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## Human Rights

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# Urgent appeal on the oppression of the Palestinians in Kuwait

*The Palestinian Human Rights Committee issued an "urgent appeal" on the situation facing Palestinians in Kuwait which was broadcast throughout the Arab world on June 1. The committee addressed the appeal to the U.N., the Arab League secretary general in Cairo, the Islamic Conference Organization, the International Red Cross, the Arab Lawyers Association, and all Arab and international organizations, societies, leagues, Arab and human rights committees. The selections that follow were edited from the State Department's Foreign Broadcast Information Service transcript. Subheads have been added.*

The Palestinian Human Rights Committee has received urgent calls for help from numerous sons of the Palestinian community in Kuwait confirming the escalation of the campaigns of persecution, arrest, and deportation which have begun to take on a determined and organized aspect with the advent of the new Kuwaiti government as of May 28. These campaigns are aimed at the places of Palestinian concentration and the sons of the Arab communities who remained, particularly nationals of states that adopted a different stand toward the intervention of the allied American-Atlantic forces during the Gulf crisis and the destructive war that was waged against Iraq and Kuwait.

These messages revealed the falsehood and invalidity of the statements of the Kuwaiti authorities and the military administration about the limited number of acts of revenge and violations of human rights. The desire for revenge that was fanned by the ruling authorities took the country to the brink of genocide, sedition, and incitement to committing acts of pursuit, arrest, and assassination of opposing Kuwaiti elements which disapproved of the acts of assassination and torture committed against Palestinians and sons of the Arab community in Kuwait.

These messages described the recent sham trials as a theatrical performance designed to distract attention from the chain of daily suffering and agony endured by the Palestinians and Arabs in the shadow of the conditions of vengeance and revenge that have become routine behavior, gripping the mentality of the Kuwaiti authorities and their military and security services and various departments. This has gone so far as to reach civilian institutions and private and public

companies. As a result, it has become the wish of the sons of the Palestinian community, who are about 150,000 in number, to get out of this hell. They are suffering the terrors of the military and security siege, acts of pursuit and persecution, unemployment, starvation, and impoverishment. The situation has reached the point where the landlords of buildings and apartments are being incited to throw Palestinian tenants and their families out into the streets, on the pretext that they are in arrears in their rent, despite the fact that all official statements and declarations have confirmed that these debts have been waived.

These messages refer to admissions by Kuwaiti sources that the number of detainees in Kuwaiti prisons has reached 13,000, one-third of whom are Palestinians, distributed over 10 main detention centers and chiefly the military prison, where they practice brutal torture, using electric shocks, knives, and hammers, suspending the body by the arms, breaking bones and fingers, and removing fingernails, without mercy. Some prisoners' lives have been endangered as a result of the illnesses and injuries inflicted on them by the severe torture. . . .

According to Kuwaiti sources, the victims who have died as a result of this repression and terror so far number well over 1,000, of various Arab nationalities.

The messages refer to special torture chambers, at the al-Farwaniyyah . . . and the great Mubarak hospital, villas, and special places which belong to sheikhs and emirs.

### **Restrictions in travel, education, health care**

The messages define the recent measures taken to implement oppression and discrimination within the framework of government announcements in the following spheres:

- **Freedom of travel and movement:** The interior minister began to grant only a very limited number of exit permits, after comprehensive scrutiny, to Palestinian applicants. Permits are only obtained after tortuous visits to the department and humiliating and exhausting haggling. The next problem begins when the Kuwaiti airline refuses to sell tickets to the sons of the Arab communities who are being punished for their countries' stand; these are nationals of Iraq, Palestine, the Arab Maghreb, Yemen, Jordan, and Sudan.

Some companies . . . make it a condition that passengers

must obtain transit visas in advance for the state to which they want to travel. This simply means that it is impossible for them to travel or to leave the grand prison.

