

# Protect children against use in 'armed conflicts', says Kuwait

'Child soldiers need psychological help'

**NEW YORK, Nov 28, (KUNA):** The State of Kuwait highlighted the need to protect children against manipulation in armed conflicts.

Delivering her country's statement to a UN Security Council meeting, Kuwait diplomatic attache

che Sara Al-Zoman appreciated the efforts of the international community to better support children once they have been separated from armed forces and armed groups.

The Arria-Formula Meeting on "Reintegration of Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups," focused on how bridging the "humanitarian-development-peace" (HDP) nexus can lead to more sustainable and successful reintegration of children associated with armed forces and armed groups.



KUNA photo

Kuwait diplomatic attache Sara Al-Zoman at the meeting.

Al-Zoman said the year 2018 saw 13,600 former child soldiers quitting armed groups, which constitutes a remarkable achievement in the joint efforts of the UN member states and civil society organizations.

"The separation of children from armed groups should be viewed as only a first step which should be followed by their reintegration into their respective communities," she reminded.

### Recruitment

The recruitment of children in armed groups constitutes a big crime which could put them liable to further violations, Al-Zoman said.

Calling for a comprehensive approach to addressing the problem of former child soldiers, she said those children need psychological support to be better able to resume their childhood in familiar atmospheres.

She also urged incorporating children's views into the strategies for reintegration and post-conflict recovery and rehabilitation.

The meeting, co-hosted by Belgium, Peru, Poland and the United Kingdom, was opened by Ambassador Marc Pecsteen de Buytswere (Belgium) - the chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

# DIWANIYA ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Mol needs help to counter phenomenon'

### 'Why violence is on rise in society?'

"ON Nov 24, 2019, the Al-Qabas daily had published a news report which said violence in the Kuwaiti community had reached a frightening level, columnist," Professor Dr Baheja Behbehani wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"It added the Kuwaiti security authorities, since the beginning of 2019, have registered as many as 40 homicides, in addition to 500 crimes which have been classified as crimes against humans and this necessitates the opening of the file of this type of crimes which are strange and have seeped into the Kuwaiti community.

"Such being the case, we suggest this means the Ministry of Interior and other concerned security bodies must be invited to discuss the reasons behind this violence - the aggressive behavior and crimes which currently bleed the community and look for solutions that are need to protect the community.

"Actually, there are some government authorities which should be requested to support and assist the tremendous efforts that have been exerted by the Ministry of Interior to surmount all types of crimes which have become fearful in terms of their number and repetition to such an extent panic has set in among the Kuwaitis because these crimes claim the lives of 'our' young because they are exposed to social ills such as drugs and alcohol which negatively affect the minds of those who consume them and in the end they fall victim to these habits and lose their lives.

"However, the above happened because the Ministry of Interior is fighting the menace alone without any support or assistance to protect the people who have deviated from the road to righteousness.

"But the question is: why some young people and youth have deviated although they are at the beginning of their prime age but find themselves involved in crimes because they believe that this will enable them to get rid of their own problems and torment.

"Aren't the frank answers to the above and the painful fact shows that these inexperienced young men have found no one to listen to their problems or show them the road to righteousness and shed light on their life of darkness; because of this they have been living illusionary lives away from the painful reality.

"It is obvious that the government authorities which have been given the authority to take care of the youth and direct them towards reform and guide them to the right path have not performed their duties nor achieved their objectives in the required manner. Moreover, these authorities have not followed the sound educational methods of communication with the youth.

"This happens although huge budgets have been allocated to the educational institutions, the Ministry of Information, the Public Authority for Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor in addition to the welfare societies.

"This is in addition to the conferences that are held repeatedly throughout the year specially organized to deal with the youth affairs and their educational techniques through the various phases.

"Given the above, we ask what recommendations have been proposed by the educational and scientific researchers, particularly since we know that the latter were discussed and these cost so much money - public money.

"Anyway, the concerned authorities must play the role that has been given to them instead of putting the whole burden on the shoulders of the Ministry of Interior which currently endures 'all' alone without support from other government authorities."

### Also:

"The Supreme Planning and Development Council (SPDC) currently exerts sincere efforts to set up the basics and the mechanism that will govern the institutional system of State Administrative Apparatus in the latter's capacity as the basic pillar for the vision and the strategic plan of the State of Kuwait," columnist Dr Nasser Khamees Al-Mutairi wrote for Annahar daily.

