

Other Voices

# Difficulty of tolerating lies

By Ahmad alsarraf

No country tolerates if an entire generation suffers from lack of proper education because this generation will not only destroy the state but will lead to the disintegration of its internal front. The Middle Eastern countries (Arabs) who have not paid attention to education are now paying the price. — (Victor Chia, South Korean education expert).

Years ago, I was invited to give a lecture at an institute for girls affiliated to the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training in Shamiya.



alsarraf

I was surprised that everyone was wearing veils (niqab) except for two out of the nearly forty students. I was shocked, confused and bewildered, cut down my lecture to half the size because I had to speak to the people in black where I felt like there could be no interaction with the audience, and I left.

A few years ago, Dr Hilal Al-Sayer's home and security personnel outside his home were attacked because he insisted that female students who attend his lectures in the laboratory must not wear the veils.

There are tens or hundreds of other similar stories that happened to many people which we have never heard of before, and because of changing mentalities, perversion has become the norm.

A normal person can be lenient in many ways and tolerate the lack of understanding of some of their poor understanding, and even their misbehavior due to his belief in the differences between people due to age, culture, academic background, etc. However, lying cannot be tolerated if the motive is to cover up something, or to harm another person and deliberately offend him.

Liberalism in our region, without exception, is not a movement and is not represented by any party and has no clear direction, nor specific leaders and legal frameworks. Rather, it is

mostly an expression of sentiments of some of those who believe in part of the religion and disagree with most of what it calls for.

Liberalism calls for tolerance of others and not to exaggerate religious matters, to encourage public freedoms, and to believe in equality among people and freedom of expression, and the necessity of the availability of religious, civil and political freedoms for all citizens and residents.

Fundamentalists and conservatives, especially the followers of religious parties and exclusively in our region fiercely oppose all these trends because they undermine the foundations on which they built their party policies that helped them gain money and political power and win juicy government contracts.

One of them, the most corrupt and pedantic, claims historically the liberal principles have vanished in terms of respect for the opinion of others and freedom of expression advocated by the liberals, especially after the Arab Spring revolutions. His claims hold no water because it looks as if he wants to prove the earth is flat and that it is the center of the universe.

He falsely claims that the Ministry of Education in Kuwait was run by the liberals, and they are the reason the country suffered at the level of development and accuse them of obstructing progress. He claims the liberals dominated all state facilities for decades and hence the country did not move forward.

This means that the owners of religious thought, followers of religious parties, Brotherhood and Salafis, contributed to pushing the wheel of development forward, and the liberals put the brakes on the wheels. He blames (the liberals) for the backwardness in education and the collapse of the system.

The strange thing is that this claimant and others, have not yet realized that liberalism in Kuwait has never existed -- no political entity, leadership, electoral programs, or partisan funds, so how was a 'gelatinous entity' able to change education and drag the country backwards?

**Question:** What is the religious party whose "leaders" swore by God not to participate in the one-man-one vote elections and then they swallowed all their words?

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A view of the Jahra Reserve situated north of Kuwait City. Migrating birds, including flamingoes arrive in great numbers, moving here from the colder regions of the world. Photo by Mohammad Morsi

# 'Radical solutions needed to get rid of around 140,000 illegal residents'

'Assembly nod must to implement health guidelines'

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: Despite the readiness of the comprehensive prosecution plan for all violators, the file of residency law violators in the country has become more complicated than before. The violators are divided into two groups – the 2019 violators, and the pre-2019 violators. Both groups are not entitled to amend their legal status even if the fines are paid, reports Al-Qabas daily.**

They are obliged to leave the country, with the exception of parents of Kuwaiti men and women, husbands and children of Kuwaiti women, non-Kuwaiti children of Kuwaiti citizens, and domestic workers of Kuwaiti citizens.

Security sources described the file of residency law violators as a "major crisis" and "a chronic headache" for the top leaders of the ministry.

They said, "The number of violators of the first category is estimated at about 50,000, and the number of violators of the second category – those who have been in violation prior to 2019 – are estimated at about 90,000".

**Explained**

The sources explained that the case of the 2019 violators requires study even though they chose not to benefit from the humanitarian deadline granted to them by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Anas Al-Saleh in March, as part of an initiative to help them leave safely.

He guaranteed their exit without paying fines or bearing the travel costs, and giving them the right to return to the country under new procedures as well as giving them an opportunity to amend their legal status after paying the due fines and obtaining valid residency in the country. The move is aimed to dissolve the file and loosen half of its restrictions, and devote the other half to an unusual approach and method.

The sources said, "The 2019 violators only had a deadline to leave the country safely, and not to amend their status. They should not be equated with the pre-2019 violators who had many opportunities to amend their legal status by paying the fines they owed and obtaining valid residency in the country, but they did not take advantage of it".

More than ever, the file of the residency law violators is in dire need for an integrated security vision with specific conditions and objectives, which are different from all the previous treatments that did not bring anything new, especially as it is a thorny and complex file.

There is an urgent need for a new and targeted strategy supervised by senior specialized security leaders to develop radical solutions to close it finally and rid the country of the residency violators, who have become a heavy burden and represent a ticking bomb that can explode any time.

According to the sources, the concerned departments in the Ministry of Interior are waiting for the green light to pursue residency



The car in which the woman died. KFSF photo

## Kuwaiti woman dies in power pole hit

An unidentified Kuwaiti woman died on the spot after she allegedly lost control of her vehicle and crashed into the lamppost on the side of the road, reports Al-Rai daily.

