

## Local

# Kuwait stresses Palestinian case is at top of every Muslim, Arab concern

## Kuwait urges Israel join global nuclear weapons ban

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait has stressed that the Palestinian case is at the top of the concerns of every Muslim and Arab, stressing that there will be no lasting peace and security as long as the Israeli occupation continues. This came during a speech by Kuwait at a recent meeting of Security Council to discuss the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian issue, delivered by the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi.

"A comprehensive, just and lasting peace must be based on the resolutions of international legitimacy," Otaibi said. Otaibi reiterated Kuwait's full support for the efforts of the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, to achieve a lasting, just and comprehensive peace for the Palestinian cause. "If new funds are not received immediately, we will face a catastrophic collapse in the provision of basic assistance to services provided in hospitals and clinics, which exposes the lives of more than 500 vulnerable patients to risk including people in intensive care rooms and newborns," he added. He also mentioned the death toll since the start of the peace march on 30th of March to 180 people, condemning "these systematic Israeli crimes against the defenseless Palestinian people, amounting to war crimes against humanity under international humanitarian law and international human rights law."

Otaibi stressed the need to compel the Israeli occupation authority to respect and implement resolution 2334, which affirmed that Israeli settlement constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and an obstacle

to peace. The Ambassador welcomed the first written report of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the implementation of that resolution last June, looking forward to the issuance of periodic reports on the implementation of this resolution in December, in response to the request of ten members of the Council. "Unfortunately, the basic services provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNR-



### Kuwait reiterates full support for UN efforts

WA) for more than five million registered Palestinian refugees are facing great pressures as a result of the financial crisis facing the Agency," Otaibi noted.

#### \$70 million

Otaibi pointed out that the total amount provided by Kuwait during the past four years alone exceeded \$70 million and will continue to support, along with many countries. The international community has been called upon to commit to delegating the Agency and secure resources and financial contributions to its balance sheet and activities in a sustainable manner that will enable it

to continue its role in providing basic services to the Palestinians as a responsibility of the international community to fulfill it in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948, he added.

Otaibi renewed his rejection and condemnation of all these violations of the holy places, especially the attempts to change the historical and legal situation in Al-Aqsa Mosque. Otaibi praised the decision of the Government of Paraguay not to transfer its embassy to Jerusalem in respect of international law and the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy.

Otaibi assured that what he mentioned is only a simplified picture of the suffering by the Palestinian people and it is a small part of the tragedies facing our Palestinians in the occupied territories. Otaibi told reporters before the Security Council session that he renewed Israel's call for compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 2334 and stressed that the Kuwaiti delegation would do its utmost to ensure that the Council try to pressure Israel to implement all its relevant resolutions.

#### Nuclear weapons

Meanwhile, Kuwait called on influential member countries of the United Nations nuclear watchdog to demand Israel to join the global Non-Proliferation Treaty with its nuclear facilities subject to scrutiny. Israel, a member of the 170-nation International Atomic Energy Agency, is widely thought to possess nuclear weapons. However, it is not registered as a nuclear weapons state under the treaty, neither has it declared that this is



**NEW YORK:** Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi speaks during a meeting of the UN Security Council on the situation in the Middle East. — KUNA

the case or allowed IAEA inspections of its facilities.

During a discussion of the matter at the IAEA General Conference, Kuwait Embassy to Austria's Second Secretary Ali Al-Wazzan insisted it should continue to receive annual discussion. Kuwait attaches great significance to the NPT and the application of its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements, which allow IAEA on-site inspections, on all nations in the Middle East. As the IAEA is the sole guarantor of the peaceful nature of nuclear program, he said, seeking to ensure a nuclear weapons free-zone in the Middle East

should have a positive impact on the regional and global security and stability.

