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**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.



Restrictions on freedoms in Kuwait

The Bidoon case is no longer the only dark point in Kuwait's human rights record, to bring with it an issue of the same importance Lie in restricting the freedom of opinion, which has been today transformed the country into a large prison for its citizens. Since the invasion of the Arab spring wave of the Middle East, Kuwait has lost the ideal image of being a country of freedoms and democracy, and the human rights record starts to Experiencing rapid deterioration and disturbances to become the expression of opinion is an unforgivable crime for many human rights activists. Kuwait became under the microscope of the international and human rights organizations concerned in the defense of human rights as a result of the government's enactment of new laws whose primary aim is to restrict freedom of expression and opinion to carry out its political, economic and social interests Without a deterrent.

Today, the human rights situation in Kuwait is very regrettable, Kuwait has been infected in contagion of suppression of liberties from neighboring countries, as a result of the authorities' allowing those countries to interference in its domestic policy, the number of prisoners of conscience increased to more than 42 prisoners who are now behind bars because they dared to express their opinion about practices of the government and the suffering of the people living problems of life as a result of the laws and regulations imposed on them.

The government in Kuwait is seeking to meet the demands of neighboring countries at the expense of its people, who are accustomed to freedom and democracy, and became the only political asylum for young Kuwaitis rather of legal accountability or silence about the injustice and corruption that pervades the country. as an example, the former Kuwaiti deputy and the president of the International Council for the Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights, Dr. Abdel Hameed Dashti, who has been sentenced to more than 62 years to make his opinion in the media and social media, and under the dome of the National Assembly has criticized the Saudi policy in the region and his efforts to spare his country to intervene in the policies Other countries such as the Syrian Arab Republic, Bahrain and Yemen, with of respect of the principle of sovereignty of States and non-interference in the affairs of countries. As well as human rights activist Anwar al-Rashid, head of the Kuwaiti liberal movement, who was threatened by the Kuwaiti government because he spoke of the Bidoon pains at the 39th session of the Human Rights Council. in addition of his sought to amend laws restricting liberties in Kuwait, and providing to the government solutions within a campaign "Twitter is not a crime" Fearing for the future of his country, and many other activists who are paying today the greatest price to exercise their legitimate right to express their opinion.

Despite the fact that the Kuwaiti Constitution (1962) in its article 36 stressed that "freedom of opinion and scientific research is guaranteed and everyone has the right to express his opinion and publish it by speech or writing or others". In addition to respecting all its articles to the principles of the Universal Declaration and international covenants of human rights, but the endorsement of parliament's on the Electronic Crimes Law and the law of "depriving the abuser on "the princely self" from running for elections Which provides for the prevention of all those who touches the "princely self" and the "The Divine Self" To be deprived of candidacy for membership of the Kuwaiti Parliament, was one of the main reasons for the decline in freedom of opinion and expression in Kuwait.

And the main aim of activated of the "Penal Code" and its amendments related to state security crimes and other laws have been implemented in a manner designed to stifle or execution of the freedom of expression and opinion, and all of that is clear through the vague texts provisions that are used to widen the charge against people and impose penalties of imprisonment and severe fines. It also criminalizes most applicable and recently legislated laws all kinds of online expressions and social media Among them in particular the criticism of government policies or controversial figures and leaders.

Not only did the government do so, but it issued decisions to withdraw nationality and imposed administrative penalties that threaten the future of the career, and are targeted for a living, resulting in the destruction and disintegration of several Kuwaiti families.

As a result of the application all of those laws, it became a nightmare who want to criticize the government or to demand legitimate rights to avoid imprisonment for decades, which unfortunately, allowed the government to continue its negative practices based on corruption, theft and looting of the people's property, after its guaranteeing their non-criticism through endorsement the laws which guaranteeing full immunity from political and popular criticism. On the other hand, it ensures that no nuisance or criticism the heads or supporting figures for them. Today, the objective of maintaining the position with all its advantages, is the primary objective of deputies in the National Assembly in ignoring from them to their basic work in representing the people and making them happy and guaranteeing all their legitimate rights. Because it is the nation, and the source of all the authorities, especially since the Kuwaiti people have a democratic legacy. As a result of the 1962 Constitution, of the principles of human rights and what ancient legislators sought to achieve that.

The International Council for the Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights regrets the deterioration of Kuwait's human rights record, and wishes the Kuwaiti government to stop those decisions, and amend the laws that are contrary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which has been ratified by the State of Kuwait and which are contrary of article 36 of the Constitution in the hope of bringing the brightness of democracy back into the forefront. And to avoid further violations against the Kuwaiti people and widening the gap between the people and the government, which can increase the turmoil in the country, recalling that the government in the service of the people and not the opposite !!!

The Council demand upon the Kuwaiti authorities to immediately release prisoners of conscience, to cancel all sentences and all charges relating to freedom of opinion, and to ensure that they are not subjected to torture.

The Council also calls upon the competent bodies of the United Nations, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, to pressure the Kuwaiti Government to amend or repeal laws contrary to Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Which states:

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”

And to force it to provide guarantees that protect human rights activists, media professionals and all groups of people in exercising their right to express their opinions without restriction.
