



KUNA photo  
Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi during the session.

## Kuwait renews its commitment in search of missing persons in Iraq

Ambassador Al-Otaibi speaks at UNSC session

**NEW YORK, May 22, (KUNA):** Kuwait has affirmed it would continue the search for the missing Kuwaiti persons and POWs in Iraq, hailing Iraq's commitment to the international pledges towards Kuwait.

The remarks were made by Kuwait's Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi, during the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) session on Iraq late Tuesday.

Al-Otaibi said Kuwait is willing to provide all support and aid needed for Iraq to fulfill its pledges towards Kuwait. Al-Otaibi also hailed the efforts of the UN's mission in Iraq to achieve sustainable development in the country and meet the humanitarian needs of people.

He noted that it is time for Iraq to recover from all the hardships it had faced, mainly the war against the so-called Islamic State (IS).

The Kuwaiti diplomat called on all countries who took part in the Kuwait international conference for reconstruction of Iraq to commit to their pledges on rebuilding the war-torn country.

Meanwhile, the ambassador spoke on the missing Kuwaitis and other countries' nationals in Iraq, saying that there are 369 cases of missing persons in this file, adding that no remains were identified since 2004.

Al-Otaibi called on the UN mission in Iraq to continue searching for the missing Kuwaitis and follow on procedures taken for Iraq to return Kuwait's stolen properties and national documents.

As part of boosting ties between the two countries, Al-Otaibi noted the meeting of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi supreme joint committee held in Kuwait last week.

More than 600 people, mainly Kuwaitis, have been missing since the Iraqi troops of Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait on Aug 2, 1990. Under resolutions from the United Nations, an international coalition of 34 countries ousted the invaders from the Northern Arabian Gulf state in February 1991 but 605 people went missing and commissions were set up to help in the search. Kuwait established the National Committee for the Missing and Prisoners of War.

Not all missing individuals could be located and no new details have been obtained in the last five years in spite of the nearly 130 meetings held between Kuwaitis and Iraqis under the auspices of the United Nations to determine their fate. Only the remains of 236 individuals found in mass graves were identified through Kuwaiti-Iraqi-United Nations cooperation.

The remains were found in the provinces of Basra, Nasiriyah, Najaf and Hillah in the south of the country, as well as Anbar province in the west. However, no new bodies had been identified since 2004, Al Otaibi said, urging the UN mission in Iraq to continue the search for the missing Kuwaitis. The diplomat also called for a follow up on the procedures taken for Iraq to return to Kuwait the property and national documents looted during the Iraqi invasion, according to KUNA.

The Iraqi government transferred the issue of missing individuals and stolen property from the Ministry of Human Rights to the Ministry of Defense amid pledges that it would be resolved soon. However, according to Iraqi reports, obtaining such sensitive information from Iraqis would be very challenging amid concerns they would be questioned.

### 'Need to meet four conditions'

## CBK okays payment of KD 1 to update civil ID

**KUWAIT CITY, May 22:** The banks have obtained the approval of the Central Bank of Kuwait to collect one dinar from each client when updating his/her civil ID, reports Al-Rai daily.

The sources said that the Central Bank has approved the request of banks to collect the one dinar fee, provided that four conditions are met, sources familiar with the issue told the daily.

The new fee is due to be implemented from the beginning of the third quarter of 2019 (July 1). During this period, customers will be contacted through 3 consecutive text messages at least one month prior to the expiry date of the civil ID card.

The Operations and Information Technology department of the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) is the 'heartbeat', providing services to all banking departments across a secure and sustainable digital platform that is leading the digital transformation process to maintain the status of the institution as the largest local bank, reports Al-Anba daily.

The General Manager for Operations and Information Technology Mohammed Yousuf Al-Kharafi recently told the daily the term 'your branch in your pocket' has become the most important feature in dealing with customers at the bank.

Kharafi, who has decades of experience, revealed all the facts that put NBK in this first place by introducing modern technology and keeping up with the latest banking developments to provide special services to its customers.

Al-Kharafi stressed that the methodology of

'Mobile Phone First' has become one of the main strategies of the NBK as "we seek to provide all the services and products through the Internet using the mobile banking application.

Al Kharafi is more confident thanks to the achievements of the past year. He pointed out that thanks to the new features that have been added to NBK's application via mobile and other electronic channels.

"Almost 70% of all financial and non-financial transactions are completed daily via our electronic channels outside the branches of the bank, which is a huge achievement that will contribute to the redesigning of branch operations and provide the best levels of customer service by reducing waiting times and provide all the main services and products online," he said.

Kuwait attended recently the Paris Forum organized by Paris Club with the participation of 30 high-profile personalities, including the Finance Ministers and Governors of Central Banks. The forum entailed a series of workshops and meetings that discussed ways to enhance international financing systems.

Kuwait's delegation was led by the Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf. He met with the President of World Bank Group David Malpass and Executive Chairperson of the International Monetary Fund Christine Lagarde at the sidelines of the forum.

Deputy Chairman of Najat Charity Dr Rasheed Al-Hamad says the Zakat project is a major charity project for collecting zakat and distributing it to the needy.

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