

Cooperation with Iran to release citizen: Jarallah

Coordination with US on e-piracy victims

KUWAIT: The Iranian authorities are responsive to the Kuwaiti efforts to release Faleh Al-Azmi, a Kuwaiti national who has been held in Iran, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said. The authorities in Tehran will not hesitate to release him, Jarallah told reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony held Thursday at the Chinese embassy in Kuwait to mark the 68th anniversary of People's Republic of China.

He added that a meeting was held with the Iranian Charged d'Affaires in Kuwait and he promised he would contact the authorities at home. The Iranian diplomat said Azmi would be set free as soon as investigations end. Jarallah hoped for "pleasant news" soon. According to the Iranian authorities, the Kuwaiti citizen entered a military zone, may be by mistake, and was held and interrogated.

E-piracy victims

Meanwhile, Jarallah said that the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry is coordinating with the US authorities to restore the rights of the Kuwaiti citizens who have fallen victims to e-piracy in the US. He added that he met with the victims at the Foreign Ministry, and they gave a detailed account of how they were exposed to piracy, and the money seized from them. He noted that they hoped, through coordination with the US embassy in Kuwait, to help them recover their rights and avert any potential prosecution by the US



KUWAIT: Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Wang Di and Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah cut the cake during the ceremony. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

authorities in the future, as there are fake properties registered in their names, and due taxes have to be paid. They are in a critical situation and need to be assisted, he noted.

In the meantime, Jarallah said that the Syria issue "seems to be moving positively," hoping the ongoing Russian efforts would end the Syrians' tragedy. He hoped the Russian positive role and contacts would continue for the good of the Syrian people who have been suffering for long years. "The question is not whether (Syrian) President Bashar Al-Assad would remain in power, but the talk is about efforts, transition and a roadmap regarding the situation in Syria," he said. He voiced optimism for positive

development hoping the ongoing efforts would manage to contain the situation in Syria.

Strategic partnership

On the Kuwaiti-Chinese relations, Jarallah expressed desire to make strategic partnership with China for closer political and economic bonds between Kuwait and the Asian nation. Jarallah indicated that the relationship with China dates back to the Asian nation's founding. "This is a very long period of time, a period full of accomplishments at the level of joint interests," he said. The Deputy Foreign Minister praised China's support for the State of Kuwait, at international quarters, particularly during the Iraqi occupation in the 1990s.

Chinese companies are partaking in mega development projects, namely in energy and housing sectors, in Kuwait, he said, noting that Beijing has earmarked up to \$400 billion for investments in South Asia and the Gulf. — KUNA

Amir receives UN chief's message



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a message from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, expressing deep appreciation for His Highness' mediation in the GCC diplomatic crisis. The UN chief started his message by expressing great honor on meeting His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad during his visit to the State of Kuwait on August 26-27, 2017, indicating that his talks in Kuwait dealt with a wide range of crucial issues of mutual interest. He expressed gratitude to His Highness the Amir for directly contacting leaders of the other GCC countries in a bid to find a solution to the diplomatic crisis that erupted last June.

Guterres wrote to His Highness, saying, "I greatly valued our exchange of views on the Qatari issue, and commended your personal mediation efforts by directly engaging with the leaderships of the other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in an attempt to find a solution to the diplomatic crisis that erupted on June 5, 2017."

"By staying above the fray and acting as a mediator, the State of Kuwait has re-asserted its important role in the GCC region. Once again I stand ready to lend my support to the mediation efforts should it be desired by all parties." Moreover, he expressed appreciation for the discussions he had held with His Highness the Amir regarding conditions in Yemen, the Arab Republic of Syria, the Republic of Iraq, as well as His Highness' initiative to combat extremism and terrorism. Furthermore, the UN chief praised His Highness' support for resuming the peace process in the Middle East on the two States' basis and lauded his admiration-worthy humanitarian role to rebuild Gaza. — KUNA



Strategic partnership with China for closer bonds

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CONDOLENCES

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief, Management and Staff

convey their deepest condolences to

Dr. Abdulaziz bin Ibrahim Al-Fayez

Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Kuwait

on the sad demise of

his mother

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on her