

PUBLIC INSTITUTION FOR SOCIAL SECURITY DIVESTS FUNDS FROM G4S AFTER BDS PRESSURE



KUWAIT: The Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) in Kuwait has decided, as reported in the Kuwaiti media, to divest its funds from G4S, a company that is profiting from the Israeli occupation and has a notorious record of human rights abuses. The decision comes following calls from BDS Kuwait and the Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC), the largest coalition in Palestinian civil society, on PIFSS to divest from G4S.

Earlier in May, a parliamentary inquiry by Kuwaiti MP Faisal Al-Duwaisan directed to the Ministry of Finance was submitted raising questions about the nature of the shares that PIFSS held in G4S, a company that is profiting from Israeli international law violations committed against the Palestinian people. In his response to the parliamentary inquiry, the Kuwaiti Minister of Finance, who is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the PIFSS, confirmed that PIFSS has sold all its shares in G4S.

Guman Mussa, BDS Campaigns Coordinator in the Arab World, welcomed the new victory against G4S saying: "The decision of PIFSS in Kuwait to respond to a call made by Palestinian civil society and BDS Kuwait affirms that the Palestinian cause is part and parcel of the consciousness of the Kuwaiti people. Kuwait shines a glimmer of hope against normalization with Israel's regime of occupation and settler-colonialism".

G4S, a British-Danish security company that operates in more than 125 countries around the world, had announced in March its intention to exit the Israeli market following mounting global pressure and financial losses incurred as a result of BDS campaigns. Nonetheless, the company has gained an ill-famed reputation not only due to the human rights abuses in which it is involved but also

for repeatedly contradicting its promises to divest from the Israeli occupation. This has led BDS campaigners to accuse the company of dishonesty and deception. Since the March announcement, BDS campaigns against G4S have been escalating globally, not least in the Arab world.

Mussa added: "We shall continue with our campaigns against G4S both globally and in the Arab world due to its complicity in crimes committed by the occupation, knowing that BDS activists - from Kuwait, Lebanon and Jordan to Egypt and Morocco - are escalating the pressure against the company."

"G4S clients in the region are responding positively to the campaign. Many have assured us that they are seriously exploring the possibility of severing their relationship with G4S due to its role in Israeli violations of Palestinian rights." Commenting on the news, BDS Kuwait stated: "Kuwait has always been and still is at the forefront of supporting the Palestinians in their struggle for freedom, justice and self-determination. The decision by PIFSS rightly distances Kuwait from any suspicion of involvement with companies profiting from occupation and reaffirms Kuwait's commitment to the rights of the Palestinian people as well as our responsibility as Kuwaitis to combat normalization". Mussa concluded: "G4S claimed it was withdrawing from Israel 'for entirely commercial reasons', but that is the very logic of the BDS campaigns for corporate accountability. As was the case at the height of the international boycott of apartheid South Africa, BDS pressure, as this latest success in Kuwait shows, is making some of the world's largest corporations realize that profiting from Israel's regime of oppression is becoming commercially untenable".

In my view

THE WORLD NEEDS PEACE AND SECURITY



By Labeed Abdal

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When leaders of major countries with advanced economies were meeting in Japan to participate in the G7 Summit, the World Vision Organization, concerned with immigrant affairs, presented a memo urging the leaders to show more concern and care for the world's children. Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) summit focused on sustainable development goals in order to avoid wars, conflicts and instability in the world's poorest spots with the aim of achieving a better future. This means that the world is finally starting to awaken.

International political will to handle world's most sensitive issues and achieve peace for children and families afflicted by wars still has a wide gap. International conscious has been fearfully silent while children and unarmed people are being killed, only because the killers belong to powerful countries beyond accountability.

This does not show any responsibility for the present and the future of any human being, society or race. New generations are following in older generations' footsteps with the same old follies. Children do not get enough international protection, which calls for stopping armed aggressions worldwide and setting wide redlines in some areas.

Tough time does not fly backwards - international law that was present after World War I, when it was decided to annex countries that were less advanced, is currently detected although 100 years have passed by. The world is in dire need for international peace and security for human beings anywhere regardless of their religion, color, race or origin. This requires more awareness programs and justice-based development, especially since the UN was founded to achieve peace and not just stand by watching fights and weapons and explosive displays, while war criminals are laughing.