"In this connection we say the officials specialized in this field have an enlightened realization towards the institutionalization of the government sector, particularly since we know that the current phase at the moment witnesses a global tendency for institutionalization, because the latter represents a basic requirement to keep abreast with the administrative development and the institutional system.

"In this context, we would like to point out that the wheel of institutionalization began in the advanced states but after a few years this will be transformed into reality to be generalized throughout the world.

"Consequently, we found that the concerned authorities in Kuwait are currently attempting to keep in line with the wheel of institutionalization by grooming the government administrative apparatus to apply this system which is based on the principles of justice, transparency, impartiality, contribution, inquiry and sustainability.

"Personally, we believe the implication which still faces the institutionalization program in Kuwait rests in the phenomena of rampant corruption which still remains significantly deep-rooted in the administrative system to such an extent, the State of Kuwait is ranked 78 on the Corruption Index in the world.

"Apart from the above, the implication may also rest in the fact that the hands of some of those who are in charge of institutionalization are already contaminated with corruption in some or the other way. Such being the case the talk about administrative reform or institutionalization looks imaginary and hopeless.

"In other words, as long as the arid land remains unsuitable for agriculture, this land will not bear fruit, neither the roses, nor the trees and this is applicable to the corrupt work environment as the latter will not promote the necessary impartiality nor the transparency.

"However, I am not a pessimist, rather I see institutionalization as an ideal system in terms of achieving reforms.

"But you cannot put the roof on the walls without a solid foundation. Hence, we call on those responsible to exert sincere efforts to minimize the growth of financial and administrative corruption and purify the government institutions from all types of corruption."

"Long ago in the early 1980s, when China was making its first strides toward rapid economic and political growth, many could not have imagined that China would succeed in this and outperform all the countries of the world," columnist Abdulmohsen Yousef Jamal wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"Some even mocked its activity and saw its efforts as a failure. However, the professor of political science at Kuwait University, Prof. Dr. Hashim Sayed Hamid Behbehani, had prospective opinion who believed that China's steps are based on studies and successful thinking, and that it will rise above the most advanced countries.

"He was determined to study China and travelled to China for two years, during which he made studies, wrote books and made a research on China with all his Kuwaiti colleagues, and predicted the bright future ahead, and wished that his country's relationship with

China would be consolidated.

"He highlighted in his works on China's foreign policy in the Arab world, and then came his book China and People's Democracy.

"His colleagues did not believe that his bet would succeed, because many Arabs were betting on the West than the East, and did not see the hidden power of China as he saw it.

"When the Chinese power is now at its peak, and China has become the second economic power in the world after it outperformed others and may soon overtake the United States, Hashim Behbehani did not live to see his insightful political vision and what he said in his scientific researches."

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"Kuwait Airport is an important interface for visitors to Kuwait, so we have to take care of every small and large component of the airport in Kuwait in terms of building. We are waiting for the completion of the new Kuwait Airport terminal, which is expected to be ideal modern, in line with latest technologies and developments in the standards of airports at the global level," Adel Fahad Al-Meshal wrote for Al-Rai daily.

"We hope the airport staff will display high level of performance commensurate with the importance of Kuwait Airport, because I have noticed a lot of complaints from travelers coming to Kuwait, especially Arabs who hold foreign passports who claim to be mistreated while trying to obtain visa to enter Kuwait.

"The Ministry of Interior has thankfully developed its performance with regard to obtaining e-visa, which provides opportunity for those holding the nationality of some 38 foreign countries to obtain the visa electronically through the ministry's website before coming to Kuwait.

"This reflects interest of the Ministry of Interior to facilitate the process of entering Kuwait since it has put a team at the airport that works around the clock to issue visa for those who do not have an electronic entry visa that requires some procedures, which in turn need time. We hope it is not prolonged, because the traveler may be coming from a long distant state, and perhaps, he is in urgent need to enter Kuwait for certain appointments.

"The mistreatment that some individuals complain about- although I do not know how credible it is- could be individual act. The traveler must respect the laws of the state and respect the employee who does his job. The way of treating visitors coming into the country is very important, because it reflects the image of Kuwait to others, so the employee must smile to the traveler and talk to him in a friendly way. "If there is a problem in the process of obtaining visa to enter Kuwait, it must be in a legal language upscale away from abuse and offense and must be patient, because the person in front of him is a guest of Kuwait.

