

Local

Kuwait presents statement on search for missing citizens in Iraq

Security Council applauds efforts to resolve outstanding issues

NEW YORK: Kuwait presented a presidential statement on the search for missing Kuwaitis and third-country nationals, including Kuwait's stolen properties in Iraq during the UN Security Council's (UNSC) session. The statement was presented by Kuwait's permanent mission to the UN late Friday. The statement referred to the UNSC's previous resolutions and presidential statements addressing the issues of missing Kuwaitis and third-country nationals and the return of Kuwaiti property, including the national archives, and takes note of the reports of the Secretary General pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 2107 (2013).

The Security Council applauded the ongoing efforts by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) in the implementation of resolution 2107 (2013). It also expressed its full support for the Special Representative and Head of UNAMI Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert and Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs for UNAMI Alice Walpole in their efforts to resolve outstanding issues related to the matter. In the statement, UNSC also welcomed the strong bilateral relations between Iraq and Kuwait and hailed the government of Kuwait's continued support for Iraq in its

efforts to achieve stability. Moreover, it welcomed Iraq's efforts to fulfill all remaining obligations in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions.

Meanwhile, the UNSC welcomed the ongoing coop-



Return of stolen property addressed

eration between Iraq and Kuwait in the search of missing Kuwaitis and third-country nationals, and the positive efforts by the Iraqi Ministry of Defense on this important humanitarian endeavor. It called on Iraq to continue with these efforts in the same constructive vein and to ensure

that all appropriate institutional, financial and technical support is made available to facilitate future activities. It also encouraged the international community to provide the necessary advanced and innovative technical equipment to Iraqi authorities to assist in identifying burial locations in accordance with best practices.

The UNSC expressed its strong support for the perseverance of the members of the tripartite mechanism and its Chair, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in their effort to locate the remains of the missing persons. The council noted the latest meeting of the Technical Subcommittee of the Tripartite Mechanism on December 11, 2018 and the Tripartite Commission on December 13, 2018, and welcomed in this regard the additional information provided to the ICRC by France, the UK, Northern Ireland and the US that might help to identify potential burial locations.

Moreover, the UNSC noted with regret that there remains 369 cases of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals still unresolved and that no human remains have been exhumed since 2004. It also hailed steps taken by Iraq to resolve its issues with Kuwait, mentioning the handing over of a consignment of Kuwaiti property



Security Council
United Nations

by Iraqi President Barham Saleh, during his recent visit to Kuwait on November 11, 2018 to meet His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA

Italian Senate supports Kuwaiti Schengen exemption

ROME: Italy's Senate reiterated its support for granting Kuwaitis Schengen visa-free access during a meeting with visiting Kuwaiti lawmakers on Friday. The talks, held at Palazzo Madama, grouped Vito Petrocelli, the Senate foreign affairs committee president, and several National Assembly MPs led by Shuaib Al-Muwaizri. Both the Senate and parliament will do 'all in their power' to pass the exemption, which will have 'positive results,' Petrocelli told the visitors. Achieving this has become easy, he added, as the technical requirements for the move have been met.

Some 26 European countries identify as being within the Schengen Area - a common and

unified visa policy for international travelers. Kuwaiti MP Osama Al-Shaheen praised the 'positive reaction' he sensed on the issue, amid two days of meetings with Italian lawmakers, including the Chamber of Deputies a day prior. "We anticipate (the exemption's) announcement in the earliest time possible," he said, reiterating Kuwait's fulfillment of the conditions.

At the conclusion of the talks, Petrocelli was handed an invitation, addressed to President of the Senate Maria Elisabetta Alberti Casellati, to visit Kuwait and meet National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. The deeply-rooted bilateral relations which date back to 1964 was also tackled during the talks, Shaheen said, expressing satisfaction about the meeting outcome. He added that they had shed lights on the Kuwait's role in promoting world peace and security and supporting needy people across the world.

Meanwhile, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies' Foreign and European Affairs Committee Marta Grande welcomed the Kuwaiti lawmakers and described Kuwait as a close and

trusted ally. She also highlighted the effective cooperation between the two countries within the Global Coalition to Defeat IS and the NATO's Istanbul Cooperation Initiative. Grande renewed appreciation to Kuwait for the one million euros donation to furnish a hospital in Italian central town of Norcia following the 2016 devastating quake.

Muwaizri appreciated Italy's 'historic, solid and influential' position during the 1990-91 Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait. He hoped the meeting with the society chairman would have positive impacts on bilateral relations and cooperation.

Kuwait Charge d'Affaires Sami Al-Zamanan termed the meeting as important, and said the friendship society has a major role in cementing popular relationship. Chairman of the Italian-Kuwaiti Friendship Society Pierandrea Vanni said the society was established in the first weeks of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait with the aim of supporting Kuwait's just cause, freedom and independence.

The society's members represent different spectra have always seek to promote ties between Italian and Kuwaiti people. — KUNA

Security chief holds meetings under Munich conference umbrella

BERLIN: Kuwait's National Security Bureau Chief Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah has held a chain of meetings with counterparts and ministers taking part in the three-day Munich Security Conference. Kuwaiti Ambassador to Germany Najib Abdulrahman Al-Badr, accompanying the security chief during the event, said in a statement to the press that Sheikh Thamer exchanged views with Arab and foreign officials on regional and international affairs. These consultations have also addressed cooperation aimed at facing "security challenges," said Ambassador Badr, speaking during the second day of the congress.

