

Other Voices

The Islam before 60 years

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

The Egyptian Sami Al-Beheiri says that he is almost 70 years old and has lived in royal Egypt – the Egypt of Nasser, the Egypt of Sadat and the Egypt of Hosni Mubarak and then migrated to America.

He says during the sixty years of his life, Islam was something fairly different from what it is now. He speaks in his beloved Egyptian dialect, which we all understand because of the influence of the wonderful Egyptian songs and the films, the influence of its teachers, and its culture in addition to its TV serials.

Sami says: I can remember the manifestations of religion in the past as following:

“We never saw any veiled woman in Egypt except Umm Muhammad who was working for in one of our villages.

“We never saw any men with prayer marks on their foreheads in downtown.

“We never saw a man in the street wearing a short jalabiya (a traditional Egyptian garment) or woman wearing niqab.

“We never saw women attending religious lessons at the house of their friend Soso and their companion given by Sheikh Abdul Sabour who knows their religion more than them.

“The only religious program on television was ‘Noor on Nour’ on Friday before a football match presented by Ahmed Farraj wearing a suit, married to Sabah the singer, not like today’s clergymen who appear in every program except those related to the kitchen.

“We never had visitors in our house, making fuss and wondering if we have a prayer rug or the direction of Qibla. They performed their prayers quietly and we did not feel it.

“People did not stop their work

or meetings to perform prayers.

“The people went on a pilgrimage once in a lifetime, and did not go for Umrah every year, and when they do, women were always dressed in white, not black as they do now.

“There was only one mosque in the whole neighborhood and no prayer places under each building. There were no microphones and not blaring from loudspeakers.

“There were no lessons on the recitation of the Holy Quran.

“We never heard of ‘sheikh’ so and so or ‘bin’ preceded by family name as the clergymen of today.

“There were no tapes of the Holy Quran with the sound echo.

“We never heard about the torture in the grave or the snake.

“The clergymen who used to appear on television were prying free to spread the principles and teachings of Islam not for a few amount of money or millions. There was a state that monitored and inhibited and arrested those who encouraged division. There were no distinguished names and titles that accused others of disbelief and distinguished between Egyptian Muslim and Egyptian Christian, between the Shiite and Sunni, between the woman and the man between those who wear hijab and others who do not, and the same was with niqab and so on.

“We were never interested in knowing whether our schoolmates were Muslims or Christians.

“The world was spherical until a sheikh came and said it is flat.

“When a baby is born, the celebration was after a week but not slaughtering sheep as is the case now.

“When we were answering the phone, we used to say: ‘Hello’ not Hello ‘As-Salaam-Alaikum’ (Peace be upon you).

“Honestly, I missed it, I missed the Islam that I was born in and grew up feeding on its morals,” Sami concluded

This is not hypocrisy. Don’t you agree with him?

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Al-Sarraf

Teenaged Egyptian boy stabs to death compatriot juvenile in insult exchange

Capital punishment sought in lawyer’s abduction

By Munaif Nayef

Al-Seyassah Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, March 4: A 14-year old Egyptian youth was arrested for stabbing a 15-year old compatriot to death.

According to security sources, the two boys were in disagreement for few days, and on the day of the incident, the victim called the other to discuss the matter but he was stabbed during the discussion.

When the Operations Room received information about the incident, securitymen and paramedics rushed to the location and found the corpse of the 15-year old Egyptian boy. They discovered that the murderer, a 14-year old Egyptian boy, had purchased the knife from a nearby convenience store and stabbed the victim.

When questioned, the suspect blamed the victim, claiming that the latter had insulted him.

Securitymen confiscated the knife used for stabbing the victim.

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

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Detention renewed: The Public Prosecution has ordered to renew the detention of five men for more interrogations who are accused of abducting a lawyer, reports Al-Rai daily.

This came after the details of the crime were revealed by four Egyptians (the fifth suspect is a lawyer) after their arrest by securitymen.

The Public Prosecutor’s office has begun interrogating the lawyer who is accused of hiring the four Egyptians to kidnap and torture his colleague after paying each man KD 1,000.

However, the lawyer is said to have denied the confession of the four Egyptians but the four men are said to have made a video clip secretly which shows the victim being tortured by his colleague with the aim of blackmailing him and demanding money from him in return not to expose him, but their plan B failed following their arrest by the securitymen.

The four suspects said: “When the lawyer asked us to kidnap another lawyer for 1,000 dinars each, we knew that the amount was small for carrying out the operation, but we agreed to do it. We decided to document the process and photograph the instigating lawyer to blackmail him later in return for our silence and not to publish the video clip, because it is he who would face the music after we leave the country.”

The suspect, who was videotaped while torturing the victim, is said to have stood his ground and denied the charge. It is surprising that the accused lawyer has also filmed the kidnappers while gagging the mouth of the victim. The video clip shows the men handcuffing the victim and covering his face with a bag.

