



Mourners carry the coffin of Jerges Shagra during his funeral in 1973 in Kuwait.



The gravesite of Jerges Shagra at a Sulaibikhat cemetery.

# RETURNING HOME

Former [KT photographer](#) brings his father's remains to Syria after 48 years in Kuwait



Jerges Shagra died in 1973 and was buried in Kuwait.

By Ben Garcia

**F**ormer Kuwait Times photographer Joseph Shagra's long wait will be over when his father's remains will finally arrive in Aleppo today, almost 50 years after his burial in Kuwait. The exhumation of his father's remains took place Tuesday at a small graveyard near a residential area where Christians were previously buried. This cemetery is now closed, but is only a few meters away from the Sulaibikhat cemetery.

Shagra's father died in Kuwait in 1973, and since it was winter and snowy at that time in Aleppo, the family decided to bury him in Kuwait. Joseph and other members of the family continued to live and work in

Kuwait. But as years went by and most of his relatives went back to Syria, Shagra wanted his father's remains to be buried in Syria near his mother, who died a couple of decades ago in Damascus.

Joseph Shagra also returned to Syria, but before leaving Kuwait, he applied for the exhumation of his father's remains in 2017. "My plan was to send his remains back to Syria before I finally bid goodbye to Kuwait Times and my colleagues. At that time I was 64 and was planning to return for good to Syria with my family in 2018. Now I am 67 and am happy to hear the good news from my friend, who was assisting me when I left Kuwait in 2019," he said.