

REMEMBER WHEN

Photograph courtesy of The Center for Research and Studies on Kuwait and the work of Dr Yacoub Al-Hijji in the book *Old-Kuwait: Memories in Photographs* first published in 1996.



Courtesy of The Center for Research and Studies on Kuwait

'HEART' OF THE CITY

In the heart of the city overlooking the waterfront stood the Ruler's palace — then a landmark towering over every house. The palace was built by Sheikh Mubarak in 1907. A model of beauty and proportions, it was the most beautiful building in Kuwait. (From the book *'Old Kuwait: Memories in Photographs'*)



diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Storming the parliament not political but is security issue'

"IN THE parliamentary session chaired by the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Ahmad Al-Shuhoumi three weeks ago, and during the discussion of two requests submitted by a number of opposition MPs regarding the commotion that followed the election of the Speaker in the opening session, many parliamentarians were keen to hijack the session's time and investing it in supporting repeated calls for a comprehensive amnesty for those convicted in the storming of the National Assembly case," columnist **Prof. Abdullatif Bin Nakhi** wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"Instead of responding to the successive requests by the Chairman of the session to submit the two requests legally, many of them were busy denouncing the riots during the opening session of the current parliament, and approving and praising the storming of the National Assembly in November 2011.

"The expressions of homage and glorification of those who stormed the Parliament were presented in that session — the glorification that was earlier repeated during many seminars, statements and supporting the demands for a comprehensive amnesty. However its falsehood was revealed the next day when 'honest' American demonstrators stormed the Capitol Hill in Washington to prevent the 'deep state' from stealing the presidential elections, as their supporters claimed. Kuwaitis were surprised by the so many denunciations of the crime (of storming) from people of all 'walks of life'.

"At the American level, the Federal Bureau of Investigation directed multiple accusations against the intruders who were arrested for 'disturbing public order', and the calls for the dismissal of President (Donald) Trump, by those who accused him of inciting the intruders, led by Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, who demanded the Vice-President Republican Mike Pence and members of the government activate the Twenty-Fifth Amendment of the US Constitution, which allows the Vice-President and most members of the government to dismiss the President if they find he is unable to bear the burdens of office.

"The US Senate has also begun formal measures to hold Trump accountable for inciting disobedience, which — in the event of a conviction — would open the door to another vote to prevent him from running for office again.

"These US calls for the dismissal and trial of the outgoing president, because of their coincidence with the international condemnation statements issued by several large capitals, prompted Trump and his administration to condemn the storming in the strongest possible terms and consider it 'contrary to American values, according to what White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany said.

"It is clear that the civilized democratic countries consider storming parliament to confront public order a crime threatening their national security, and it is not a political option to file a protest.

"This was confirmed by US President Joe Biden's statement on the storming of Capital Hill calling it an attack on democracy and the 'darkest days' in the history of the United States of America, and that he did not dare to describe the intruders as protesters because they are local insurgents and terrorists.

"This position was reinforced by a statement of the Speaker of the House of Representatives in which she called the storming an attempted coup by President Trump and his supporters.

"In Kuwait, despite the passage of three weeks, the parliamentarians — including veteran and new members, whether academics or non-academics specializing in political science and specialists in other sciences — who deluded their supporters that the storming of the parliament was a political issue and not a security issue did not comment

on the events of the congressional storming or on the American and non-American reactions, including those issued from the capitals of countries with long-standing democratic practices.

"These representatives are required today to apologize to the Kuwaiti leadership and people, just as they are in the case of the representatives who stormed the parliament. They are also called upon to reconsider their requests for a comprehensive amnesty, starting with withdrawing proposals for laws regarding such as amnesty that they submitted to the National Assembly, then submitting them after reformulating them so that they exclude or include all those convicted in security cases — those whose hands are not stained with blood — without factional exceptions."

Also:

"If a deputy or deputies who are concerned about the state's financial situation raise a due question to the head of the new government after its formation 'What are the options for the authority in the face of today's economic disaster, and if it has a perception as international loans or liquidating the rest of the general reserve assets and future generations for the present time, then what next?' What does the authority envision to solve the problem of salaries inflation and the dwindling oil resources post 'Covid-19'?" columnist **Hassan Al-Essa** wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"If we assume that the government's answer as usual forever and ever is summarized in the story of the girl who was carrying an egg basket and walking and dreamed that her eggs would hatch chicks to the end of the unfortunate stories of the political administration, meaning that it will sell us more rhetorical words about diversifying sources of income.

"Certainly we shall ask the government: "When" do you start working on the ground for these reforms? We want to see tangible achievements in front of our eyes, we want to touch it with our hands, and we will ask: How will we be with it and after?"

"We know that there is a lot of pain and suffering that will afflict citizens and residents, and we know that the joke that "the citizen's pocket will not be touched is a myth and empty words that are suitable for deputies to speak in their political work, but this should not be done by an authority that monopolizes rule, controls everything and threads of solutions are in its hand.

"Does the authority intend to impose direct and progressive taxes on large incomes? Will it reconsider the state's property rent fee and limit the subsidy to people with limited incomes? Has it imagined canceling the privileges of many high-cost cadres who were appointed by bribes, and limiting the income and bonus item to a maximum of three thousand dinars per month starting from the minister to the department head?"

