

## Other Voices

## Palestinians and Egyptians

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

In his distinguished book 'Deadly Identities', the international Lebanese-French writer Amin Maalouf says that "The more an immigrant feels his culture of origin respected, the more he will open himself to the culture that has received him."

The number of Palestinians in Kuwait before the atrocious invasion and occupation of the country by Saddam Hussein was 400,000 and were not only the largest community, but nearly two thirds of the number of Kuwaitis themselves.

During the ordeal of the invasion and occupation, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat put his trust and weight behind the criminal dictator Saddam Hussein, and he and the Palestinians paid a heavy price for his position, despite the fact that a large number of Palestinians stood by the Kuwaitis.

On the other hand, the former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak stood with the right of the Kuwaitis, opposing many voices in Egypt from artists, intellectuals and others, demanding that he should stand with Saddam. Kuwait thanked him for his position and the entire Egyptian people benefited from the position taken by their president, including those who opposed the liberation of Kuwait.

This is the fate of peoples throughout the world and history. They pay the price or benefit from the positions and decisions taken by their leaders, and the experiences of many people are evident.



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Due to the despicable Saddam's invasion during the bloody months of occupation, most of the citizens and residents were forced to escape from the oppression of the Ba'athist forces. Among the 400,000 Palestinians who left the government did not allow them to return after liberation, thus their number declined to about 25,000, a majority of whom are those who stayed in the country and did not leave Kuwait during the seven months of occupation.

After the liberation, a big vacuum was left by the Palestinians, especially in education and construction contracting sectors and dozens of other important professions, such as accountants and bankers, in the oil and chemical industries and other industries and businesses, which were dominated completely by some of them.

Over time the Egyptians are doing almost everything that was being done by the Palestinians before the invasion, and more.

In order not to repeat the mistake of relying on one human element, with all respect for the Egyptian brothers, it is important to reconsider and adjust the demographic situation so that the citizen, resident and the employer have wider, greater and perhaps better options.

This can be achieved by allowing the Palestinians, who do not to exceed the age of forty, and did not take any hostile position during the invasion and occupation of Kuwait, to come again and work with us, while facilitating the entry of other nationals such as the Lebanese and Jordanians and others, and if the situation remains as it is now, it is not in the interest of security of the homeland and the citizen.

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A view of the newly-built Al-Kout Mall in Fahaheel, south of Kuwait City. (Muhammad Salem – Arab Times)

## Parking shortage for university students linked to completion of 'metro' project

'Jaber Stadium lots use under study'

**KUWAIT CITY, March 18:** With the imminent achievement of the dream of moving to the city of Sabah Al-Salem University (Shaddadiya), there was a shortage in the number of parking spaces for students on the site, as announced by the construction program of the city on the one hand, and started by Kuwait University moves to find alternatives to this crisis on the other hand, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Talk about the shortage of parking spaces, which will affect the new campus, exceeded the cost of 1.5 billion dinars, in the parking lot, to move Kuwait University from its current crisis of car parks, which already suffer at the current campus, to the new site.

The deputy director of the structural program Dr Anwar Al-Ibrahim, during an interview on Kuwait TV, said there is a shortage in the number of parking spaces in the new campus, and he attributed this to the lack of completion of the project, 'Metro Kuwait' indicating that the study of traffic to and from the campus was according to expectations following the completion of the metro, saying the university is now trying to use the surrounding outside spaces for parking, or use the parking lots of Jaber Stadium.

In a related context, and in confirmation of what Al-Qabas had published earlier, the university administration, through the social networking platforms, has said a study has been made in cooperation with the Kuwait Municipality to transport the students to and from the campus in Sabah Al-Salem University by shuttle buses.

The university pointed out that the sites that will be allocated for cars, will be equipped with rest for men and women, and spaces for commercial activities.

In addition, the university asked its students, through electronic questionnaires on their Twitter accounts, where they prefer to park their cars or use buses to and from the campus, from four places: Khaldiya Station, Jabriya, Jaber Stadium and stations in northern and southern Kuwait.