- **Traveling by road:** There is no chance of traveling across the Iraqi border. Saudi Arabia still refuses to allow anyone to pass through its territory in transit. In the event of a travel permit being granted, the person who is leaving is not permitted to carry any luggage except his personal clothes and in a very limited quantity. The matter is not very different with regard to freedom of movement and travel inside Kuwait. Travel is restricted by unexpected roadblocks by the Army, police, and militia. Even police patrols are enforcing movement restrictions that cannot be met by the sons of the Palestinian community. These start with personal abuse and fines starting at 100 dinars and end with the seizure of motor vehicles. . . .

- **As for the question of employment:** The new government still procrastinates over the payment of salaries that are due to the Palestinian employees and technicians who remained in Kuwait during the crisis, and in the shadow of all these dangers. The authorities refuse to pay any financial compensation; this is in contrast with the Kuwaiti employees and others of different nationalities who are not included in the boycott decisions. These have received their checks, or enough to let them meet their needs in the shadow of poverty and the very high cost of living. The ever-growing unemployment threatens to turn a broad section of the sons of the Palestinian community into beggars.

The new government also issued a decree forbidding Kuwaiti companies and private organizations from employing any Palestinians, however desperately they need employment. The decree also includes the nationals of other states. All this is taking place while companies daily are placing advertisements in newspapers for employees and those who are specialized to rejoin their units. The exception to this is the Palestinians who are being exposed to delays and procrastination so that they are prevented from rejoining their employers, or as a step toward terminating their services and finally expelling them from work.

- **Education:** The Kuwaiti minister of education announced that his ministry will not accept students who continued their studies during the occupation. . . .

In the light of his ministry's decisions on the university and schools, the situation is now as follows: The university—one academic year is counted as two to recompense for the previous year and the current year. Study at the university is confined to Kuwaiti students only. Palestinian students, according to the ministry's decisions [must defer] their university studies to the coming year. This means that when they return next year, and this is not quite certain according to the reports, they will have lost two years of study.

As for the schools, studies in government schools are confined to Kuwaiti pupils only. It was decided to deprive the other pupils, and in the forefront are the Palestinians.

The new government decision also calls for abolishing the

support which used to be given in the form of waiving 50% of the fees for all students in private schools. This makes it difficult for the guardians of students to pay these high financial commitments. It also places private schools in the vicious circle of new problems, which are added to the old problems, and this may lead to the closure of most of them, depriving a wide section of students from completing their education.

- **Health:** The new government has decided to abrogate the system of treatment and free medicine and confine it to Kuwaitis only. A decree that was issued in this regard pointed out that the implementation of this decision would be carried out two months after it was issued. This means that the lives of thousands of sons of the Arab communities are threatened with health risks, starting with the dangers of environmental pollution and ending with the current and dangerous diseases brought about by the destruction of war caused by the alliance's weapons of death and destruction.

- **Housing:** The Kuwaiti citizens, owners of estates and houses, have started to ask the sons of Arab communities, particularly the Palestinians, to pay rent that is backdated to Aug. 2, 1990, knowing that the Emir of Kuwait announced in his speech to cancel backdated rents from tenants. Some landlords have resorted to the methods of threats, harassment, and abuse to tenants, insulting their families and threatening to throw them out on the streets with their furniture.

- **Trials:** We think it is sufficient here to mention what one of the leading figures of the Kuwaiti opposition, from the proud sons of Kuwait, said that these trials are a fictitious play, the realization of which is elementary and in which justice and the real defendants are absent. Their aim is to divert attention from the reality of the crimes taking place in Kuwait perpetrated under the aegis of martial law which is backed by the presence of the forces of the military alliance.

This also has been confirmed by the international press, some of whose correspondents are able to attend the farce of the trials together with some representatives of the International Red Cross, Amnesty International, and the foreign embassies in Kuwait. Here we hasten to point out that the Kuwaiti authorities have stopped the Arab Bar Association, the Arab Human Rights Organization, and a number of Arab legal and human rights organizations from attending these trials, monitoring them, and defending the accused. . . .

