

## Local

# Martyr's Bureau commemorates Kuwait's fallen heroes on invasion's anniversary

## KU students to design murals to immortalize martyrs' memory



KUWAIT: People visit a wing set up by the Martyr's Bureau at the Avenues Mall to commemorate the memory of Kuwait's martyrs on the occasion of the Iraqi invasion's anniversary. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



A visitor looks at pictures of martyrs at a wing set up by the Martyr's Bureau at the Avenues Mall to commemorate the memory of Kuwait's martyrs on the occasion of the Iraqi invasion's anniversary.

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti martyrs deserve to be commemorated in honor and appreciation for their great sacrifices and heroisms which they offered to protect Kuwait's freedom and safety, General Director of the Martyr's Bureau Salah Al-Oufan said on Tuesday.

Oufan said in his press statement, "on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, the Martyr's Bureau celebrates the martyrs of Kuwait under the slogan 'Kuwait is the steady existence' which is one of the words of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, which the martyrs embodied in their sacrifice in the most wonderful images for the sake of Kuwait."

Oufan stated that the Martyr's Bureau is setting up a wing in the Avenues Mall and 360 Mall, starting from Tuesday until Thursday, which includes pictures and names of 1,314 martyrs of Kuwaiti nationality and 14 of other nationalities, calling on citizens and residents to visit the wing.

### Models and murals

Regarding the participation of students from the College of Architecture at Kuwait University in the exhibition, Oufan said, "the students participated with designs of 10 models and murals, and the public will vote to choose the best designs which will be adopted as new edifices to be set in highways and parks." He stressed on the importance of the participation of the new generation who did not live through the period of the Iraqi invasion, in order for them to express their national spirit.

Dean of the College of Architecture at Kuwait University, Omar Khattab, thanked the Martyr's Bureau for the distinguished role they play in reminding Kuwait and the world of the tragedy that occurred during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, saying that it is an important constant reminder to preserve the future of the country and the identity of the Kuwaiti citizens. The College of Architecture at Kuwait University has always been among the first of participants in all national events through their teaching methods which seek to connect students with real projects and the urban environment they are studying, he added.

"The student participation in the design of the monument aims to commemorate the martyrs of Kuwait, through an artistic and architectural design work that will be set in the opposite of the



**"Do not let the blood of our martyr's go to waste"**

Martyr's Bureau's building," he said. "It will have a very big role in reminding people of the martyrs and their role they played in sacrificing their lives to defense of the homeland Kuwait." Khattab emphasized the importance of the role of the Martyr's Bureau in preserving this important memory, presenting his condolences to the families of the martyrs.



General Director of the Martyr's Bureau Salah Al-Oufan.



Dean of the College of Architecture at Kuwait University Omar Khattab.



Aisha Waleed Al-Saleh, daughter of a Kuwaiti martyr.

### Heroic martyrs

Shaikha Al-Qandi, Head of media releases and publication division at the Martyr's Bureau, said that "The exhibition contains pictures and names of the heroic martyrs of Kuwait who sacrificed themselves for this country. The exhibition contains 1,313 martyrs since Al-Samita border war to this day, which also includes the martyrs of the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to 1,112 photos of the martyrs whose photos are available at the Martyr's Bureau."

He added, "This year, we have cooperated with the college of architecture at Kuwait University in the 18th Cultural Martyr Competition to create a design for the martyr's memorial and present it to government agencies that cooperate with the Martyr's Bureau to commemorate our martyrs."

Kuwait Times met Aisha Waleed Al-Saleh, a daughter of a Kuwaiti martyr, and she expressed her pride saying "when the Iraqi invasion took place, I was less than



Art works at a wing set up by the Martyr's Bureau at the Avenues Mall to commemorate the memory of Kuwait's martyrs on the occasion of the Iraqi invasion's anniversary.

one year old, so I don't remember anything about that period of time. But with the help of the Martyr's Bureau and with the help of my mother, I was very proud to be a part of the family of the Martyr's

Bureau, a daughter of a martyr and being a Kuwaiti citizen." For her message to her fellow Kuwaitis, Aisha said "Preserve and take care of Kuwait, and do not let the blood of our martyr's go to waste."



KUWAIT: The remains of Kuwait's martyrs are laid to rest during a military procession. —KUNA photos

## Remains of Kuwait's martyrs tell stories of sacrifice, patriotism

KUWAIT: The love of one's homeland could be expressed in various forms and actions; however, there is no higher honor than sacrificing life for the safety of family and country. With the return of Kuwaiti martyrs' remains to their homeland, those heroes had solidified their legacy of sacrifice and patriotism in the hearts and minds of their countrymen and family.

Brother of Martyr As'ad Al-Sultan, Ahmad Al-Sultan said that his sibling had finished high school when the Iraqi invasion occurred on August 2, 1990, noting that his brother was detained by the invading forces with his whereabouts undetermined until 2021 when authorities notified the family about the discovery of his remains in March of that year. Sultan indicated that he recognized the remains of his brother through his personal belongings, revealing that the martyr was killed by a gunshot to the head and hip. Nevertheless, Ahmad Al-Sultan expressed pride in his brother's sacrifice, saying that his martyrdom was not in vain.