When the securitymen raided the house of the inciting lawyer in Jaber Al-Ali area, they found the wallet and telephone of the victim and the keys of the victim’s car.

The prosecution is said to have also confronted the accused after the detectives found a tracking device installed by the accused in the victim’s vehicle to track the movements of his colleague, especially since the tracking device is connected to the lawyer’s phone.

Meanwhile, the Al-Jarida daily said the Prosecution has asked the court slap a charge of kidnapping, robbery by force, torturing and photographing the victim under Article 180 of the penal code which calls for capital punishment.

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Expat’s car stolen: An unknown individual waylaid an Asian expatriate in Jahra area, attacked him and stole his “Camry” car.

According to security sources, the victim filed a case at Jahra Police Station against the suspect, explaining to securitymen that he was standing with his friend alongside Water Pump Street in Jahra area when the suspect approached him, attacked him and drove off with his vehicle.

Using the description of the suspect and the stolen car, securitymen launched investigations to find and arrest him.



The car used to abduct the woman.

Mol photo

Woman kidnapped but dropped home later

A Kuwaiti man kidnapped a compatriot woman and took her to a farmhouse in Abdali area, but he later dropped her home and surrendered himself to the police, says Al-Seyassah.

According to security sources, the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior received information that a Kuwaiti woman was kidnapped from the parking lot of Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences and that she had been shouting for help.

The informant also provided description of the vehicle driven by the suspect.

Securitymen immediately circulated the vehicle details to all patrol teams and increased the security alert. Few hours later, a patrol team found the vehicle at a petrol station alongside Fourth Ring Road but the suspect and the victim were nowhere to be seen. Investigations revealed that the man took the girl into a 4WD vehicle and went to a

farmhouse in Abdali area.

Eventually, information was received that the suspect surrendered himself to the police after dropping the victim home.

When the suspect was questioned, securitymen discovered that he is in a relationship with the victim, and had forced her into the vehicle in order to discuss some problems between them.

He was arrested and a number of cases were filed against him.

Retrial of assault case against 7 individuals

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 4: The Court of Appeals dismissed the verdict issued by the Court of First Instance in a case filed against seven individuals who are accused of insulting and attacking state officials,

and sent the case back to the Court of First Instance but to a different circuit for retrial.

The plaintiff counsel Lawyer Abdulmohsen Al-Qattan had requested the court to send the case back to the Investigations Department in order to add the names of two more suspects including a member of the ruling Al-Sabah family who are also

accused of insulting and beating state officials and threatening one of them.

It is worth mentioning that the Court of First Instance had sentenced the first suspect to a jail term of one year and three months imprisonment and acquitted second suspect to seventh suspect, and referred the case to the relevant circuit.



Damage caused by the fire.

KFSD photo

Damages in house fire

Fire broke out in a house in Sabah Al-Salem area. No casualties were reported but material losses had incurred.

In a press release, Public Relations and Media Department of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) explained that the Control Room of KFSD, after receiving information about the house

on fire, dispatched firefighters to the location with securitymen and paramedics. They discovered that the fire broke out on the ground floor of the house. Firefighters immediately extinguished the fire before it spread further.

Investigations are ongoing to determine the cause of the fire.

News in Brief

Man found dead: The corpse of a Kuwaiti citizen in his 50s was found near Ardiya Clinic.

When the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior received information about the discovery, securitymen and paramedics rushed to the location. The corpse was referred to the Forensics Department for autopsy to determine the cause of the death. A case was registered.

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Biker killed: A Kuwaiti, in his 20s, died when his motorbike hit a vehicle on the road between Qadisiya and Da’iya.

According to a security source, the Operations Unit at the Ministry of Interior received information on the incident securitymen and paramedics rushed to the scene.

Sadly, the citizen already succumbed to his injuries when they arrived at the scene. His remains were referred to Forensics.

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Asian dies in mishap: An Asian expatriate died when iron fell on his head while he was working at Amghara scrap yard. Firefighters went to the scene and referred the body to the Forensic Department for autopsy. A case was registered.

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Car broken into: Police are looking an unidentified burglar who broke into and ransacked a pickup wagon, reports Al-Anba daily.

The owner of the wagon, a Kuwaiti, in his complaint to the police said the suspect escaped with his passport, his wife’s passport, 2 envelopes containing medical papers, three credit cards, three work IDs, a civil ID, 2 driving licenses and two keys of vehicles, a key to the house and a Samsung phone.

However, he has refused to point a finger of accusation at any person.

Personnel from the Criminal Evidence Department have lifted fingerprints to identify the culprit.

Maison
Francis Kurkdjian
Paris

Gentle | Fluidity

Same notes, two identities
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