As of yesterday morning, the responses were as follows: 43% preferred Khaldiya, 23% chose Jaber Stadium, 24% stations in the north and south, and only 10% voted for Jabriya.

On the other hand, the students denounced the distance between the sites chosen by the university in the questionnaire and the university hostel, wondering how they could use the transport buses from sites more than 20 km away from the new campus, while others saw that it was necessary to change the culture of students and make them accept the idea of mass transportation gradually.

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**Minister's role lauded:** A group of investors in plots in Amghara Scrapyard has praised the role played by the Minister of Commerce and Industry,



Suspects in the murder of an elderly Kuwaiti in Egypt.

### Brother of citizen murdered in Egypt demands justice

Fahad Al-Reesh, brother of the Kuwaiti citizen Khaled Al-Reesh who was murdered in Egypt during a robbery act in his apartment in Jeeza Province, demanded Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Kuwait to intervene in this matter and bring to justice the criminals who killed his brother in cold blood, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In his statement, Fahad Al-Reesh explained that his brother was tortured, as his body bore bruises and a broken shoulder. Before his death, he had bought a grave for 15,000 Egyptian pounds for his housemaid

who had passed away recently. After her passing, her daughter approached him and asked to work for him. She spent several days working for his brother until the fateful day when she invited the "gang" that assaulted him before fleeing with the money in his possession.

Fahad Al-Reesh called on the concerned authorities to pursue this matter until justice is served for the sake of the victim and his family who are grieving and in pain for their loss.

According to Egyptian security agencies, one of the suspects is still at large.

### 'Rightful owner of govt stipend'

## Court orders payment of cash to martyr's son

By Jaber Al-Hamoud  
Al-Seyassah Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, March 18:** The Commercial Circuit of the Court of First Instance ordered the payment of KD 150,000 to an individual,

which is the money owed to him by his grandfather.

In demand for this money, the plaintiff had filed a case against the director of Public Authority for Minor Affairs, undersecretary of Ministry of Interior, director of public authority for calculating compensations, and director of Public Institution for Social Security, as well as the heirs of his grandfather.

According to the case file, his father worked at Ministry of Interior before he was imprisoned by Iraqi forces during the invasion. His name was recorded in the POWs list.

The plaintiff presented documents to prove that his father was martyred after he was imprisoned by the Iraqi forces, and his salaries, from the time he was imprisoned until he was declared martyr, were referred to the family's bank account. Public Institution for Social Security also kept on sending his pensions, and the family also received compensation via the United Nations. The martyr's father (the plaintiff's grandfather) had received all of the foremen-

tioned money as he was regarded as the heir of the martyr and the guardian of his children including the plaintiff, who was not an adult at that time.

The plaintiff was supposed to receive his share of the money from his grandfather as soon as he turned 21. When he went to Public Authority for Minor Affairs to receive his share of his father's salary, pension and compensation, he

was shocked to discover that his grandfather had received the entire money since he was the guardian, and there was no money for him.

Since his grandfather is dead, the plaintiff demanded the money owed to him should be paid by his grandfather's heirs, filing a case against the latter as well as the aforementioned state bodies and senior officials.

The plaintiff counsel Lawyer Nasser Al-Sarheed stressed the need for the heirs to pay his client's share, supporting his request with official documents.

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Al-Sarheed

**Ruling overturned:** The Misdemeanor Section in the Court of Cassation overturned the ruling of the lower court, which imposed KD200 fine on two Kuwaitis for taking advantage of female compatriot in need of financial assistance to engage in usury.

The higher court acquitted the defendants of usury and forgery of official document.

The Public Prosecution said the defendants allegedly betrayed trust of the woman by making her sign on a blank paper and later wrote on it an amount different from what they agreed upon, which was presented to court. They used the signature to demand for payment of the amount written on paper against her will or consent.

According to the defendant's lawyer, Attorney Ali Al-Wawan, his clients denied the allegation. He explained that the woman borrowed KD30,000 upon which she wrote her name and affixed her signature. She failed to pay the loan when due so a case was filed against her.