Alongside Kuwait, similar calls have been made by other Arab countries and the 120-strong Non-Aligned Movement nations. All countries in the region are committed to the NPT, most recently Palestine, said the Kuwaiti diplomat. However, Wazzan said Israel had an "adamant and stubborn" approach in its rejection of steps towards allowing agency scrutiny of its program. "This threatens the security of the region, increases the state of anxiety and blatantly conflicts with many international treaties," he said. — KUNA

## Humanitarian situations in Yemen 'unprecedented': Kuwait

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait has stressed that the humanitarian situation in Yemen and in Hodeidah in particular has unfortunately reached unprecedented stages of daily suffering of the Yemeni people. The Houthi group has exploited the roads used to deliver humanitarian aid through setting up military checkpoints in a clear and deliberate obstruction of aid Humanitarian assistance to children, women and the elderly who suffer from hunger and threat of epidemics. This came during Kuwait's speech at the Security Council meeting on the situation in Yemen, which was delivered by the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi.

Otaibi said that in order to secure the safe access of humanitarian aid to needy people, the Yemeni government forces, supported by the

Coalition for the Support of Legitimacy, have carried out specific operations through the temporary closure of the main road between Sana'a and Al-Hodeidah. He added that the forces had contacted the humanitarian evacuation and humanitarian committee in Riyadh with the international humanitarian actors to inform them of alternative ways of dispatching humanitarian aid from Al-Hodeidah to Sana'a and to confirm that the road will be reopened.

Otaibi said it was stressed that the alternative route will be opened as soon as possible after securing it through the clearing of mines and checkpoints, which have hindered the humanitarian aid process and wasted international efforts to alleviate human suffering in Yemen, including the Donor Conference for Yemen which was held last April in Geneva. He explained that the conference resulted in pledges exceeding \$2 billion contributed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in addition to the State of Kuwait with \$1.2 billion.

Otaibi said that "our meeting today on the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Yemen is the expected result of failure of the political efforts of the crisis, which was caused by the absence of the delegation of the Houthi group of the round of consultations, which was scheduled to be held on 6 September 2018. He

stressed that the coalition to support the legitimacy in Yemen has in several stages of the crisis supported and facilitated all international efforts to seek a political solution based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, the most recent of which was the cessation of military operations on Al-Hodeidah.

Otaibi added that the coalition was working to give the efforts of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General to Yemen time and opportunity to bring the Yemeni parties back to the dialogue table despite the security challenges represented by the Houthi group continuing its practices that threaten peace and regional security through its control over ports of Al-Hodeidah and its threat to the safety of international maritime traffic.

Otaibi confirmed that the ballistic missile attacks on neighboring countries cannot be tolerated, as well as the threat posed against international shipping routes in Bab Al-Mandab and the Red Sea, which will have a negative impact on regional and international peace and security. He pointed to the refusal to use civilians as human shields and the exploitation of civilian facilities and seaports as bases for the launching of military operations and the continued recruitment of children, all of which are war crimes punishable by international law. — KUNA

## Kuwait stresses significance of peacekeeping in Abyei

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait has stressed the great role of the peacekeeping operation in achieving relative stability within the Abyei region in Sudan, appreciation at the same time the great role played by the Ethiopian peacekeeping forces in achieving and maintaining stability. Kuwait's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Counselor Bader Al-Munikh, made the remarks during a meeting of the Security Council recently on the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).

Munikh said that UNISFA has become one of the best peacekeeping operations, praising Ethiopia's positive role in this regard. The priority of political solutions must remain in the eye of the Security Council and should be achieved through support from peacekeeping operations and in harmony with host States. He hoped that the renewal of the Mission's mandate would be in



**Bader Al-Munikh**

line with its role and achievements, including the continuation of the Joint Border Support Mechanism, whose work had significantly increased the Mission's performance.