EID STARTS JULY 6: KUWAIT SCIENCE CLUB COUNCIL MEMBERS SLAM MUNICIPALITY MINISTER

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Science Club announced that the first day of Eid Al-Fitr would fall on Wednesday, July 6 according to astronomical calculations. In this regard, KSC's astronomy and space department manager Bader Al-Ameera said that the crescent of the Hijri month of Shawwal would be seen at 2:30 pm on Ramadan 29 that coincides with July 4, which means that July 5 would be Ramadan 30.

Electoral interests

Municipal Council members Nayef Al-Sour and Meshari Al-Motoutah strongly criticized Municipality Minister Essa Al-Kandari in yesterday's session over lists of employees who were issued special bonuses and appointments. They argued that the lists were elections-motivated for the minister's own electoral interests and benefits. Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi stressed that the minister does not interfere in the outstanding performance lists and said that a committee comprising of municipal staff was responsible for these nominations. Meanwhile, the Municipal Council approved a request made by the Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) to develop and expand Entertainment City on adjacent lands of Sheikh Zayed Park.

Controversial bill

MP Yousef Al-Zalzal said that logically speaking, the government would not reject a law it unanimously approved, referring to the bill on banning those indicted for blasphemy from running for elections. Zalzal also stressed that the parliament's constitutional experts including Dr Abdul Fattah Hassan confirmed that the bill is constitutional.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi (center) speaks with Municipal Council President Muhallal Al-Khaled (right) and member Mane Al-Ajmi on the sidelines of yesterday's session. —Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

Court order

After hearing a case concerning their fight in court, the criminal court yesterday acquitted lawyers Loai Al-Khorafi and Ibrahim Al-Kandari and Sheikhs Dhari, Khaled and Athbi Al-Fahd Al-Sabah. The court also fined Ajeel Al-

Shaheen, Athbi Al-Fahd and Sulaiman Khaliefo KD 150 and Khaled and Dhari Al-Fahd KD 50. In addition, the court ordered Shaheen to compensate Athbi Al-Fahd KD 5,001 and ordered Athbi and Khaled Al-Fahd to compensate Khorafi KD 5,001.

MCDONALD'S, ZAIN AND UNHCR JOIN TOGETHER FOR WORLD REFUGEE DAY



KUWAIT: As Kuwait is an international humanitarian center, and in belief in the importance of awareness of World Refugee Day, McDonald's held a charity iftar for refugees in Kuwait on June 23rd. The event was in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in partner with Zain.

The event aimed at giving back, bringing joy, and showing solidarity with the local refugee and asylum seeker community. For the sixth year in a row, the event was sponsored by Al-Maousherji Catering Company's McDonald's Kuwait, which provided complimentary meals and organized games and entertainment to all the children and families. Additionally, Zain Telecommunications Company offered prize bags and girgira gifts to refugee children.

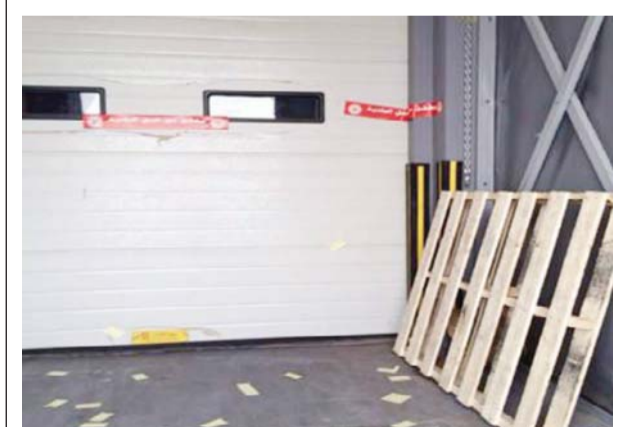
This initiative is part of the global #WithRefugees campaign, which asks the world to stand together with refugees. UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi spoke about why UNHCR was making such a public call to support refugees: "The #WithRefugees campaign and petition aims to amplify those voices of welcome and show that the world stands with refugees." As Kuwait is an International Humanitarian Center, it is taking the initiative by raising awareness and organizing several events in line with the #WithRefugees campaign.