"Does the authority think about dissolving the parliament if the MPs object-and this is for sure-and will it be a constitutional dissolution? And if the new parliament returns with deputies who are more opposing than the current one, will it dissolve the parliament for a second and third time and issue decrees of necessity or will the dissolution be unconstitutional by suspending some articles of the constitution?"

"Before we find any answer from the authority, let us ask whether our sheikhs thought about offering sacrifices from those closest to them, such as presenting the heads of corruption and their offspring without exception to criminal trials immediately, instead of betting on people forgetting their crimes, and whether they will start cleaning the organization structure from the top?! When will it do something that reassures us?"

"The state today is sinking in the swamp of insolvency and procrastination. This authority is afraid of challenge, and it has been closing its eyes and not seeing the truth for decades, and in this its ruin. How long do you bury your head in the sand?"

— Compiled by **Ahmad Al-Shazli**

Jail overturned, fine hiked for fashionista

Lawyer gets 7 years for forcing abortion

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 31: The Criminal Court has sentenced a lawyer to 7 years imprisonment with hard labor for assaulting his 'wife' and forcing her to abort the fetus, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

The court also found another Asian woman guilty of helping abort the fetus and sentenced her to 3 years imprisonment with hard labor.

This came after the victim filed a complaint against the lawyer, accusing

him of forcing her to abort the fetus.

The case papers reveal the lawyer married the victim through an 'undocumented contract' and when she became pregnant he was against her giving birth to a baby and forced her to abort the fetus.

Meanwhile, the Court of Appeals has recently overturned the verdict of the Criminal Court which had sentenced a Fashionista and her husband

to 2 years in prison with hard labor, and fined them 2,000 dinars and asked them to pay 1,000 dinars bail to suspend the sentence, reports *Al-Seyasah* daily.

The Court of Appeals demanded that the defendants pay 10,000 dinars fine and delete the indecent video clip.

The couple was charged with breaching the public decency and public morals law on the 'Snapchat' program.



Expression of interest to establish projects based on Sulfur product inside the state of Kuwait

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) wishes to declare its interest to sell quantities of Sulfur product through long-term contracts with to local or international Investor. Initially, the total offered quantity of Sulfur is around 30-40 thousand tons per year, and it will be sold locally as a feedstock to establish downstream industries based on the sulfur product in the State of Kuwait. The Sulfur product is produced through oil production and refining processes of the oil sector in the State of Kuwait.

KPC is soliciting the interest of investors whether local or International companies which have a credible idea of an industrial investment project premised on utilizing Sulfur product within the state of Kuwait and have the required qualifications and capacities to establish sulfur manufacturing business (plant) in Kuwait, to submit their interest ("Application") vide an email to kpcl@kpc.com.kw along with the following details not later than 25/3/2021.

Interested Company (investor) Profile which includes the following:

- A brief background of the company that includes its activities, Products, and Services.
- The number of full-time manpower.
- Financial Standing, total revenues, etc.
- The investor (applicant) shall provide the proposed project idea, and the final product.
- Declaration of whether the Investor (applicant) owns the rights of the required technology or has a license to use the technology, in case of non-availability of any technology, Investor shall indicate a plan to obtain the required technology, provided that the technology that will be used in the project shall be commercially approved.
- Company previous experience in Sulfur industries (if any).
- Determine the required quantities of Sulfur product and its state (Molten or Granular (solid)).
- Declare the availability of industrial land to be utilized to build the project, or the Investor to provide the plan to secure the required industrial land for the project.
- The Investor's approach to expand/increase local content, in terms of the following areas:
 - Recruitment of Kuwaiti labor (job opportunities expected to be offered to Kuwaitis, with an indication of expected Kuwaitis employees' ratio).
 - The expected local spend on materials and services for the project.
- A feasibility study for the project (if any) or provide a plan that the Investor will follow to prepare the feasibility study.
- A proposed preliminary timeline/schedule for implementing the project

General information and guidance:

- The investor (applicant) Expression of Interest (EOI) will be received according to the above - mentioned stipulations by 25/3/2021 and any applications submitted after this date will not be considered.
- All Expression of Interest (EOI) applications that meet the terms and conditions, and supported by all required documents will be examined. Any expression of Interest applications contrary to this will be excluded.
- Clarification/Explanatory meeting will be scheduled prior to the application submission deadline.
- The investor (applicant) alone bears the responsibility to disclose any information that contains intellectual property, whether it is private to him or others, upon submission.
- KPC will review all submitted applications to nominate/select the opportunity(s) as it deems appropriate (if any). Thereafter, a Pre-qualification process for investors will be carried out in order to qualify potential investors to whom auction proposal shall be issued.
- The investor (applicant) acknowledges that KPC will roll out the selected qualified opportunity/opportunities for auction, which may lead to a situation where its submitted proposal be executed by another entity, and the applicant, by submitting its proposal, utterly understands and agrees to this process.
- KPC will sell the Sulfur product to the investor(s) based on the international prices prevailing at the time of the contract.
- This announcement does not entail any obligation or liability on the KPC in any way towards any of the applicants or others, as KPC has complete freedom to study and evaluate the submitted expression of interests (EOIs) and the proposed investment opportunities and to assess whether or not to proceed with the pre-qualification and bidding processes, all in light of the discretionary power of KPC and without any liability on it towards the companies proposing investment opportunities and / or qualified companies and / or companies participating in the auction.