The mishap happened on the Seventh Ring Road in the direction of Dahr. According to eyewitness reports the woman was trapped inside the car wreck and acting on information firemen

from the Mubarak Al-Kabir fire center rushed to the spot, cut through the metal of the car and freed the corpse to be handed over to the Forensic Department.

## '6,880 groceries raided in September'

# Travel, tourism offices found in violation

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has uncovered the violations of 10 travel and tourism offices, reports Al-Qabas daily.**

In a press statement, Director of Air Transport Department Abdullah Al-Rajhi affirmed that the department and Air Transport Market Section are exerting tremendous efforts to ensure the companies, including travel and tourism offices, are complying with the laws, instructions and regulations issued by the directorate.

The inspectors of the department visited the air transport sector in the country, resulting in the discovery of violations committed by 10 travel and tourism offices. These violations were referred to the Complaints and Arbitration Committee which will then take action in line with the prevailing laws and regulations in this regard.

Al-Rajhi confirmed the continuation of inspection tours in trav-

el and tourism offices to arrest those who committed violations and take action against them.

He said there will be no compromise with the violators in order to protect the reputation of the tourism and travel market in the country and ensure respect for the relevant laws.

Meanwhile, Director of Capital Municipality Bader Al-Otaibi says the inspection teams visited 6,880 grocery stores in the month of September, issued 401 warnings to grocery stores in investment residential areas, parallel markets and restaurants, and 650 citations against various violations, and closed three stores, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a press statement, Al-Otaibi explained that the teams conducted intensive inspection tours of all commercial activities to ensure the workers adhere to the instructions and procedures set by the country's health authorities, such as wearing masks, gloves and committing to social distanc-

ing, which are measures aimed to curb the spread of COVID-19 in the society.

Inspectors from the Public Hygiene and Road Works Department inspected the work of the companies contracted with the municipality to ensure the level of public cleanliness, the washing and sterilizing of 29,072 garbage containers, and the lifting of 126,787 cubic meters of residential waste and constructional scrap.

Inspectors from the Department of Audit and Follow-up Services visited 6,880 grocery stores in the investment housing, parallel markets and restaurants, and issued 199 citations.

Inspectors from the Safety Department issued 65 safety certificates for all projects, and the emergency team issued 231 citations and a closure order.

The Violations Removal Department carried out many tours, which resulted in the issuance of 231 citations against various violations.



A scene from the video clip .

## Machete used in gang fight

The security authorities have arrested the suspects who were seen in a video which went viral in the social media showing an unidentified motorist and his friend attempting to run over another youth in Abu Futaira, reports Al-Anba daily.

The clip shows one of the suspects carrying a machete while the other is seen beating an unidentified person.

The arrest came after the security authorities identified the prime suspect with the help of his car plate number.

Earlier it was reported that after one of the men was arrested by police following the publication of the clip, he told the Mahboula Police Station he was involved in a dispute with two other men, one of them his friend, due to reckless behavior of one of them.

He added, he tried to escape but the duo chased him until he reached Abu Futaira and collided with his vehicle and forced him to pull over and dragged him out of the vehicle and attempted to run over him.

## News in Brief

**Co-op boards lauded:** Ministry of Social Affairs Undersecretary Abdulaziz Shuaib praised the efforts exerted by the board members and employees of cooperative societies in implementing the wise policies that the State has adopted to maintain food security since the beginning of the coronavirus (covid-19) pandemic, reports Al-Anba daily.



Al-Shuaib

Al-Shuaib disclosed the cooperative societies were instructed to exempt investors from paying rent in varying proportions as per the governmental procedures to combat coronavirus. He explained this is due to the negative impact of the pandemic on most investors whose businesses in cooperative societies were suspended due to the total and partial curfew periods.

**Decision overturned:** In a spectacular judicial ruling, the Court of Cassation, presided over by Judge Fouad Al-Zuwaid, overturned the decision issued by the Ministry of Interior to ban a Kuwaiti from obtaining an electronic passport, citing violation against provisions of the Kuwaiti Constitution, says Al-Seyassah .

## Expat woman hit

### Hit, run driver held

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: Police have arrested the hit-and-run motorist who had escaped from the scene after running over a 38-year-old Hungarian woman on Baghdad Street in Maidan Hawalli, reports Al-Anba daily.**

The daily added, the woman was left bleeding, struggling between life and death. When the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior received a report on the incident police and paramedics rushed to the spot and rushed her to the intensive care unit (ICU) of the Al-Razi Hospital.

Personnel from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) who succeeded in arresting the 21-year-old culprit, during interrogation justified his escape saying his son who was with him became hysterical when he saw all blood splashed on the windshield of the car and he could not calm him down so he left the scene of the accident.

The security source said the arrest came after the authorities listened to eyewitnesses accounts and checked the footage of the CCTV cameras installed in the area.

law violators and apply the law on them without exception.

They affirmed the seriousness of the Ministry of Interior in this regard through an integrated plan, with instructions from the higher leadership, to eliminate the phenomenon of residency law violators.

**Imposing instant fines:** According

to reliable sources, imposing instant fines on violators of health guidelines, as endorsed by the Council of Ministers based on the recommendations of the Ministry of Health, can only be applied with the approval of the National Assembly, reports Al-Anba daily.

They said the implementation of such penalties needs a draft law amending some provisions of law No. 8/1969 on health precautions

and the prevention of communicable diseases, which was approved by the Cabinet, to be implemented in a way that enables the competent government teams to collect instant fines.

The sources said the draft law, in order for it to be put into effect, needs the approval of the National Assembly and must be published in the official gazette "Kuwait Today".