KUWAIT: The victims' vehicle pictured following the accident.



Municipality workers destroy material that did not match standard specifications.



A store closed by the municipality for failure to meet food safety standards.

BROTHER'S MURDERER REMANDED IN CUSTODY

KUWAIT: The deputy prosecution general remanded a citizen accused of killing his brother. The killer confessed the murder was due to domestic disputes and there are no links with terrorist organizations. But a security source said state security is now partnering with criminal detectives in the interrogations of the citizen to find whether the suspect has any links with the Islamic State (IS). Meanwhile, a citizen who lives in Sabahiya asked Interior Ministry operations to send a patrol to arrest him because he is afraid he may hurt his family and himself. The citizen in his thirties was taken to state security department for interrogation, and they found he is convinced by IS ideology. The young man told police during the phone call that he has adopted IS ideology and "I am afraid for myself and my family, and I am afraid I may commit a crime, or be pushed to do so". The source said the call was referred to state security, that sent a patrol to the house of the caller in Sabahiya, and he was taken away. The source said the young man opted to call as he was afraid to commit a crime like the one in west Mishref. Meanwhile, state security are looking for four persons wearing IS garb with strange beards. A security source said that many calls were received about the four persons, who were in an SUV.

Daughter's killer remanded

The renewal judge decided to keep a citizen and his wife jailed over the killing of their daughter and placing her body in a freezer. The suspect, who was under the influence of drugs along with his wife, beat their four-year-old daughter until she died, then dumped her body in the freezer.

Drugs arrests

Director General of the Drugs Control General Department (DCGD) Col Waleed Al-Daraie sent two citizens with possession of seven kilograms of hashish and shabu to the prosecution and two Asians to drugs prosecution for trading in drugs. In Farwaniya, an Asian man was arrested for trading in shabu and he had two kg of the substance, while the other was arrested in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh with 250 gm of heroin. In the first case Duraie learned about the citizen trading in shabu, so an undercover agent was sent to buy 50 gm for KD 1,400, and he was arrested during the exchange. Police found four kg of shabu in his house. He said he works for a bedoon in the central prison and receives his orders by telephone. In another case, a citizen was arrested for trading in hashish, and police

found three kg of the substance along with KD 2,000 he collected from the sales. Meanwhile, Director General of Relations and Security Information at the Interior Ministry Brig Adel Al-Hashash said drug trafficking and abuse crimes dropped by 17 percent, while crimes against unidentified perpetrators dropped by 28 percent and felonies by 18 percent. He said drugs offenders were arrested at record rates with confiscations of more than six million illicit tablets. Drugs cases reached more than 7,000, with more than 2,100 suspects. Hashash was speaking on the occasion of Kuwait's celebration of World Drugs Fighting Day, which falls on June 26 every year. He lauded the Drug Control General Department (DCGD), customs, land, sea and air customs officers for their efforts.

Liquor factory

Ahmadi police raided a liquor factory in Wafra where two Asians were arrested. They found 304 bottles ready for sale, seven cooking gas cylinders, 42 full drums, three boxes of yeast, three bags of sugar, five distillation drums and four jerry cans suspected of containing liquor. The Koreans were sent to the DCGD.—Al-Anbaa

ONE DEAD, TWO INJURED IN ACCIDENT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A citizen was instantly killed and two others were severely injured when the driver lost control over his vehicle and it flipped over in Kabd, said security sources. The sources noted that on arriving at the scene, firemen found the three trapped inside the wreckage and one of them was dead. The two injured persons were rushed to hospital for treatment.

Food safety

In continuation of its 'Your Health Matters to Us' inspection campaign on various foodstuff stores, restaurants and co-ops, Mubarak Al-Kabeer municipality emergency team inspected a number of stores and restaurants and closed down one of them for operating without a license. The team also destroyed a ton of material used in making sweet syrup for deserts because they did not match standard specifications.