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Kuwait voice of wisdom, peace: EU

Opinion

Destroy 'Brotherhood' terrorism with iron fist

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

FIRST and foremost, we have to salute our security authorities for their success in arresting members of the 'Brotherhood' cell that committed crimes in Egypt and then fled to Kuwait where they took shelter.

Undoubtedly, tremendous efforts were invested in this operation. In its statement, the Ministry of Interior called the operation "pre-emptive." This is one of the remarkable achievements of Kuwaiti security authorities that also achieved major success in dismantling the 'Abdally Cell' whose members planned to commit crimes in the country.

Kuwait's judiciary must be commended as well for its independence in dealing with cases, such as the 'Abdally Cell' case; in which it disentangled every thread until all those implicated were convicted and got due punishment.

Undoubtedly, Kuwait is located on the firing line of terrorism. It is facing threats from various parties - from Iran's agents in the region or the 'Muslim Brotherhood' members who, in the early days of the Arab Spring vowed to spread chaos in Kuwait after its plans in Egypt succeeded in 2011, and they kept their word in the two years which followed.

Indeed at the time, the response to security destabilization attempts was strong. HH the Amir said during what he described as the 'Black Wednesday', "Kuwait was almost lost. In fact, it would have been gone if it were not for the rapid and decisive response to contain the chaos mongers."

Based on this, there should have been anticipation of any move by the Brotherhood for a long time; especially after their failure in Egypt, Syria and other Arab countries, and their attempt to assimilate the protests in Algeria after such moves banished in Sudan. Also, there should have been a follow-up mechanism for every suspected 'Brotherhood' member.

Some GCC countries have taken this anticipation into consideration from the beginning. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hit them with an iron fist after the political leadership felt that this group tried to destabilize the Kingdom and spread chaos there.

Due to the crucial decision taken by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman and Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman, the group was uprooted; and the United Arab Emirates took a similar step.

We beg to ask: If Kuwait's security authorities could reject a visit visa application, sometimes for flimsy reasons; did the members who were arrested in Kuwait go through the usual security background check given that they had permits to reside in this country?

Perhaps, their applications were facilitated and went through as a result of the intervention of 'Brotherhood' members who infiltrated the country's security apparatus and allowed them to enter the country.

Is it possible that this cell came to Kuwait to play its role in any incident here, especially after the threats hurled at the country in order to back down on judiciary rulings against some MPs, individuals affiliated to the group and the fugitives who went to Turkey?

These questions and many others need answers and explanations for the Kuwaiti public that does not want to see blood on the streets, similar to what happened in several Arab countries, particularly this time when war bells are heard in the region.

The alliance between the regime in Iran and the 'Brotherhood' is not a secret to anyone. Its history in assassinations and bombings over the past 91 years, since its inception, are well known.

Therefore, this incident should neither be overlooked nor end with handing over the suspects to Egypt. Instead, the suspects and those who facilitated their entry to Kuwait and sheltered them should be put under the microscope of the judiciary; or else, danger will continue lurking here. Perhaps, the worst is yet to come.

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NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: Results of a study conducted by Cancer Research UK (CRUK) showed that obesity is more likely to cause bowel, kidney, ovarian and liver cancers than smoking.

A report by Jennifer Bell published on www.zawya.com recently revealed that obesity is the second most preventable cause of cancer and it is expected to overtake as the leading cause of cancers in women by 2035.

Considering that the number of obesity cases in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries is rising at an alarming rate, experts urged the governments of these countries to implement stricter rules on advertising, limit junk food and adopt a 'get tough' approach.

According to the National Cancer Institute, the high amount of body fat is linked with increased risks of several types of cancers.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines 'overweight' as having body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 25, obesity as having BMI greater than or equal to 30.

The CIA World Factbook disclosed that in the Middle East, Kuwait recorded the highest obesity rate at 37.9 percent, followed by Jordan at 35.5 percent, Saudi Arabia at 35.4 percent and Qatar at 35.1 percent.

It has been reported that 86 percent of women and 77 percent of men in these countries are overweight and obese.

Health authorities said that about a third of people in GCC countries are clinically obese.

General surgeon and Director of the Bariatric Surgery Program at John Hopkins Aramco Healthcare (JHAH) in Saudi Arabia Dr Abdullah Al-Ghamdi confirmed that being overweight is a bigger cause of some types of cancers than tobacco.

He explained, "GCC countries have some of the highest incidences of obesity in the world - affecting mainly children and adolescents. The impact of this is massive - not only on healthcare systems but also on the national, regional and global economy. It is a chronic disease that cripples productivity. We see only the tip of the iceberg with obesity, while smoking has been studied for decades and we know more about it."

