

Al-Jarida

THE DARK GLASSES

By Hassan Al-Essa

The dark glasses mentioned in the documentary by philosopher Slavoj Zizek have nothing to do with the plot of an Egyptian movie written by Ihsan Abdul Qoddous under the same name. In the Arabic movie, Maggie (the leading star played by Nadia Lotfi) used to wear dark glasses all the time to hide her eyes, which told much about how lost she was and torn between moderate liberalism portrayed by Abdul Qoddous as the mainstream minds of Egyptian and Arab middle classes in the 1960s, and conservative powers.

Reasonable liberalism seems to act as a compromise between old conservative values and modernity. Thus, Maggie gets lost in a conflict between her liberty and traditional values of her community, until a compromise is made when she gives up her right to absolute freedom towards the end and accepts social restrictions.

Zizek's dark glasses do not hide the owner's eyes. On the contrary, they reveal the whole truth and discover deceit and forged ideologies impose on some people in the form of beliefs and nominal appearances that deprive a person of his/her liberty. For instance, a colored banner ad on a New York street about the Bahamas shows a beautiful woman in a swimming suit inviting people to visit the island and enjoy the sun and sea. But when the actor puts on the glasses, the real image appears to be an invitation for sex that would boost the island's fortunes.

There are more similar examples around us through which we can realize that forgery and deceit are used as tools to promote dominating powers' ideologies. Former US defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld used to surely and arrogantly talk about WMDs in Iraq under Saddam, and that Iraq had to be invaded to destroy those weapons. I believe that if we had put on Zizek's glasses, we would have seen Rumsfeld talking about the importance of dividing Iraq and controlling its oil resources instead of hearing lies about WMDs.

Just imagine if one puts on those glasses and reads officials' statements. How would we read a statement about a deal or a contract between the state and a certain company? Without the glasses, the story would be official talk about the necessity to sign the contract to protect national security, for instance, and to facilitate citizens' lives. But once we put on the glasses, we would see the whole truth about huge commissions and easy money made through public funds and the state treasury.

How can we read the statements of MPs or former MPs talking about the DNA law, withdrawing citizenships or the state council bill proposed by the former justice minister? Well, with Zizek's glasses on, we will see this nation barefoot. And we better not use these black glasses so as not to see our nation turn into a barren desert! Let us better keep living the illusions and falsities without Zizek's revealing glasses!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



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YOUNG MPS

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By Dr Hassan Jouhar

In a previous article, I spoke about young candidates for the 2016 parliamentary election and their chances to win parliamentary seats with the enthusiasm and political courage they showed during their campaigns. I also mentioned how their ideas matched public aspirations and will. In another article, I wrote about the youth tsunami that was reflected at the polls, knocking out the previous parliament's MPs and substituting them with new faces.

Today, I address these young people who are now the nation's representatives and thus have great responsibilities to legislate and monitor. What makes their responsibilities even greater is that they are not only about future legislations, but also about fixing, adjusting or annulling the bad and suspicious laws passed by the 2013 parliament, such as those on deprivation of political rights, e-media, precautionary detention in expression of opinion cases, the constitutional court, the anti-corruption authority and the financial statement disclosure laws, which have all been criticized by these young MPs during their electoral campaigns.

The second part of their responsibility lies in the general state of depression because of the prevailing corruption and lack of reform will of many people, namely the youth. However, the election results revived hopes again and everybody is now counting on young MPs as possible successful substitutes in this regard.

We do not expect these young MPs to have magic wands or super powers in view of their limited experience. Therefore, I would like to remind them and myself with a few pieces of advice. They must hold tight to the beautiful slogans and principles they spoke about during the campaigns over national solidarity and forget all about sectarianism. Their attitudes will be historically recorded the moment they step into the parliament and they will be politically and nationally classified as supporters of the people and the constitution or of limited personal gains and interests. Their tenures in parliament will someday come to an end, leaving with only the reputation and memories about them in people's hearts and minds.

Political life is not only full of obstacles and ups and downs - it is also full of all kinds of temptations that can only be rejected by god-fearing people who are keener on protecting their country, family and reputation. Major sins usually start with simple mistakes, and a single unacceptable action may do much damage to their reputation.

Finally, and without undermining veteran MPs with patriotic CVs, I hope young MPs will form the nucleus of a new parliamentary bloc based on common national and public principles to always take initiatives and make use of colleagues' skills and experiences regardless of possible disagreements with them.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Crime

Report

MAN KILLED IN THREE-WAY CRASH

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti motorist was killed while two others were injured in a three-car collision reported along Mutlaa highway, said security sources. Paramedics, firefighters and police rushed to the scene as soon as the accident was reported, but discovered that one victim had already succumbed to his fatal wounds. His body was left for criminal detectives while the other two were rushed to the hospital. A case was filed to investigate the causes of the crash.

