

Local

Kuwait updates UN about missing nationals, recovered properties

Israel must be held accountable for crimes: Kuwait's envoy

KUWAIT: Kuwait has updated UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and Security Council members about latest developments about missing Kuwaitis and third nationals, as well as Kuwait's national archive. Kuwait's permanent representative to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi sent two letters to Guterres and President of UNSC, on April 12, about latest developments regarding the two issues in line with UN resolution 2107 (2013) and UNSC's Statement, issued on November 24, 2020. He said Kuwait identified, on March 3, eight Kuwaiti martyrs and third-country nationals who were arrested by Iraqi forces during Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990. Kuwait's Mission to the UN said in a statement Thursday.

The martyrs were identified through their DNA, said Otaibi. The letters included the names of the martyrs: Asaad Ali Abdulrahman Al-Sultan, Ameen Ali Mohammad Ashkanani, Khalil Saud Khalil Al-Qattan, Abdullah Ibrahim Mohammad Al-Qudaifi, Mohammad Mubarak Mohammad Al-Sameem, Musaed Mohammad Falah Al-Doseri, Nasser Eid Khaled Al-Enezi and Yusuf Yaqoub Mohammad Al-Yaqoub. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed families of the martyrs once confirming their identities. Otaibi said the Criminal Evidence Department at the Ministry of Interior were still examining remains received from Iraq in August 2019. These DNA tests were taking a lot of time because the remains were mixed. Otaibi

praised heroism of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of their country. He also said Kuwait was also keen on handing over all remains of Iraqi soldiers founded in Kuwaiti territories, citing the handing over of a remain on March 30, 2021.

Meanwhile, Otaibi said Kuwait received on March 28 a new batch of properties stolen by the former Iraqi regime during its 1991-91 invasion and occupation of Kuwait. These properties, he said, included 53 boxes containing more than 6,500 books, microfilms, 1,016 cartridge tapes (16 mm), one videoMatic film and one videoMatic player, cinema projector, cinema film reel, two AKAI magnetic recordings and eight magnetic recordings. Otaibi said handing over of the properties took place in State of Kuwait and witnessed by UN resident coordinator in the Gulf nation.

Otaibi thanked Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the UN, Britain, France, UN and International Committee of Red Cross for their contributions that led to discovery of the remains despite coronavirus pandemic. He also thanked UNSC members for their keen interest in this humanitarian file until discovery of remains of 338 Kuwaitis and third-country nationals, as well as recovery of all Kuwaiti properties including the national archive.

Israel's crimes

Separately, Kuwait called for enforcing political

and legal action against Israel, and holding it accountable for relentless violations against the Palestinian people. While the international community is busy fighting COVID-19, "Israel, the occupying power, continues its hostile policies against the Palestinian people to remind us it will not retreat from plans to annex more Palestinian territories in the West Bank and East Jerusalem," Otaibi said in a statement to a UN Security Council session over the Palestinian issue on Thursday.

Otaibi said Israeli policies were forcing occupation through illegal activities and policies including expansion and construction of thousands of Jewish housing units, and annexation of lands in clear violations of UN Security Council resolutions, namely resolution 2334. All recent UN reports, he said, confirmed deterioration of conditions in Palestinian territories due to the rising construction of thousands of illegal Jewish settlements in the West Bank including in East Jerusalem.

"What concerns us as well is that while Israeli authorities give green light for construction of illegal settlements there are violent acts committed by Israeli settlers and Israeli security forces against unarmed Palestinian people, as well as destruction of buildings and properties whether they were Palestinian or built through donations from the international community like schools and health facilities," he said. Otaibi described the Israeli actions as "new



Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi

war crimes" added to Israel's hostilities against the Palestinian people. The Israeli occupation seeks to abort any chance and hope towards establishment of the independent and viable Palestinian state, he said.

The international community must act to put an end to the Israeli arrests, destruction or confiscation of Palestinian buildings and forced displacement, said Otaibi, in addition to the 13-year-old siege on Gaza Strip. He said Kuwait believed peace was the strategic choice in the Middle East which would lead to the two-state solution in line with relevant UNSC resolutions, land-for-peace principle and Arab peace initiative, paving way for an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Indian Ambassador Sibi George addresses a virtual open house at the Indian Embassy.

Indian embassy to collect data on stranded Indians

KUWAIT: Embassy of India announced recently the launch of a new "registration drive" for stranded Indian nationals who have not been able to return to Kuwait on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. This registration drive is for all those stranded Indian nationals who are facing various issues due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions, the embassy said in a press release.

"The embassy is preparing an updated database of Indians who are stranded in India and are facing difficulties due to loss of jobs, expiry of residencies, inability to pay rent, close family members stranded in India, non-payment of indemnities and other benefits etc", said Indian Ambassador Sibi George,

addressing a virtual open house Wednesday.

"We are starting this new registration drive with a view to sharing the database with the Kuwaiti authorities and request their intervention. This is a follow-up of my meetings with the Kuwaiti authorities," he added.