He stressed the need for "aggressive preventive measures," suggesting that "this can start in schools. When a student reaches a certain weight, the student and the parents should be counseled and an action plan implemented. Schools, too, should commit themselves to maintaining obesity incidence to a minimum defined percentage."

Saudi physician Dr Ali Mollah, who heads Tawazon, the diabetes-prevention program of JHAH, said the results of CRUK's study are not surprising anymore as obesity and smoking are major contributors to poor health and early deaths.

He considers obesity a "global epidemic," indicating that Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are among the top 10 countries in terms of obesity.

Bariatric surgery specialist at Medcare Hospital in Dubai Dr Hussam Trabulsi said the findings of CRUK are "very concerning," especially given the "alarming" obesity rates in the Gulf region.

He suggested, "In the same way that steps were taken to discourage smoking such as warnings on packaging, we should be doing the same with obesity to raise awareness."

Consultant in bariatric and general surgery at Barea International Hospital in the UAE Dr El Zaqi Ladha asserted, "Cancer is alarming for anybody, and particularly in the GCC where obesity rate is very high." (Agencies)

MP hails action

Kuwait cracks Muslim Brotherhood cell

By Ahmed Al-Naqeeb
Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior announced on Saturday clamping down on a terrorist cell of the Muslim Brotherhood Organization's Egyptian members who had been convicted of terrorism.

Members of the cells had been handed down verdicts by the Egyptian judiciary, the MoI said in a press release, indicating that some of the detainees had been sentenced to 15 years behind bars in their home country.

The MoI personnel located whereabouts of the fugitives, who had escaped from the Egyptian authorities to Kuwait, and arrested them. During interrogations, they admitted to carrying out terrorist operations in Egypt.

Investigations are proceeding to determine their accomplices, the MoI statement said, warning that it would crack down ruthlessly against saboteurs.

Kuwait is not a safe haven for terrorists and they are not allowed to establish their headquarters here, says MP Riyadh Al-

Adsani in reaction to the announcement of the Interior Ministry about the arrest of members of a Muslim Brotherhood terrorist cell sentenced to 15 years in prison by the Egyptian authorities.

Praising the efforts of Kuwaiti security forces, he asserted that the security of the country is above all considerations and the law must be enforced with an iron fist, away from any form of intervention.

The ministry revealed that members of the cell escaped from Egyptian authorities and made Kuwait as their hideout, but the Kuwaiti security forces quickly conducted intense investigations which led to their arrest. Initial interrogations revealed that the cell carried out terrorism and destabilizing operations in Egypt.

The ministry affirmed that interrogations will continue in order to identify accomplices, especially those who helped them escape and provided them shelter.

The ministry stressed it will not tolerate anyone proven to be affiliated with this terrorist cell or other such organizations, warning that it will use an iron fist in dealing with anything which threatens national security.

Delegation opens

BRUSSELS, July 13, (KUNA): European Union High Representative Federica Mogherini Saturday lauded Kuwait as "a voice of wisdom and a force for peace in these difficult times for our region."

"And this is what has made us natural partners. This new European Delegation is first and foremost a sign of how close the European Union and Kuwait have become. By opening our new Delegation, we want to strengthen our relation with Kuwait even further, as part of our engagement in this region," she told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) in an interview ahead of her visit to Kuwait to open an EU embassy there.

"You have taken up the role of the mediator and the peacebuilder, and this required a lot of courage. We appreciate the constructive role Kuwait is playing within the Gulf Cooperation Council through its continuous mediation at the highest level. Your country has worked and is working to end the war in Yemen, and you have demonstrated your commitment to multilateralism as non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2018-2019," she said.

The EU's foreign policy chief noted that on each one of these challenges - from the war in Yemen to tensions in the Gulf - the European Union and Kuwait have been working side by side.

"Together we co-chaired the conference for the reconstruction of Iraq, we contributed to saving UNRWA in its funding crisis, and we have been among the strongest supporters of Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon, or of children in Yemen," she said.

The highly-respectable EU High Representative recalled that three years ago we signed a Cooperation arrangement between our foreign services.

"And now, by establishing a full diplomatic presence in Kuwait City, we are opening a new chapter in our partnership. The aim is to further strengthen our political dialogue as well as our economic cooperation, in particular in support of Kuwait's "Vision 2035", she stressed.

"Our cooperation already focuses on energy, trade and investment, security and counterterrorism, and we are working on extending our dialogue to other fields, in particular education, research and innovation. The new Delegation will also aim to build bridges between the Kuwaiti society and European citizens," she stated to KUNA.