The lawyer argued that his clients did not act against the law and there was no proof to contradict this claim.

Earlier, the Court of First Instance sentenced the defendants to three months in prison with hard labor, while the civil aspect of the case was referred to the concerned court.



KFSD personnel with the ministry officials at the site of the blaze. KFSD photo

### Minor fire at Info building tackled

Firefighters extinguished a minor fire that broke out in one of the Information Ministry buildings.

In a press statement, the Public Relations and Media Department at Kuwait Fire Service Directorate disclosed the Operations Unit dispatched firefighters to the location after receiving information on the fire incident. The building is for cinema which consists of the Security Management, Safety and TV Pro-

duction units.

Initial investigations revealed the fire started in a room at the Graphics Section on the first floor and it did not affect the broadcasting system. No casualties or injuries were reported.

Deputy Director General of the Control Sector Major General Jamaal Al Belaiheess and other high ranking officials were present during the fire out operation.

### News in Brief

**Fire drill at T4:** General Fire Service Department conducted an exercise at the new passenger terminal (T4) to determine the performance and readiness of fire-fighters in dealing with similar incidents under the supervision of the Airport Fire Chief Colonel Mohammad Salem Al Hajri.

The drill started with a call about a fire at Boarding Gate D9 from where passengers are transferred to the plane. Acting on information, firefighters went to the scene and divided themselves into groups for evacuation, rescue, fire control and removal of the airplanes from the area. No serious injuries were registered in the process. The exercise was aimed at activating emergency plan to deal with minor incidents.

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**Fire in Jahra mall:** Fire broke out inside a mall in Jahra area on Wednesday morning. No casualties were reported.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD), when the Control Room of KFSD received information about the fire in the mall, fire-fighters were immediately dispatched to the location with securitymen and paramedics.

Upon arrival, fire-fighters discovered that the fire broke out in the basement of the mall which contained clothes and children's toys. They immediately extinguished the fire before it spread further.

Investigations have been launched to determine the cause of the fire.

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**Seized goods sold:** Kuwait Customs sold a number of seized goods at a total cost of KD 12,840 during an auction.

Head of the Auction Committee at the General Customs Department Ali Al-Enzi revealed that various items were sold in the auction, which was held at the headquarters of Kuwait Finance House in Sulaibiya area, at a total cost of KD 12,840.

He indicated that the sale of two containers was postponed due to the low price offered during the auction.

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**Municipality crackdown:** Direc-

tor of Checking and Follow up in the Department of Engineering at Hawalli Municipality, Mubarak Al Ajmi, affirmed that the sector accomplished 249 transactions last February.

In a statement, Al-Ajmi said the transactions covered the renewal of 63 licenses for shops, issuance of 66 electronic description certificates, and execution of 23 applications for electricity connection. The sector also issued five 'To Whom It May Concern' certificates and accomplished 12 applications for telephone connection, in addition to the renewal of licenses for nine kindergartens.

Public Relations Department of the Municipality advises the general public to contact hotline 139 or social media account of the Municipality to submit complaints.

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**Woman thief nabbed:** Securitymen have arrested a woman identified only as F.S., for stealing money and jewelry from the handbag of a Kuwaiti woman while attending a wedding party 2 years ago, reports Al-Anba daily.

At that time the Kuwaiti woman had filed a complaint saying she was sitting among a group of women and money and jewelry from her handbag was stolen.

The victim recently told police that she saw recognized the woman who was wearing her jewelry.

The woman was arrested and during interrogation she admitted to the charge.

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**Police imposter held:** Personnel from the General Department of Criminal Investigation have arrested an unidentified Saudi for impersonating police and robbing an Indian, reports Al-Rai daily.

The man reportedly stole the cell phone from the victim and a small sum of money, after tying him with a rope and beating him for resisting.

After the complaint was filed by the Indian, police managed to arrest him when he attempted to rob another expatriate, but the latter managed to overpower the suspect and handed him over to police.