The ambassador said, the COVID-19 situation continues to be worrisome in everywhere including in India and in Kuwait. "We need to remain cautious. We need to continue to monitor the situation and continue to take all precautions. Our effort is to ensure that we should not close down or slow down the work of the embassy, its community welfare activities, its consular services both at the embassy and at the three centers in Sharq, Fahaheel and Abassiya," he added. All those who registered in the earlier drive conducted in 2020 may also register for this drive by filling in the Google form online (<https://forms.gle/sExZK1GKW36BLpVz7>). Any official update on this matter will be shared by the embassy on its website and social media handles, the release further said.

Kuwait curfew: What you need to know

KUWAIT: Kuwait imposed a curfew from 7:00 pm to 5:00 am until the end of Ramadan to help curb the sharp increase in COVID-19 cases registered in recent weeks. During the curfew hours, pharmacies, medical stores, co-operative societies and supermarkets are allowed to continue operation only through delivery services, while restaurants and cafes are allowed to deliver food from 7:00 pm to 3:00 am every day. Also during the curfew, people are allowed to go to prayers at mosques only by walking, and the government allowed people to practice walking and jogging from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. The government meanwhile allowed salons and health clubs to reopen during the day but kept restaurants and cafes closed except for drive-through and delivery services. Meanwhile, taxis are allowed to carry only two passengers.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched a booking service, allowing people to shop from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am during the curfew hours. The service is valid for all co-ops and supermarkets around Kuwait. To book an appointment, a shopper should visit www.moci.shop, enter the required information (civil ID number and serial number, contact number and email address), the reason for appointment (food supply center) and the time and date of the appointment. The shopper would then

receive a barcode to show once they reach the shopping center.

Where to obtain a curfew pass?

Citizens and residents that need a pass during the curfew hours to leave their homes can apply for a pass at <https://www.paci.gov.kw/>. The pass is available for those in need of emergency medical treatment, doctor's visits, blood donation, COVID-19 swabs and COVID-19 vaccinations.

Co-op delivery during curfew hours

During curfew hours, co-ops, grocery stores and other markets will be allowed to offer delivery services. Most co-ops will accept orders via delivery. Here is an incomplete list of co-op WhatsApp numbers. Each co-op will be responsible for deciding if and when they provide delivery services and not all may be providing.

Omariya Co-op
WhatsApp 6041-0067

Farwaniya Co-op
WhatsApp 6767-8211

Qairawan Co-op
WhatsApp 9000-3749

Jahra Co-op
WhatsApp 5160-2458

Abdulla Al-Mubarak Co-op
WhatsApp 6066-6338

Nuzha Co-op
WhatsApp 9784-5531

Khaitan Co-op
WhatsApp 6777-9745

Ardhiya Co-op
WhatsApp 6902-0779

Rabiya Co-op
WhatsApp 2438-8316

Wafra Farm Co-op
Tel: 9883-5245 / 5170-0085

Salmiya Co-op
Tel: 22253225

Jabriya Co-op
Tel: 1805-353
WhatsApp 6566-6084

Rawdha & Hawally
WhatsApp 9662-2883

Shaab Co-op
WhatsApp 9090-4455

Wafra Co-op
WhatsApp 5055-0539

Keifan Co-op
WhatsApp 5178-1719

Rehab Co-op
WhatsApp 9222-2358

Mishref Co-op
WhatsApp 5055-9900

Faiha Co-op
Tel: 1861-000
WhatsApp 9098-6000

Rumaithiya Co-op
WhatsApp 6066-0045

Bayan Co-op
WhatsApp 9004-2500

Fahaheel Co-op
WhatsApp 5178-9951

Adan & Qusour Co-op
Tel: 5034-3111 / 6593-3975

Salam Co-op
WhatsApp 9788-783

Marijuana farm busted in Kabd

KUWAIT: Drugs Control General Department men learned about an Arab expat farming marijuana for use and sale at a Kabd farm. Detectives, after making sure the information was correct, arrested the suspect at the rented farm, Al-Anbaa Arabic daily reported. Fifteen seedlings of marijuana, a small piece of hashish and three unlicensed firearms were found at the farm. The suspect and the seized materials were sent to concerned authorities.

Separately, a violent fight broke out between a colonel and several officers on one side and a non-commissioned officer on the other at the criminal detectives department in Salmiya. The non-commissioned officer was taken to Salmiya police station, where he requested to go to hospital to obtain a medical report. A security source said a verbal argument took place between the colonel and the non-commissioned officer after he was asked why he was at that department at dawn, Al-Anbaa reported. When he said his duty was to check on those on the Shlonik app, an argument ensued and escalated to blows. The colonel told police the non-commissioned officer beat him, while the officer said the colonel's men beat him badly. Investigations are ongoing.

News in brief

KRCS delivers food in Comoros

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced delivering Iftar meals and Eid clothing for those in need in Comoros. Head of public relations and media at KRCS Khaled Al-Zaid said the society's Ramadan program includes delivering aid to different islands in Comoros, adding that over 73 families benefited from food baskets. KRCS will continue aiding people in need in Comoros and other places during Ramadan and other months, he added. —KUNA

Oil price up

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by 63 cents to \$63.96 per barrel Friday as oppose to \$63.33 pb the day before, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. The prices of the Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate, globally, went up with the first going up by 77 cents to \$66.11 per barrel, while the latter went up by 71 cents to \$62.14 pb. —KUNA

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