

Local

Lack of accountability to blame for Israel's illegal practices, Kuwait tells UN

Kuwait condemns Israel for demolishing Palestinian homes

KUWAIT: Kuwait slammed the lack of accountability after Israeli soldiers demolished dozens of apartments in occupied East Jerusalem, leaving Palestinian residents there homeless. The remarks were made by Kuwait's permanent United Nations representative, Mansour Al-Otaibi, after a UN statement underlined the seriousness of the ongoing actions, which were described as being contrary to international law and humanitarian law. The absence of accountability has contributed to Israel's expansion of settlements, its forcible land seizures, and the confiscation of homes and forced displacement of Palestinians, said the Kuwaiti envoy.



Int'l law breaches affect peace process

Occupying force

Describing Israel as "the occupying force," Kuwait said this has also led to increased violence, putting civilian lives at risk, as unlawful raids, arrests, and arbitrary and indefinite detention continue without a trial. Israel continues to implement its illegal practices in the occupied city of Jerusalem, aiming to erase the holy city's historical and religious identity and to eliminate the Palestinian presence there, Otaibi went to say. Israeli authorities, whose unjust blockade on Gaza has entered its 13th year, should instead be looking out for

the best interests of the people under occupation in accordance with international humanitarian law and the Fourth Geneva Convention, he argued.

The ambassador also lamented the lack of funds being provided to the UN Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA), calling on the international community to continue backing the urgent needs of these refugees. Kuwait will continue being one of the UNRWA's biggest contributors, he said, including a total of \$113 million over the past four years, he added. Otaibi went on to reiterate Kuwait's support of the international, Islamic and Arab position on the matter, based on comprehensive peace and the two-state solution.

Peace process

Meanwhile, an official source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry yesterday said that Kuwait strongly condemns Israel's demolition of Palestinian homes in Sur Baher area, east of Jerusalem. The ministry official, in a statement, explained that Israel breaches international law and immensely affects the peace process, while it continues its illegal settlement activities in full violation of its obligations under Security Council resolutions and international conventions and treaties. Kuwait is in coordination with



NEW YORK: Kuwait's permanent UN representative Mansour Al-Otaibi addresses a UN Security Council session held to discuss the Israeli attacks. — KUNA

South Africa and Indonesia, as well as in liaison with the Palestinian delegation, succeeded in holding a meeting of the Security Council to discuss the Israeli attacks, the official source added. In addition, the meeting discussed the Israeli activities against the Palestinian homes and called on the council to carry out its duties to maintain international peace and security, plus to issue a statement in which Israel holds responsibility for such actions. — KUNA

Kuwait to hire 200 doctors, 300 nurses from Palestine

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Official sources said the health ministry prepares to hold intensive meetings with officials from the Palestinian National Authority in order to recruit doctors, nurses and medical technicians from Palestine, as part of a mechanism of giving facilities to the private sector to bring in Palestinian doctors and nurses. The sources said meetings will start in September and will include visits by Palestinian officials to Kuwait and Kuwaiti officials to the Palestinian Authority to sign contracts with Palestinian doctors in Gaza and the West Bank, just like what the education ministry did with teachers.

The sources said professional tests will be conducted in the Palestinian territories and they will be contracted in their countries, adding that the interior ministry has received clear instructions to issue visas to Palestinians who have licenses to work in Kuwait. Sources said the health ministry is about to open several hospitals and health centers, which calls for signing contracts with expat doctors and nurses, and that it is neces-

sary to sign contracts with Palestinians who proved excellent before the Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait, and were highly productive as well. The ministry is expected to sign contracts with 200 Palestinian doctors and 300 nurses before the end of the year.

In other news, the Ministry of Higher Education and a specialized government team began preparing the implementation rules of the government universities law, and it is expected to be ready in January, as the government is now committed to implementing the law. The sources said the team includes specialists from the Fatwa and Legislation Department, higher education ministry, Kuwait University and Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, in addition to independent specialists. Sources said the government is preparing to establish a new government university a year from now, including a decision to form an academic academy to prepare a plan for establishing the new university, adding that the government may revive the Jaber University law that was issued by the National Assembly in 2012.

Two injuries reported in road accidents



KUWAIT: A vehicle pictured after an accident reported on Ghazali Road yesterday.



Two vehicles heavily damaged after a head-to-head collision reported in Taima.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A man was injured when his vehicle hit a light post on Ghazali Road yesterday. Farwaniya firemen dealt with the accident and freed the motorist from his vehicle before hand-

ing him over to paramedics. Meanwhile, a passenger was injured when two vehicles collided head-to-head at a street in Taima. Jahra firemen responded to the scene and handed the injured man to paramedics after moving him out of the vehicle.

News in brief

No complaint against Kuwait from Congress

KUWAIT: Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah said the ministry did not receive any complaint against the government of Kuwait or any of its citizens from the US Congress. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said in an answer to a parliamentary question from MP Abdullah Al-Kandari that the ministry follows and protects Kuwait's and its citizens' interests abroad, adding it did not receive anything in this regard. Kandari had asked the minister about recent reports alleging that a person submitted a complaint against Kuwait at the US Congress demanding the application of the Magnitsky Act in case Kuwait refuses to release a suspect wanted in a major embezzlement case. Kandari condemned the foreign ministry's silence towards Neil Bush's statements in the Washington Times threatening to apply the said act if Russian businesswoman Marsha Lazareva was not released. Lazareva, who was sentenced by a Kuwaiti court to jail over embezzlement charges, has since been released on bail. — Al-Jarida

Philippine domestic helpers

The Philippine Embassy's charge d'affaires Mohammad Nour Al-Deen said the embassy is planning to coordinate with the Kuwaiti side to set a date before the end of July for a delegation from the Philippine labor ministry to discuss the final unified contract items with regards to bringing Philippine domestic helper. Nour Al-Deen said all items of the agreement were agreed upon during the meetings of joint technical committees. He said discussions will include Philippines' proposal to call the contract a "harmonized labor contract", adding domestic helpers are currently working with two contracts - the Philippine one and that of Kuwait. This calls for the necessity to have a unified form of the contract for the benefit of the two sides, in addition to some other technical matters, he said, expressing optimism towards positive results in the coming meetings. — Al-Rai

Court rules on students' cheating

The administrative court upheld the decision to fail a university student and decided to cancel her entire school year, adding that if a student cheats in one subject, they should be banned from all tests and considered failed. A Kuwaiti student contested Kuwait University's decision to ban her from all tests after finding she had cheated, but the court upheld the university's ruling and considered cheating as morally bad and deviation from honesty and credibility, which compromises the principle of equal opportunity between students. — Al-Qabas

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