### **Who really ought to be tried**

We consider it our right, considering the Western testimonies, which describe these trials as shameful and false, to wonder: Who will put the real culprits on trial and when? When will Sheikh Sad al-Sabah, the general military governor, be put on trial? Who will put on trial his son, who led the assassination teams and killed and sabotaged left, right, and center according to the British newspaper *The Independent*? Who will put Sheikh Nasir al-Ahmad al-Sabah on trial for the crimes committed by his militias, who were trained in the United States, Beirut, and Damascus? This also is

according to foreign journalists. When will the direct responsibility of the sheikh and the emir, Basil Salim Sabah al-Salim and Basil Jabir al-Ahmad, be proven for all the crimes of collective murder and genocide to which hundreds of innocent Palestinians, Kuwaitis, and Arabs are exposed? We mention in particular Sheikh Ahmad Fahd al-Ahmad al-Sabah, who was proved by Kuwaiti sources to have personally committed murder and torture.

Here we do not restrict ourselves to calling for trials, as we find it to be our human duty to demand Arab and international public opinion to intervene using all means to stop these massacres and to deter the culprits.

We think that the command of the U.S.-NATO alliance, which is spreading its military shadow over Kuwait, the Gulf region, and the [Arab] peninsula, is completely responsible, because what is being committed is taking place within the sight and sound of these forces—and frequently under their supervision, according to numerous Western press testimonies—as we have said in previous memoranda.

● Prisons, detention camps, and the situation of the detainees: In addition to the aforementioned documented testimony and information, the Palestinian Human Rights Committee has received irrefutable reports and documents from the al-Tasamuh committee, which is a non-governmental committee established in Kuwait following the formation of the Kuwaiti Human Rights Committee and which concerns itself with defending the rights of Palestinians in Kuwait. These reports reveal the terrifying facts about the situation in Kuwait. They truly are an indictment of the murders, persecutions, and torture committed daily by the Kuwaiti authorities with the knowledge, supervision, and blessing of the U.S.-NATO alliance forces. These documents also reveal the reality of the tragic situation which thousands of detainees and hostages suffer in public and private prisons of Kuwait.

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## Bilderbergers hold top-secret meeting

by Scott Thompson

No sooner had the participants left Tokyo from the April 20-22 meeting of David Rockefeller's Trilateral Commission, than preparations were under way for the even more secretive and high-powered Bilderberg Society to gather for its annual conference June 6-7. Despite the extraordinary secrecy in which the conference was shrouded—such that even determining the location of the meeting required a major sleuthing effort—*EIR* has been able to glean, through a series of interviews, a good idea of what issues are on the group's agenda, and who the major players are.

While the Bilderbergers can no longer claim the monopoly in policymaking for Western Europe and North America that they held during the first 20 years of the group's existence, they still do represent considerable clout within the Anglo-American financial community. It is therefore useful for anyone opposed to the oligarchy's "new world order" to monitor their activities closely.

An example of their continuing power can be seen from the fact that former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's office returned *EIR*'s call to agree that the decision to pull the plug on her government had been taken at the 1989 Bilderberg meeting in Spain. Further, Thatcher's aide said that the decision had been to continue the prime minister's disastrous economic policies, by giving them a new face. All the aide wanted to know, was what the Bilderbergers would be up to next.

The origins of the society are similar to those of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), New York Council on Foreign Relations, Trilateral Commission, and such elite institutions. The first Bilderberg conference was held in Holland in May 1954, with support from, among others: the Royal Institute of International Affairs; "European Movement" leader Joseph Retinger; H. R. H. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands; establishment liberal W. Averell Harriman, who promoted eugenics in the 1920s and 1930s; and, U.S. Director of Central Intelligence Gen. Walter Bedell Smith. From the beginning, the Bilderberg gatherings attracted the top names of the establishments of North America and Europe, including men like: the Duke of Edinburgh (Prince