because she appeared nervous and during a search found the drugs hidden in her baggage.

In another incident, the customs officers at the Nuwaiseeb border post have arrested another unidentified man, who arrived at the border point with a quantity of hashish hidden in his car.

They have been referred to the General Department for Drugs Control (GDCC).

**Kuwaiti assaulted:** Police are looking for two Kuwaitis for beating and terrifying a compatriot in a suburb of Ahmadi, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the complainant, he was involved in a dispute with the two men and they invited him for a meeting at a public square to settle outstanding issues.

However, he said when he arrived at the place, the men beat him and shot in the air to terrify him and pointed a gun at him and threatened to kill him. Before escaping from the scene they hit him with the car and attempted to run him over.

**Ex-wife's car stolen:** Police are looking for an unidentified man for stealing the car of his ex-wife using a duplicate key, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, in her complaint the woman said the car was parked in front of the building where she lives.

She added, when she asked the guard of

the building, he denied knowledge, but said the car must have been taken by someone who has a key because he had not seen any strange activity.

A complaint has been filed at a police station in the Hawalli governorate.

**Drug addict arrested:** A young man in his 20s was arrested in Jahra area for driving under narcotic influence and possessing methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

According to security sources, Jahra securitymen were patrolling the area when they suspected a motorist and ordered him to pull over. Sensing his disoriented state, they checked him and found the aforementioned items.

He was arrested and referred with the confiscated items to the Drug Control General Department for necessary legal action.

**Drugs found on Kuwaiti:** The Hawalli police have arrested an unidentified Kuwaiti, born in 1988, and referred him to the Psychiatric Hospital, after finding narcotics in his possession which he tried to hide when police approached him, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, the suspect was arrested in Salmiya after police discovered he was wanted by the Psychiatric Hospital to undergo rehabilitation.

**Mother insulted, abused:** A mother in tears has filed a complaint with the Khairan Police Station accusing her son of verbally abusing and insulting her in front of her neighbors, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to a security source, a case has been filed against him and a warrant has been issued for his arrest.

Mol adopts new strategy to follow up primaries

**KUWAIT CITY, Dec 10:** Ministry of interior has adopted a new strategy to follow up potential primaries (consultative meetings of the tribes preceding parliamentary elections) as advertisements related to the primaries intensified on social media lately, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Sources pointed out that recent primaries followed up by the ministry belong to fifth constituency and the participants are expected to be investigated soon after referring the issue to the Public Prosecution, indicat-

ing the new mechanism of follow up will help provide clear evidences to the Public Prosecution to prove violation of the law in that regard.

They said security authorities have discovered that some primaries were held under the guise of public welfare groups and civil society organizations. They stressed that several tribes have refused to hold such meetings out of respect for the rule of law. They also justified the acquittal of several participants of the primaries on lack of concrete evidence.

They pointed out that issues related to primaries, in most cases, are referred to the Public Prosecution based on information received about road congestion or heavy traffic in front of some diwanias but such evidences are not considered tangible. They explained that the court requires material evidences such as ballot boxes at meeting venues but the Ministry of Interior tries to avoid any possible collision with citizens as witnessed years ago in Sabahiya with the interference of Special Forces.

the car missing, he saw the glass pieces of the car window in the place where his car was parked.

The description of the car and the car plate number has been relayed to all police patrols and concerned security authorities.

A security source said, "Thieves targeting aluminum barriers have become a frequent scene. Personnel from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) have been tasked to arrest the suspects and bring them to justice."

**Arsonist identified:** Al-Jahra police have identified the Kuwaiti who was wanted by law in the case of arson - for setting fire to the neighbor's car in Al-Jahra Governorate, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to the daily the suspect had disappeared after committing the crime.

A security source said the complainant had filed a report with the area police station and pointed a finger of accusation at the neighbor.

The complainant had also talked about differences and earlier disputes with the man and the suspect had also threatened to cause him harm.

**Kuwaiti's car stolen:** Police are looking for an unidentified car thief who is said to have stolen the vehicle which was parked in front of the house of a Kuwaiti, reports Al-Anba daily.

In his complaint to the Fintas police, the Kuwaiti said when he found

the car missing, he saw the glass pieces of the car window in the place where his car was parked.

The description of the car and the car plate number has been relayed to all police patrols and concerned security authorities.

**Man shoots himself:** A Kuwaiti citizen in his 60s died of shooting inside his house in Rehab area.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior received information about a shooting in the house, securitymen and paramedics rushed to the location, and found the deceased citizen as well as an air rifle. One of his family members informed securitymen that he was mentally ill.

The corpse was referred to the Forensics Department, and a case was registered.

Investigations are ongoing to determine the actual circumstances of the incident, as to whether the victim shot himself or if he was killed.

**Boy hurt in accident:** A ten-year old Egyptian boy sustained injuries and fractures when he was hit by a vehicle driven by an Egyptian man in Mahboula area.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior received information about the accident, securitymen and paramedics rushed to the location. The child was referred in an ambulance to Adan Hospital for treatment.

The motorist informed securitymen that the victim went in front of his vehicle suddenly and he was unable to avoid him.

Necessary legal action was taken thereafter.

**6 hurt in fire:** Acting on information firemen from the Sulaibkhat and Shuwaikh fire centers rushed to a house in Waha in the early hours of the morning and put out fire and personnel from the Emergency Medical Services provided first aid to six people, reports Al-Anba daily.

The firemen have opened an investigation into the cause of the fire which caused damage to house but no injuries to anyone.

On the other hand, firemen rushed to the King Fahd bin Abdulaziz Highway and extinguished fire to a car.

The fire damaged the front part of the car. The cause of the fire is not known.

**400 citations issued:** Head of Department of Cleanliness and Road Works in Capital Municipality Engr Meshal Al-Azmi says the municipality issued 400 citations during the transitional period of the new contracts with commercial cleaning companies that work in shops and investment complexes among other sites, reports Annahar daily.

In an interview, he stressed that the municipality does not differentiate between companies, and applies the law on everyone.