Mogherini pointed out that this is the EU's third Delegation in the GCC countries, following those in Saudi Arabia and in the United Arab Emirates.

"So this is also a message to the whole region: the European Union cares about the Middle East and the Gulf. We care about peace, security and human development in this part of the world, because we are neighbors. It is essential to invest in our ties, and to explore every opportunity for cooperation when our interests and values converge," she stressed.

Referring to relations between the EU and the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), she said the partnership between the two blocs is one of the oldest in the region, and cooperation has continued whenever possible, in spite of all the tensions within the Council.

"We believe that regional cooperation is crucial to prevent new escalations and to address controversies in a peaceful way. We have learnt it through decades of European cooperation, which ended centuries of wars on our continent," she said.

"The polarisation generated by divisions within the GCC affects negatively the situation in the region and beyond. This is why we continue to support negotiated solutions in the Gulf. As soon as Kuwait started its mediation, we threw all our political support behind your work to create a breathing space for regional détente," said the EU High Representative.

"I was in Kuwait in the summer of 2017, to meet His Highness the Amir and discuss how we could be of help. And we will continue to support your role as a mediator and a voice of wisdom in the region," she said.

Commenting on EU-Arab ties, she said "Europeans and Arabs are more than just neighbours. We share so much history and culture. The Mediterranean Sea has always connected our people more than it divided us. We share the same space: whatever happens in the Arab world has an impact on Europe, and vice-versa."

"The European Union is among the top investors in the Arab world, and we are the main trade partner. Our young people share many of the same aspirations - to better opportunities, to better jobs, to finding their place in our societies. I have always believed that Euro-Arab cooperation holds the key to address these common challenges. Together we can better address the crises in our region. Together we can create the opportunities for human growth that our people are asking for," said Mogherini.

US, UK eye Gulf buildup



This undated Ministry of Defence handout shows the HMS Duncan, a Type 45 Destroyer, which will relieve HMS Montrose in the region as Iran threatens to disrupt shipping. Iran on July 12, demanded the British navy release an Iranian oil tanker seized last week off Gibraltar, accusing London of playing a 'dangerous game' and threatening retribution. British media reported a second warship, the destroyer HMS Duncan, was being sent to the Arabian Gulf to operate alongside the Royal Navy's HMS Montrose frigate and American forces, and would be there in a few days. The British Ministry of Defense refused to comment. (AP)

Other Voices

Night Turkey changed forever

By Ayse Hilal Sayan Koytak
Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Kuwait

Three important years have passed since the 15th of July coup attempt carried out by the FETO terrorist organization.

The 15th of July coup attempt was planned by the FETO leadership and carried out by members of the organization, whom infiltrated into our army by disobeying the chain of command of the armed forces. This heinous act constitutes the deadliest terrorist attack that Turkey has ever experienced.

We have never before witnessed such savagery and treachery in our history as the one exhibited by the perpetrators of this coup attempt: our Parliament Building, the Presidential complex, the building of the National Intelligence Organization (MIT), buildings of the Turkish National Police, the Headquarters of the Police Special Operations Department located in Ankara were bombed by rogue pilots.

Tanks were driven to the streets to mow down innocent civilians, while helicopters and jets dropped bombs from the air and shot everyone in sight. The Fetullahist traitors disguised as soldiers did not shy away from bombing their brothers-in-arms. It has not been possible to reach the bodies of fifty-one police officers who were martyred as a result of intense bombing that targeted the Police Special Operations Department Headquarters in our Capitol city, Ankara.

That night, two hundred and fifty one citizens were killed and more than two thousand people were injured.

The 15th of July coup attempt revealed the grave threat posed by the FETO terrorist organization against our State. In order to fully understand all aspects of the 15th of July coup attempt, it is imperative to consider this dark network, beginning from schools and prep schools established over the last few decades by FETO. By brainwashing young minds at schools founded under the disguise of so-called training activities, they indoctrinated a large group of radical followers, who carried out the instructions of the organization's leadership unquestioningly and violated all legal and moral norms.

Graduates of these schools were able to infiltrate the most critical institutions of the State by stealing exam questions; furthermore, those considered as an obstacle to the organization were treacherously eliminated as FETO conspired against them.

FETO strengthened its economic and political influence by abusing the State's resources and authority for the vile interests of the organization. On the 15th of July, we were able to grasp the sheer size of the secret structure established by FETO within our most critical institution, the Turkish Armed Forces.

The Turkish people who have stood against this horrific threat have fervently and courageously demonstrated

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