On the technical issues such as the strength of the mission and their work sites, Munikh explained that members of the Council could discuss them in the coming weeks in line with the developments in Abyei and within the framework of bilateral relations between Sudan and South Sudan, especially as they are undergoing a period of positive and increasing cooperation which has been welcomed by the neighboring states, the League of Arab States, the African Union and the Security Council. — KUNA

## NBK recognizes its 2018 distinguished employees



**KUWAIT:** For the third consecutive year, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) honored its distinguished employees in 2018 at its Annual Award Ceremony, in the presence of Isam Al-Sager, Group CEO, Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO, Salah Al-Fulaij, CEO - Kuwait, Sulaiman Al-Marzouq, Deputy CEO - Kuwait, Emad Al-Ablani, General Manager- Group Human Resources, and a number of NBK's executives.

In his speech, Isam Jassim Al-Sager said that NBK has established itself as a leading Arab regional bank through its employees which are considered as an engine for its continued success. He added that hard work and commitment have always been the qualities of its staff and part of NBK's achievements over the past decades, pointing out that without these behaviors the vision and goals of the bank cannot be attained.

He pointed out that all NBK employees across different departments consistently adhere to the highest service standards, show great commitment to developing their skills, and benefit from all the technical and moral

support provided by the bank, which contributed to its success.

Sager maintained that in order to achieve NBK's constant pursuit to improve and enhance its services; it requires a professional team capable of ensuring the highest levels of service and commitment to transparency. He stressed that the Bank will continue investing in its human resources, raise their efficiency and develop their skills in order to build a generation capable of leadership in the future.

Sager emphasized that NBK is continuing its strategy of reinforcing its leadership position as the first regional bank through the diversity and breadth of its services that meet the various requirements of customers, together with its investment in human resources.

Meanwhile, Ablani said: "The spirit of teamwork and dedication of NBK's employees underscores their adherence to the Bank's commitment-based culture and approach." He pointed out that the professionalism of the bank's employees represents its wealth and strength which uniquely reflect its high standing.

He added that NBK maintains its position by strengthening relationships with its customers through its commitment to the quality of services provided by a professional team trained on criteria based primarily on standards of innovation and excellence.

He stressed that NBK is always committed to providing a healthy work environment that fosters employee's satisfaction and career development, while continuing to reinforce its leadership position by adopting the best work practices in order to meet its customers' needs and aspirations.

NBK has been keen on organizing these events, honoring its employees to support its human resources wealth and encourage employees to always strive for professional excellence. The selection of distinguished employees depends on the votes of their colleagues within the same department. The voting criteria is based on teamwork, cooperation, participation, and efficiency. The ceremony honoring elite employees featured several activities and contests, as well as awarding prizes to participating employees.

## Audit Bureau wins 1st place in ASOSAI board membership

**HANOI:** Kuwait's State Audit Bureau won first place yesterday in membership of the executive council to the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI), following elections during the conclusion of the 14th meetings in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi.

Kuwait's state bureau was nominated along with six other countries for the election of ASOSAI's executive board members for the period of 2018-21. The election results saw Kuwait's State Audit Bureau coming first, State Audit Bureau's Technical Administration Chief Engineer

Rashid Abdulsalam said. "Taking the top spot reflects Kuwait's leading position in the ASOSAI apparatus, which also shows Kuwait's relentless efforts during the past years," Abdulsalam added.

Abdulsalam noted that participating in various ASOSAI's committees also helped the Kuwaiti body to become acquainted with knowledge of ASOSAI's expertise. Kuwait has been a member in ASOSAI since 1984, and previously it has been a member of ASOSAI board member in 1997 and 2003. ASOSAI was established in 1979 with 11 members. The membership of the ASOSAI consists of Charter Members, Members and Associate Members. Now, membership has grown to 46 SAIs. ASOSAI's goals is to promote understanding and cooperation among member institutions through exchange of ideas and experiences in the field of Public Audit, to provide facilities for training and continuing education for government auditors, with a view to improving quality and performance. — KUNA



**HANOI:** Kuwait's State Audit Bureau official Aadil Al-Saraawi casts his vote. — KUNA