

## Local

## School guards



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

**W**hat is going on in public schools in Kuwait? Various reports, images and videos about verbal disputes between parents and teachers have appeared on social media, along with others warning the public about drugs in schools in the form of colored candy, and no one knows for sure if this is true or false.

I won't take social media as the most reliable source for information, but things are really entering a new phase now with the issue of school guards. School guards are supposed to secure school facilities, but this is not possible for them because they have not been paid for months! They are human beings with families and kids who are waiting eagerly for the little money they get from abroad.

Minor cases start in school but end up in newspapers and sometimes in court. This week, a news channel published an interview with a school guard, who said few words, but they were painful and shameful. He said and I quote: "I have been 'locked up' in school for five months without salary." This is not the first time these poor workers have faced such a problem, as in 2017, expatriate security guards complained of delayed salaries of more than three months, and spoke about wanting their wages in order to fulfill their needs and those of their families too.

The reasons for delays usually go back to routine paperwork of the contracting company and the ministry of education, with the long documentary cycle and approvals required by government regulators. I believe the ministry of education can intervene to stop the sufferings of these workers as a matter of urgency and oblige the company to pay their salaries.

First of all, as a citizen and journalist, I see this from a humanitarian perspective. It does not matter who is causing this delay, whether the company that brought these workers from their country without guarantees to receive their wages on time, or the ministry of education, which is supposed to have a decisive attitude towards these companies and not allow them to delay wages even for a month. Also, why not reveal the name of these companies and their owners, as this is not a problem of labor, but a problem of a country and schools that are supposed to have guards working actively and faithfully!

We often repeat that we are a state of law. So why are such companies allowed to manipulate people's rights? The ministry of education should bear the responsibility of supervision and implementation. Some may see this issue of school guards as a minor one, but how would you feel if you didn't get paid your salary for months?

## PHOTO OF THE DAY



KUWAIT: Kuwait City skyline as seen from Kuwait Bay. — Photo by Baqer Al-Bassam (KUNA)

## Deflate car tires for wrong parking?

IN MY VIEW

By Ben Garcia

ben@kuwaittimes.com

**S**ome people in Kuwait believe deflating a car's tires sends a strong message that you are occupying their parking spot. In the past two years, the tires of my car have been deflated on several occasions. I don't know the exact reasons, but obviously they did it to let me know that I was occupying their parking space. There could be other reasons too - perhaps the perpetrator was mentally ill and could not control his desire to deflate tires. Perhaps they deliberately did so over a dare from a friend. Or maybe aliens invaded Farwaniya and Khaitan and happened to see my car to deflate it.

Imagine waking up one day and finding your car in a horrible state as all four tires are deflated. The hassle is real, especially if you have an appointment scheduled that day. When I was evicted recently from a family apartment in Farwaniya, I had no choice but to immediately transfer to another location, so I rented an apartment in Khaitan. During the first month, I parked my car near a mosque, since few parking spaces were available. When there's no space available, many park on the side streets, including me.

To my disappointment however, three of my car's tires were deflated one morning. That day, I had an important appointment to attend. So I left my car there and took a taxi. I came back to my car a few hours later to fix it. I

don't know the suspect, and even if I knew, what could I do to face a coward bully? The incident in Khaitan was my fourth - the first three were in Farwaniya. This nightmare is all about a lack of parking places! Since I do not have my own personal parking spot, I park my car on the side street by the mosque. These spaces are owned by the state and not by anyone else.

The question is why deflate the tires when you can easily leave a message to vacate that place. The next day you will never find my car in that specific spot since you are claiming it. To deflate my car's tires is a very challenging way to make friends. That space is obviously not mine, but it isn't yours too. So why deflate three tires at once?

Until Kuwait solves the problem of the lack of parking spaces, such cases will continue in the coming years. The lack of parking spots in many areas is also related to the heavy traffic in Kuwait near schools, government complexes, private commercial establishments, and most importantly, in residential areas. Traffic is chaotic during rush hours between 6 am and 10 am and 5 pm and 9 pm. Visit the areas of Farwaniya governorate at night, and you will see how people park their cars - literally piled up. In case of emergency, you will have to disturb everyone in your neighborhood!



Haward Technology Middle East

Urgently requires the following:

Marketing Representative

Who is fluent in English. No previous Experience required.

Salary: KD 300 per month +

Commission/Bonus

Email your CV in confidence to:  
applykuwait@haward.org