Similarly, son of Martyr Najj Abdullah, Fahad Najj said that his father was detained two weeks after the Iraqi invasion, affirming that Najj Abdullah was part of the courageous Kuwaiti resistance. He was a brother-in-arms with two other martyrs and resistance members Jehad Al-Mutawa and Hassan Al-Shimmari, recounted Fahad Najj, adding that his father was sent to Iraq after being detained. In 2021,

the Interior Ministry contacted the family and was informed about the sacrifice of my father, he added. Fahad Najj said that after DNA test confirmed the remains of his father, he had to identify the body via personal belongings.

Kuwait had 612 missing persons and POWs, said Assistant at the Amiri Diwan and Director General of the Kuwait Martyrs Bureau Salah Al-Awfan, adding that it was paramount for the country to know the fate of Kuwait's prisoners. He indicated that there were 240 remains of Kuwaiti martyrs laid to rest in Kuwait, adding that the remains of 260 martyrs were still yet to be found. There are 53 martyrs named by Kuwaiti courts with their families requesting for the retrieval of their remains, he indicated. The process of returning the remains was not easy; the State of Kuwait had to hold conferences in Kuwait and abroad in the early 1990s to propagate this just cause, an effort, which led to international conference and meetings to determine the whereabouts of Kuwait's Prisoners of War (POW).

The lack of information and sources were the main obstacles facing Kuwaiti officials, but despite the circumstances, the POW and missing persons committee at the Foreign Ministry continued the quest to find the remains in coordination with the International Red Cross (IRC), United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), and Iraqi authorities. The efforts had resulted in the discovery of mass graves throughout Iraq and with DNA sampling and test conducted by the forensic department at Kuwait Interior Ministry, many of the martyrs remains were discovered. When the thorough identification processes were concluded, Kuwaiti authorities would contact family members of the martyrs, putting them at ease and informing them about their sons and daughters sacrifices. —KUNA

## Kuwait's cultural scene documents Iraqi invasion

KUWAIT: Art and cultural production have always been essential in the human journey on earth, in which existence and experience of what one goes through for generations is immortalized. It is no different when Kuwait went through an invasion in 1990 carried out by a neighbor that left its effects on social and political areas. Several Kuwaiti artists and writers who chronicled the artistic nightmare stressed in separate interviews the importance of this human activity in history so that generations can learn lessons.

Abdulaziz Al-Mussallam, the artist and author, composed and presented the first theatrical performance immediately after the liberation in 1991, said that it is vital to instill loyalty and belonging to the land because it will push inhabitants to the fateful defense of their land. He referred to the efforts in how to manage the crisis and war, the heroism of the Kuwaiti resistance, the altruism of people in the Arab Gulf, the leadership and people who opened their homes to Kuwaitis. Musallam added that the numerous theatrical works that are still shown on media

channels because of the professionalism of the writers and artists who work on them carried many human values that stood out during the war, including the values of loyalty and sacrifice. He pointed out the play, Free Kuwait, shown in April 1991 at Dasma Theater, had several messages, the most important of which was the call to return to construction and look to the future, in addition to a message of gratitude to the world for their role in restoring one's homeland. He stated that the play, Desert Storm, shown between 1991-92, documented the heroism of the people of Kuwait and its residents in confronting the invaders.

Meanwhile, Head of the Artists and Media Syndicate Dr Nabil Al-Failakawi confirmed that the Iraqi invasion formed a national epic, followed by an abundance of artistic and literary works. The plays in particular dealt with the subject in a comic and sarcastic manner for several reasons, perhaps the most important of which are venting about the Kuwaiti people, as well as the comedy's ability to convey messages and meanings in an enjoyable way, he added. Despite the horrorfulness of wars, they usually inspire the greatest works that survived history, he explained, pointing out that there are many cinematic works about historical wars, so these works serve as a window for the generations that did not witness that event in seeing it and learning about human suffering and heroism. —KUNA

## EU: Iraqi invasion underlines necessity of global unity

BRUSSELS: The European Union stated Tuesday that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, three decades ago, and the current Russian military operation in Ukraine underline necessity of a global united stand against violations of international law. "The lesson from the invasion of Kuwait and the invasion of Ukraine is that only if the international community joins forces, it can withstand and push back on the reckless disregard for territorial integrity and sovereignty of countries and disregard for the international rules and violation of the UN Charter," EU lead spokesperson for foreign affairs and security policy, Peter Stano, told

KUNA, in an exclusive statement. He further noted that, "Such acts have to be encountered with determination of the entire international community because if not, the rule of law would be replaced by the rule of the gun."

"In such a world no one would be safe from the territorial and imperial ambitions of those reckless actors. The lesson also is that each injustice is eventually reversed and punished. There cannot be impunity and there needs to be accountability for the violations and crimes committed," stated the EU spokesperson. Stano added that, "In order to prevent such reckless acts from happening again, aggressors have to be stopped very early on, as soon as there are signs of their violent intentions." The top EU spokesperson commented saying, "they have to be stopped in a collective effort by the international community, when all countries that respect and value the rules join forces because prevention is always cheaper than dealing with the destructive aftermath afterwards. —KUNA