



General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 February 2019

English only

Human Rights Council

Fortieth session

25 February–22 March 2019

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[11 February 2019]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Bidoons in Kuwait

Almost 60 years ago, there has been little change in the Bidoon case in Kuwait, only, increasing the years and suffering, as a result of the racist practices of the Central Organ on the Narrowing of the stateless persons.

Until 1986, the Bidoon enjoyed rights that so far closely resembled the rights enjoyed by Kuwaiti citizens. However, the Kuwaiti authorities after that date, stripped stateless persons of the civil status card that entitles their holders to civil rights, to commit against them a human rights and social crimes that deprives them of the full Their rights, and make them an oppressed class controlled them by the authorities to pressure them to accept the worst conditions of living.

More than 130,000 stateless persons in Kuwait, those Population categories are deprived of all their civil rights, to extract official documents, Mobility freely, travel, work, education, treatment and other rights, because of the state's imposition of severe restrictions on them, to weaken them legally, socially and economically.

Someone says, "How can I be a citizen and I am deprived of almost all my rights?"

"I am Kuwaiti with Suspension of Implementation"

As well as, the stateless persons are not allowed to reside in Kuwait and own any dwelling, and their Places where they are located, confined to neglected neighborhoods on the outskirts of the country in difficult living conditions, depriving them of the right to work and obtaining an adequate living wage, makes their dream of owning a home in Kuwait City almost impossible.

Kuwait's violations towards the Bidoon:

- In 2011, Kuwait violated the United Nations Charter on Human Rights, which it has ratified, by using violence and excessive force to suppress peaceful demonstrations of Bidoon which aimed at communicating their voices, demands, and the expressions of their living pains.
- The right of express of opinion and peaceful demonstration and to criticize the practices of the central apparatus against them is a legitimate right that the State of Kuwait must respect.
- The practice of the policy of racial discrimination against this Population category is clear through daily decisions issued by the Central Agency, which remind them daily that they are a vulnerable group and cannot be treated under any circumstances like Kuwaiti citizens.

According to a testimony received by the International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights from a Bidoon, in which he asserts in it:

"The Central Agency Exploits of the bad conditions of the Bidoon, and asks them to sign a pledge on correct the information, which is fabricated, and to recognize the possession of the nationality of one of the neighboring countries or African countries, and This device is requires you to sign this undertaking written without seeing the information written in the card (Signed, then you will see what is written) if you not implemented, that will deprive you of all the Ingredients of life ... note that, that most of Bidoon possessed documents and statistics in 1965 and earlier, and most of them served in the Kuwaiti army and police and in the oil sector!"

As sought by the central organ to classify the Bidoon into four categories and each category was given limited advantages, leading to the creation of Distinction between those categories, with reminders that, the Kuwaiti Constitution in Article 29 affirms that "people are equal in human dignity and are equal before the law in public rights and duties, not discriminated against by reason of race, origin, language or religion"

As that, the government took advantage of the sectarianism, to evade the solution of the Bidoon problem, as the government also worked on tricked the Sunni MPs, that most of the Bidoon are Shiites and if they were naturalized, they would raise the voices of the Shiites in Kuwait.

The government's fear of this demographic danger in the sectarian distribution, was excluded from it About (700,000) new citizens, most of whom are originally Saudi nationals, to be Naturalization with a Dual nationality.

In a further step to consolidate the odious discrimination against the Bidoon, the Kuwaiti government has rejected the law which granting Kuwaiti nationality to a "non-Muslim" and amending the previous law, which is require that he be a Muslim which has been voted by the Legislative and Legal Committee and his response to the National Assembly, to be that step, despite the positive consequences of removing the religious requirement of the Naturalization Law, But in return, and has expanded the scope of racial discrimination against the Bidoon who have the right and priority to btain citizenship.

Violations of children's rights:

- The Kuwaiti government excluded Bidoon children from education and banned all donations that contribute to the education process of them. Bidoon children enrolled in schools that charge tuition are also get the worst education off than Kuwaiti children, and Bidoon children are often required to pay additional fees.
- Despite the fact that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which has been ratified by Kuwait, guarantees everyone the right to free and compulsory basic education.
- Some 15 thousand Bidoon children who do not have birth certificates because of security restrictions on their parents, which deprive them of education and treatment and Practice Normal life.

Torture and arbitrary detention:

Regarding of the peaceful gatherings by the Bidoon to express their demands and their stolen rights, the security forces carried out arbitrary arrests of large numbers of Bedrooms and has practiced the worst forms of torture against them despite of the government's claims that the Bidoon enjoy human rights in equal with the citizens of Kuwait.

The Bidoons in Kuwait are living of great suffering, they are mere numbers in the archives of the central apparatus without regard for human existence and the dignity, and this is in itself the ugliest kinds of the violations of human and the humanity.

The International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights renews its appeal to the United Nations to put an end to the suffering of the Bidoon in Kuwait, in an emergency session of the Human Rights Council, and help the State of Kuwait to put radical solutions to solve this problem and highlight Kuwait's violations of Bidoon rights. and the establishment of UN committees specialized by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of minorities to oversee the handling of this case to avoid any pretext for the Kuwaiti government to procrastinate in resolving this issue and investigate all violations against this category of humanity.

The Council demand upon the Kuwaiti authorities to abolish all laws and regulations based on racial discrimination against the Bidoon, and to grant them full civil rights, including the right to resort to the judiciary to challenge the decisions of the Central Organ which unfair of them. And start the process of naturalization without laying the consequences or give the slightest justification to prolong the process.

Kuwait must respect the freedom of expression and the peaceful assembly of Bidoon without resorting to excessive force to silence them, and guaranteeing that they will not be subjected of them. The Central Organ should also stop restricting the Bidoon and dealing with them with disdain for humanity.

Finally, the Council is of the view that it is shameful for the State of Kuwait to stand helpless for 60 years to resolve the issue of stateless persons, which requires only simple legal legislation that can stop the suffering of more than 130,000 people.