Fight

A young citizen was badly injured when six others with whom he had a fight earlier inside a Farwaniya shopping mall resumed the fight outside and stabbed him, said security sources. The man was rushed to Farwaniya hospital and admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU). A case was filed for investigations.

Drunk couple caught

A citizen and his Kuwaiti girlfriend were arrested outside a building where they had been drinking in Fintas, said security sources. The couple were shouting at each other, after which one of the tenants called the police. On checking the suspects, the man was found wanted for break and entry while the woman was found wanted for a KD 6,000 financial claim.

Harboring a fugitive

A citizen was arrested in Salmiya for possessing illicit pills and harboring a fugitive; a female citizen who had been reported missing by her family, said security sources. The two were taken to the proper authorities for further action.

Suspected theft

Two people, Asian and Arab, were recently arrested possessing copper cables that they claimed to have obtained from the desert. A case was filed and further investigation is in progress. They were held on suspicion of theft.

Bootlegger caught

An Asian taxi driver was recently arrested in Mahboula with 85 homebrewed liquor bottles ready for sale, said security sources. The man was sent to the proper authorities to face several charges including alcohol making, possession and trafficking.

Car thief detained

A bedoon man in his forties was recently arrested in Hasawi area with illicit pills and some tools he had been using for breaking vehicles open and stealing their parts. He was taken to the proper authorities for further interrogation.

Deportation

An African woman working for a cosmetics company was recently arrested in Riga'ie when detectives found out that her residency visa had expired 18 months earlier. Patrol officers had stopped the woman during a routine check, and apprehended her when they discovered that she had an expired visa. The woman was sent to the proper authorities for deportation. — Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa



KUWAIT: Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Kuwait Jusupbek Sharipov hosted a reception recently on the occasion of his country's national day. Senior officials, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



ZAIN ANNOUNCES FIRST WINNER OF 4 PRIZES IN 'PAY ONLINE AND WIN'

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the winner of the first week in its 'Pay Online and Win' draw that will see a weekly postpaid winner of four valuable prizes when paying their bills using Zain's website or app as well as a grand prize at the final draw at the end of January.

Zain announced Sulaiman Mohammed Eid Al-Hashan winner of 4 valuable prizes in the first week of the draw, including iPhone 7, Touch Hotspot LTE-A with free 1.5 TB Prepaid Internet line valid for 3 months, and a PlayStation 4 (1 TB).

The draw, held weekly until the 22nd of January 2017, will see one weekly winner of four valuable prizes, including iPhone 7, Touch Hotspot LTE-A with free 1.5 TB Prepaid Internet line valid for 3 months, and an entertainment device. The grand prize winner, announced at the end of the campaign, will receive iPhone 7, iPhone 7 Plus, Touch Hotspot LTE-A with free 1.5 TB Prepaid Internet line valid for 3 months, and a PlayStation 4 (1 TB).

Postpaid customers will get one chance to enter the weekly draws as well as the final draw for every KD1 paid through Zain's digital channels, including

the company's website (pay.kw.zain.com) and Zain's app available for iOS and Android.

Zain launched this exciting promotional campaign to reinforce its leadership position and its pledge in offering the best products and services to meet its customers' personal and professional telecommunications needs, who are considered Kuwait's biggest family of subscribers.



KFH LAUNCHES SEASONAL FLU VACCINATION CAMPAIGN FOR STAFF

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched seasonal flu vaccination campaign for its employees and the employees of the bank's subsidiaries in Kuwait. The campaign was launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Health as part of the bank's social responsibility and interest in the health of its human resources.

The event took place at Baitak Tower amidst huge employees' turnout. A specialized team from the Ministry of Health briefed the employees on the importance of taking the seasonal flu vaccination that prevents a number of diseases including pneumonia and respiratory disease. KFH is a key player

in the medical and health field and it has a plethora of contributions in this regard. KFH assumes important role in shouldering the social responsibility while strengthening ties with health and government institutions in the country, especially that the health of the society is an integral part of the social and comprehensive development.

It is worth noting that KFH had launched diabetes awareness campaign in collaboration with Al Salam Hospital in an attempt to increase the awareness about diabetes and its complications in the individuals and the society to improve the lives of people with diabetes and promote healthy lifestyles.

