

Verdict on Dec 26 in leaking of info on many court cases

'Kingpin' acquitted in liquor smuggling case

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: The Misdemeanor Court adjourned to December 26 the issuance of its verdict on the case related to "disclosing information regarding cur-

rent and pending cases at the courts" filed against 26 individuals including court clerks in the Ministry of Justice, attorneys and their associates.

The Public Prosecution charged 13 of the defendants, in their capacity as public servants (court clerks at the Ministry of Justice), of disclosing information regarding current and pending cases at the courts where they work, thereby violating the court and case confidentiality clauses as stipulated by law.

They were charged with taking photographs and copies of some of the provisions and decisions of the cases and documents, and then sharing the information among each other.

The rest of the defendants were accused of leaking the information through mobile phones and social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Telegram, IMO, Messenger, etc), ignoring the fact that such actions would harm the interest of the party they work for, and also the integrity of the lawsuits.

Smuggling liquor: The Court of Appeals upheld the verdict issued by the Court of First Instance, which acquitted an individual accused of importing and smuggling 2,200 bottles of liquor with the intent of trafficking, but convicted the rest of the defendants.

According to the case file, the Public Prosecution charged the defendants with smuggling liquor into the country with the intent of trafficking, in violation of the country's legislation in force without paying the customs duties owed on them.

During the trial session, the first defendant denied the accusations leveled against him.

His defense counsel Lawyer Muhammad Al-Jami stressed on the invalidity of the arrest warrant issued against his client, indicating that there was no evidence against his client of him committing the crime, especially in consideration of the conditions of his work as a customs clearance agent.

Also, the third defendant denied any knowledge that the container that he was clearing through the customs contained smuggled liquor.

'E-license valid': The General Traffic Department (GTD) in the Interior Ministry had earlier announced that presenting the digital driving license in the 'My Identity' application without the original license is a violation of the law, reports Al-Rai daily.

The GTD also pointed out that those who do not carry their license while driving are fined KD15.

However, the Public Relations and Security Media General Department later retracted the abovementioned announcement; affirming "the electronic driving license has been approved and it is considered a driving license issued by GTD. This is within the framework of realizing the e-government vision and implementation of the decision of the Council of Ministers to adopt the 'My Identity' application. GTD fully supports all electronic procedures aimed at easing the online processing of transactions for citizens and expatriates."

Other Voices

Shiites dilemma in Kuwait

By Ahmad alsarraf

The origin of the Shiite component of the Kuwaiti people is mainly from all the urban and neighboring cities, such as Al-Ahsa, Najd, Oman, desert of Persia, Bahrain, Iraq and others. It is a component like the rest of the nation's components.

This component, by nature, was on the way to fusion with the rest of the other components of society, albeit very slowly, but the occurrence of the Iranian revolution, and Khomeini's adoption of the idea of exporting the revolution changed the trends of a large proportion of them.

The revolution also affected them politically, psychologically and socially, especially after political Islam, both Sunni and Shiite took advantage of the matter for its own benefit, socially and electorally.

Since that day, doubt has taken root more in the soul, and the weaker party, as usual, has been the most affected and lost.

The rise of the Iranian revolution coincided with the start of the Sunni fundamentalist resistance against the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, and its expansion of activity to fight the affiliates of other sects, and expansion in hostility to some Arab and Western regimes, and almost no country was spared from their negative influences.

Historically, the Shiites in the region, in general, complain about the authorities' lack of confidence in the reality of their loyalty, and this lack of trust has prompted a few of them to resort to other parties, and to pledge allegiance to them, unaware of the consequences of their actions.

So a party says, "You must have complete confidence in my loyalty and equality with the other in all rights, and you will see my absolute loyalty. For the other, more powerful and larger says "You must renounce allegiance to others in order to trust you, and then be treated as equals to other citizens."



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Despite the attempts of the majority to prove its loyalty first to the system of its state, and its only homeland, the matter did not devoid the presence of those from both sides who are willing, to return everyone to point zero.

There is no doubt that the responsibility of the state is more important and more dangerous in this interaction than the responsibility of the citizen, and there is no doubt that the government has failed, for more than half a century to instill true loyalty to the homeland in the hearts of the majority of the Kuwaitis through its historical and dangerous alliance with the tribal and religious forces.

The government gave power to leaders of the two sides and it became clear to the citizen that his loyalty to the religious party or the tribe is more beneficial than loyalty to the homeland.

It is the party and the tribe that provide employment, benefits, and promotions. As for loyalty to the homeland, it will often not bring anything to those who do not belong to a religious party or tribe and sometimes to a sect.

It is worth emphasizing that no country in the world, even the most advanced and liberal, deals with all its citizens with the same rule. When the Catholic 'John Kennedy', or 'Barack Obama' later, won the presidency, the matter is considered a unique and unprecedented event.

Therefore, it is natural, as we are among the underdeveloped countries, surrounded by larger powers than them, some of whom want to destabilize them, for their government to be more sensitive in dealing with minorities, and more cautious in terms of security. Therefore, the Shiites, like other minorities, must know this, as it is one of the natures of things in all countries of the world, albeit to varying degrees.

They must strive to be part of this society, and to merge into it as much as they can, without losing their sectarian identity, if they want, because homeland is the protector for all and will remain in the end, and it is our umbrella.

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Theft of public money spreads'

"NEWS of theft crimes has spread widely during the past few years and has increased dramatically, and thefts are considered one of the biggest pests that affect societies, and they have many different forms such as theft, looting, robbery, embezzlement and breach of trust," columnist Mousa Behbehani wrote for Al-Rai daily.

"Religions and customs have unanimously agreed to reject the infringement of private and public money, so it is not permissible for any individual to seize and abuse the money of others, and for this reason, legislation and laws must be enacted that deter anyone who tempts himself to infringe on money with severe punishment.