Sheikh Thamer, during the talks



MUNICH: Kuwait's National Security Bureau Chief Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah (left) and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Germany Najib Abdulrahman Al-Badr. — KUNA

with the Arab and foreign officials, affirmed that Kuwait would pursue efforts to beef up stability in the Gulf region. Moreover, he touched on efforts for combating terrorism and ramifications resulting from conflicts and strife in the Middle East, particularly with respect of the legitimate Palestinian cause. The 55th version of Munich Security Conference (MSC) kick-started on Friday, with a high-level Kuwaiti security delegation, headed by Sheikh Thamer. The conferees are discussing an array of

security and military issues and subjects that are mainly pertinent to energy security, global business, cyber security and international conflicts, chiefly in Middle East. Roughly, 35 heads of state and government, 80 foreign and defense ministers, and some 600 security policy experts are in attendance at the Munich Security Conference (MSC) this year. Conference chief Wolfgang Ischinger has called it the 'largest and most important MSC' since its founding more than 50 years ago.



ROME: Visiting Kuwaiti lawmakers pose for a group picture with their Italian counterparts. — KUNA

Embassy in Paris celebrates National Days

PARIS: The Kuwaiti Embassy in Paris held a reception ceremony in the famous Parisian landmark 'National Opera House' on the occasion of Kuwait's celebrations of the 58th National Day and the 28th anniversary of liberation. More than 1,100 people attended the grand ceremony on Thursday, including representatives of the French government and army, members of the Senate and the French National Assembly, the embassy said in a statement yesterday. The Ambassador of Kuwait to France Sami Al-Suleiman received the guests at the Opera's main hall. Kuwaiti student officer's band played Kuwait and French anthems, referring to the friendly relations between the two countries.

Ambassador Suleiman delivered a speech in French, where he expressed congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on this occasion.

He praised the distinguished ties between Kuwait and France, pointing to the interest of His Highness the Amir to develop relations between the two friendly countries at all levels. The Ambassador stressed Kuwait's appreciation of the great role played by France in joining an unprecedented international alliance to support the Kuwaiti right during the crisis of the Iraqi invasion and France's continued commitment to the security of Kuwait and the region.

Senior officials of the Elysee Palace and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense and several institutions attended the ceremony. The participants discussed the cooperation relations between Kuwait and France, including the Kuwaiti economic activities, which would encourage French investors to invest in Kuwait. — KUNA



PARIS: A group photo of the Kuwait Embassy's staff taken on the sidelines of the ceremony. — KUNA

Warsaw conference important for Middle East security: GCC

WARSAW: GCC Ministers on Friday stressed importance of the international conference in the Polish capital Warsaw to discuss the future of peace and security in the Middle East with the participation of representatives from about 70 countries. Saudi Minister for Foreign Affairs Adel Al-Jubeir said that Warsaw Conference is particularly important as it brings together more than 70 countries in one place to consider the challenges facing the Middle East. "The conference focused on the challenges facing the countries of the region, most notably the Palestinian issue, terrorism, Syria and Yemen," Jubeir said at the end of the conference. He revealed a consensus during the conference on "the need for Iran to stop its interference and aggressive policy in the region."

Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khaled bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa described in a similar statement the conference as a positive and important event. He stressed that the conference is setting a new stage and is the culmination

of previous meetings on the region, for example, the Madrid Peace Conference in the early 90s. "The region faces today other challenges, most important of which is the Iranian challenge, which affects not only safety of countries in the region, but also threatens and destabilizes societies, which requires a global position and new mechanisms to deal with Iran," he added.

He pointed out that there is coordination with the Gulf countries on ways to confront crises and challenges that threaten security of the region. "We focused on explaining the dimensions of the Iranian challenge that targets us daily, along with the other challenges that are known and their dimensions are specific, but the Iranian challenges are being renewed every day, and this is something we have explained to our allies and friends," he said.

Meanwhile, Omani foreign minister Yousef bin Alawi stressed the importance of the Warsaw Conference in terms of strengthening partnership with the countries of the world and taking care of the problems of the Middle East, which has been for many years without reaching a final solution. "We have had intensive consultations during the Warsaw Conference for two days and we have seen valuable ideas on the question of identifying areas of danger. We also discussed how to deal with these various issues and intensify research and study in the future," he added. — KUNA



WARSAW: Saudi Minister for Foreign Affairs Adel Al-Jubeir (center right) and Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khaled bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa (center left). — KUNA

Lawmakers discuss labor employment from Sri Lanka

KUWAIT: A group of visiting Kuwaiti lawmakers led by Adel Al-Damkhi discussed admitting qualified skilled labor, particularly in healthcare, with Sri Lanka's Minister of Foreign Employment Harin Fernando on Thursday. Fernando, also minister of telecommunications, digital

infrastructure and sports was told that the jobs are on offer due to the emergence of large Kuwaiti projects in this particular sector. MP Abdullah Al-Enezi said. Both sides saw eye to eye on arranging the transfer through government contracts or Al-Durra Domestic Help Recruitment Company, thus nullifying the need for commission or outside companies, he added. Amid separate talks with Sri Lanka's Parliament Secretary-General Dhammika Dasanayake, the lawmakers were briefed on the country's democratic and parliamentary practice. This follows Colombo's application of amendments, which give the legislative body greater and broader powers. The lawmakers also discussed bilateral relations, the sharing of know-how and coordination on mutual affairs. — KUNA