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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 International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights, 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.

[29 May 2023]

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



The Human Rights Situation in Kuwait

The authorities in Kuwait began to feel optimistic about taking serious steps in the general reform of the system, after they dissolved parliament, dismissed the government, and formed a new cabinet, a step that brought satisfaction among the people and was welcomed by human rights activists, activists, and civil society. And this is in a step to eliminate tampering and fraud with electoral restrictions, which called for the optimism of the people that these steps would eliminate all grave violations, address shortcomings, and implement the recommendations of the Human Rights Council after restrictions were imposed on freedom of expression and opinion in Kuwait, as the Kuwaiti authorities exaggerated in Its repressive practices targeting political activists and human rights defenders in Kuwait. All of this dissipated and went unheeded after the Constitutional Court annulled all decrees and reinstated the dissolved Council of 2020 and abolished the Council of 2022 so that the elections could return the confusion continues, and the restrictions imposed on academic freedom and freedom of the press, and the ban on some books and publications of a political nature, remain.

Kuwaiti authorities have arrested government critics and activists and prosecuted them under articles in the Information Technology Crimes Act and the Penal Code (the Penal Code), on charges that included statements deemed offensive to the emir. Moreover, many political and human rights activists have been targeted, interrogated, arrested, and prosecuted simply for writing a post on social media or websites.

Also, many authors and journalists are still being criminally prosecuted, imprisoned, and fined for expressing their opinion. On the other hand, the criminal measures taken against journalists raise questions about the reality and extent of Kuwait's commitment to its legislation and constitution, in addition to the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights. In this context, we also looked at Kuwaiti legislation related to associations, particularly Law No. 24 of 1962 regarding the organization of clubs and public benefits associations, and the difficulties faced by Kuwaitis in exercising their rights under Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Kuwait has ratified. It is considered necessary to point out that these restrictions are not permitted by Article 19, Paragraph 3, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

It is noteworthy that the Kuwaiti government administration is still floundering about the issue of amnesty for civilians because of their opinions and prisoners of conscience, and what it did in terms of granting amnesty was only by dropping the sentences restricting freedom while remaining all other legal effects, i. It proves its inability to take practical steps to implement the recommendations (302) issued by the Human Rights Council in Geneva and to oblige Kuwait to its international obligations.

The International Council for the Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights wishes the government of Kuwait to fully abide by its commitments and implement the recommendations issued by the review of the universal periodic report on the human rights file in Kuwait and to speed up the reform process and correct the course, especially by completing the general amnesty for prisoners of conscience with justice and equality Absolutely and without any form of repugnant discrimination, respecting the right to freedom of opinion and expression, canceling all unjust sentences issued against activists, human rights defenders and those who exercise their rights in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the two international covenants and the constitution of Kuwait, and the inclusion of all convicts and Political refugees with a special amnesty in accordance with the aforementioned Decree No. 2018 issued on November 22 / 2022 / and confirming the avoidance of any types of hateful racial discrimination by the authorities against the citizens of Kuwait and working with the rule of justice and equality between them in order to achieve the desired reconciliation and implement the recommendations of the Human Rights Council Human being to discuss the comprehensive periodic report of Kuwait and to achieve the desired well-being for the general public and contribute after that to the establishment of security in the Gulf region and the region and the achievement of international peace and security.

And to ensure that all rights enshrined in its constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights are respected and guaranteed. The International Council demands that all individuals within its territory be empowered.

Kuwait and those under its jurisdiction to enjoy full human rights and not practice any violations of their rights under any circumstances.