"Last week, newspapers and social media reported news of an embezzlement that occurred in a government agency, and we do not know whether this news is true or not.

"The news says that a civil employee in the Directorate-General of the Fire Department took advantage of his position and embezzled public money, and seized sums of money for a period that extended two consecutive years without anyone knowing about it, which caused harm to himself and the society in which he lives and who entrusted him with public rights, which calls for his punishment.

"Administrative corruption is a scourge that everyone suffers from, and unfortunately, it has spread widely in recent times and has penetrated government and private institutions. Undoubtedly, the theft of public money is a breach of trust and a major crime.

"Here, we will not look at the person who embezzled and the severity of the crime he committed, but we will look at the imbalance in the state and its supervisory bodies, which did not discover this crime and which extended for two years without any of the officials in this sensitive facility of the state's facilities being aware of it.

"This crime revealed the extent of the great shortcomings that occurred in many state administrations, which requires conducting a major research and study to reveal this shortcoming and the flaw in the state's oversight bodies -- as we said earlier -- and to address them and fill the gaps in them so that they are not an outlet for the weak souls -- and also these procedures may reveal the monitoring that, if the responsible authorities take, to plug the loopholes for crimes and other embezzlement, has not been discovered yet.

"It is known that in every government or private establishment there is a supervisory body, whose mission is to monitor public money and to ensure that no mistakes occur that may cause harm to public money and embezzlement.

"An investigation is required to uncover the shortcomings in those departments, and to hold accountable all those who are negligent and reckless in the performance of their work, as well as those who colluded with this crime, and thus work to activate the role of the supervisory authorities and support them with human competencies and give them the necessary powers to perform their role to the fullest."

Also:

"During the past few days, an economic report related to car sales in Kuwait came before me, which indicated that the annual increase in cars exceeds 300,000 cars, a number that aroused my attention and curiosity at the same time," columnist Owaid Al-Salili wrote for Al-Shahed daily.

"The large number of cars that enter service annually confirms that Kuwait is on the verge of a dire and unbearable traffic situation, especially since highways and internal roads are currently suffering from unprecedented traffic congestion at peak times, and in the capital in particular, which is Kuwait's financial and administrative artery.

"I do not know whether those in charge of the Ministry of the Interior, represented by the General Traffic Department, Ministry of Public Works and the Public Authority for Road and Land Transportation other government agencies concerned with the traffic crisis, read such reports and calculate their accounts for the future in order to develop optimal solutions to address the traffic congestion that everyone suffers from, or do these authorities stop their role on developing temporary, primitive and non-temporary solutions process for treatment.

"The suffocating traffic crisis requires the government, represented by the Council of Ministers, to take the initiative to put in place laws and mandatory solutions that compel everyone to abide by them so that the decision does not become in the hands of ministerial bodies, sectors and bodies that are manipulated by parliamentary pressures and special interests at the expense of dealing with the traffic crisis.

"There are simple and easy solutions that can be applied immediately, and they are to oblige all workers in government agencies, ministries, bodies and private companies whose locations and buildings are in the capital to prevent entry by private cars, and oblige them to use mass transportation, while providing parking for their private cars in locations outside the capital, as happened recently in Souk Mubarakia.

"Another solution is to impose fees on entering the Capital at peak times for private cars, as is the case in most countries of the world to reduce congestion and reduce pressure on the capital.

"There are many proposals, which the Kuwaiti people support, if they are a major reason for solving the traffic congestion problem, but they require boldness in decision-making and strictness in implementation without complimenting anyone, because the country's interest is above all considerations."

"The name of HH the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, may his soul rest in peace, has been associated with caring for the elderly through the award given annually at the General Assembly of the World Health Organization," columnist Dr Hind Al-Choumar wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"It was the His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah award for elderly care and health promotion. It was awarded several years ago to centers for the care of the elderly and their initiatives in this regard in several countries.

"When the Minister of Health in Kuwait handed over the award to the winner in Geneva, statements were made about the desire of these international centers to transfer their expertise in caring for the elderly to Kuwait. They are waiting for an invitation to present their experience.

"With the opening of the new Jahra Hospital or Sabah Al-Ahmad Medical City in Jahra, it was logical to include an international center for geriatrics bearing the name of HH the late Amir, may he rest in peace, and to benefit from the offers of the award winning centers of the World Health Organization. But unfortunately, we have not heard or seen that so far. The new Jahra Hospital still does not carry out any initiative, more than the new buildings and study of foreign employment offers from many sides.

"There are many challenges related to elderly health and care psychologically, physically and socially. Hopefully, those who will draw up the government's plan and action program will make the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Elderly Care a top priority as a corrective measure, duty, loyalty and gratitude to the HH the late Amir, may God have mercy on him and forgive him."

"When the National Assembly elections took place, we, as 'one-vote' voters, were supposed to choose 50 members distributed to five electoral districts, thus, completing our duty to choose who would represent us for years, if possible!" columnist Dr Naji Al-Zaid wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"What did not cross my mind and that of many others is that we, along with these 50 representatives, elected approximately 671 citizens who also serve in the National Assembly, not just 50 MPs!

"I discovered that we did not elect these 671 citizens, rather they were delegated by the 50 representatives as their secretaries in their offices in the assembly, or so they claim!

"A total of 671 secretarial employees are assigned to serve the representatives, as if a representative has more administrative work than any leader in the State... The misfortune does not stop there, as after examining what was published by the newspapers, it became clear that most of these delegates belong to the military corps, meaning, their original function is to protect the homeland and citizens!

"Where are the ministers? Where is the Civil Service Commission? Is there a role for the State Audit Bureau as well?"

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

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