"I want to suggest to the airport management to put a camera working on the recording not only for video, but sound and image to find out who is wrong with proof, whether the employee or traveler, then the law can be applied with confidence on both parties and announce through various media about details of the complaint by travelers or the employee himself who may find himself in front of an abuser, so rights must be preserved.

"On the other hand, I hope that the airport management will conduct training courses for the reception staff who issue the visa to improve the performance of these employees who represent the first impression of the State of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people. We are capable to present the true image of Kuwaiti people and their generosity."

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"I would like to give an advice to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah and highlight some observations to the former governments, praying Allah will help overcome their shortcomings," Mubarak Fahad Al-Diwaila wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"First of all, the Prime Minister should choose the ministers. It should not be imposed on him, as information is being circulated that each of the prominent figures of the government has a number of nominees. I hope the Prime Minister limits the ministers from the Al-Sabah Family to Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defense, leaving the rest of the ministries to ordinary citizens.

"I wish the ministers of the service ministries are not MPs because the previous experiences revealed that such a case makes the ministers allocate the services for their electoral purposes. It is also very important to assign the minister to the same ministry to which he was nominated and not distribute the ministries randomly to the approved names, like it was followed previously.

"No consideration should be shown to the quota system, which of course does not mean that all the ministers must belong to one particular current. The important point is the criterion based on which a minister is appointed. This criterion should prioritize honesty and capability regardless of any other political considerations. A minister who was part of the previous governments and proved not to be efficient enough or caused disputes between the government and the parliament should not be part of the new government.

"Concerning the policy of the new government, I hope His Highness the Prime Minister adopts practical and applicable developmental plans and provide the mechanism needed to follow up the execution of the plan and declare the achievements on monthly basis.

"Article 50 of the Constitution concerning the separation and cooperation among the authorities must be enforced. We have seen in previous governments that some ministers aim only to put obstacles in front of the parliament in an attempt to disrupt approval of draft laws.

"The MPs must not be classified into two parties - one supporting the government and the other opposing it. This attitude can be accepted in governments formed by political parties but such a case does not exist in Kuwait.

"I call upon the government to prioritize amendment of the "one-man one-vote" law, issuance of public amnesty law, verification of the stories broadcasted by the media concerning the deposit of State Public Reserve Fund, claiming that it is about to face bankruptcy and investigate those responsible for the issue."

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"The response of the Central Bank to the question of MP Shuaib Al-Muwaiziri is astonishing, especially since it is related to the bank's mechanisms in dealing with money laundering operations related to real estate fraud which became common in recent years up to the extent of shaking the credibility of the real estate market," columnist Zayed Al-Zaid wrote for Al-Nahar daily.

"The Central Bank warned about it when advertisements scattered on our streets, failed to heed the warnings. The issue reached the level of governmental institutions blaming one another for the mess in the real estate sector. It is amazing that we are in a country where public institutions blame each other, or rather, 'the government is accusing the government'.

"The real estate scandals are not over yet. Fraudsters and opportunists are still looking for a chance to defraud gullible individuals who are looking forward to invest in the real estate sector, thinking this might be a sure deal for them as they are certain that government agencies are the last to wake up in this country."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

### Gang forges millions

#### Four in court for abusing Kuwait

AMMAN, Nov 28, (KUNA): Jordan state security court held a hearing for four persons accused of chanting slogans offensive against the State of Kuwait during a football match between Kuwait and Jordan in Amman last month.

Court chairman Ali Al-Mubaidheen accused the four persons with tarnishing relations with other countries, the official Petra news agency reported.

The judge adjourned the session until next Sunday to hear witnesses, it added. Some fans chanted offensive slogans during the October 10 match. Kuwait expressed dismay to the offensive language and said it was not related to sport.

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**218 shops probed:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced

218 shops were referred to the Commercial Prosecution last October, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This happened following 398 complaints received by the commercial control and consumer protection sector of the Consumer Protection Department through the hotline and complaints receiving centers in all the governorates.

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**Forgers gang held:** The Criminal Investigations Department has allegedly busted a gang of Africans for forging Kuwaiti banknotes worth millions of dinars, reports Al-Rai daily.

Without going into details, the daily said along with the gang members, police have seized special papers, inks, and highly sophisticated machinery.

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