

Local

Migrant smuggling undermines peace, security in Libya: Kuwait

Kuwait concerned at issues in African Great Lakes region

NEW YORK: The continued smuggling of irregular migrants into, through and from Libyan territory contributes to undermining peace and stability in Libya, Kuwait's mission at the United Nations said on Friday. This came during a speech delivered by the First Secretary Abdulaziz Al-Ajmi at a Security Council session after the adoption of resolution 2491 on the inspection of ships off Libya's coasts, suspected of migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

Ajmi called on countries to support UN efforts by providing these migrants with safe shelter until their asylum applications are processed or to assist them until their return home. This would contribute to maintaining the security and stability of Libya and its territorial integrity and ensure non-interference in its internal affairs. He welcomed the resolution, mentioning that Kuwait voted in favor due to the "importance of addressing the challenges posed by the smuggling of migrants and human trafficking in the Mediterranean, off the Libyan coast." He also praised the efforts of the UK as the country responsible for the Libyan issue.

Meanwhile, Kuwait affirmed necessity of intensifying efforts for facing "challenges" in the Great Lakes region. The Gulf state

has also welcomed UN efforts aimed at involving regional countries to "boost implementation" of the framework agreement for peace and security in the republic of Congo. The Kuwaiti stand was expressed by Bader Al-Munaikh, Minister Plenipotentiary, also the State of Kuwait's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, during a UN Security Council's session on the Great Lakes issue, on Thursday.

Ambassador Munaikh noted significance of the existing coordination between the UN and regional organizations, namely the African Union, for maintaining stability in the Great Lakes area. He welcomed formation of a government in the Congo and the Congolese president efforts to communicate with many leaders of regional countries. Such an approach will bolster confidence and create an adequate atmosphere for greater regional cooperation. Moreover, he expressed satisfaction at the framework agreement reached at the Luanda conference, during which leaders of the regional countries resolved some issues.

Boosting development in the region is helpful for stability and averting strife, Munaikh said, also pinning high hopes on a



AL-KHOMS, LIBYA: This picture taken on October 1, 2019 shows rescued migrants sitting on a pier next to a Libyan coast guard ship in the town of Al-Khoms, a town 120 kilometers (75 miles) east of the capital. — AFP

trade conference for the Great Lakes countries, due next year. However, the senior Kuwaiti diplomat voiced concern regarding lack of security in East Congo and prospected ramifications on regional security. Moreover, he called on regional countries to ensure success of the 10th summit

for the regional supervision, due in Kinshasa and expressed concern for armed groups' non-abdication by the peace accord for Central Africa.

Stable security in Burundi is a positive indication "which we hope will persist after the 2020 elections," he added. At the

humanitarian level, large numbers of the relocated and refugees add to the burden borne by the regional countries, he said and called for greater efforts to face such a challenge. In conclusion, he praised some regional countries' measures against the epidemic Ebola. — KUNA



Provide safe shelter to migrants

Czech PM praises Kuwait's commitment to regional security

PRAGUE: The Czech Republic's Prime Minister Andrej Babis yesterday heaped praise on Kuwait for the Gulf state's immense contributions towards regional security and stability. The remarks by the Czech premier came amid talks with Kuwait's Ambassador in Prague Rashid Al-Hajri, which revolved around real estate investment opportunities that the European nation

has to offer, according to the Kuwaiti envoy. The Czech prime minister assured Kuwaitis of simplified business procedures in the country as part of a mutual desire to improve bilateral ties, he added. Some 450 Kuwaiti nationals own properties in the Czech Republic, in addition to scores of others undergoing medical treatment in the country. — KUNA



PRAGUE: The Czech Republic's Prime Minister Andrej Babis meets with Kuwait's Ambassador in Prague Rashid Al-Hajri. — KUNA

Kuwait aspires to more flights with India: Ambassador

NEW DELHI: Kuwait is looking forward to enhance cooperation with India by increasing number of flights between the two friendly countries, Kuwaiti Ambassador to India Jassim Al-Najem said on Friday. Najem made this statement after meeting with Indian Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri and delivering an official letter requesting to increase the number of seats between the two countries. The previous agreement at this level between the two countries is limited to 12,000 seats per week, the ambassador said. He stressed that the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2007 did not meet the ambitions, expressing Kuwait's aspiration to sign a new agreement aimed at allocating greater share of seats to the airlines of both the countries. Najem affirmed the keenness of the political leadership in both countries to enhance cooperation in various fields, praising the historic relations between the two friendly countries based on solid foundations of mutual respect.

Meanwhile, minister Puri affirmed his country's keenness to enhance trade exchange and cooperation with Kuwait in various fields, especially in the avia-



NEW DELHI: Kuwaiti Ambassador to India Jassim Al-Najem meets with Indian Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri. — KUNA

tion sector. This sector is one of the main sources of national income, especially with the increase of Indian expatriate community in Kuwait, which currently stands at around one million people. On the increase in the number of Kuwaiti tourists coming to India and the number of Indian transit passengers to Kuwait, Puri said it was agreed to hold a new round of bilateral talks in the near future in the Indian capital New Delhi. The minister praised the historic and distinguished relations between India and Kuwait. A delegation from the General Directorate of Kuwaiti Civil Aviation headed by Director General Sheikh Salman Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah discussed in India earlier this year cooperation in the field of civil aviation and air transport during the World Aviation Summit held in Mumbai last January. — KUNA

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