



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

Complaint submitted by the International Council Supporting Fair Trial & Human Rights regarding the harassment of human rights defenders during their protest in Al-Irada Square – Kuwait

For the fourth week in a row, at Al-Irada Square which has been chosen by the Kuwaiti people as a place to express their opinion, many Kuwaiti people, human rights activists and human rights defenders gather there to express their views and appeal to the authorities to respond to their demands.

For a month, the monitoring team of the ICSFT was present there to monitor the procedures and to review the human rights situation there and to submit its reports to the relevant bodies in the United Nations.

Unfortunately, during the fourth protest on 03.07.2021, the ICSFT representative and the head of monitor team in Kuwait & the Gulf countries Mr. Anwar Al-Rasheed was subjected to a kind of persecution and harassment just because he wore a vest that written on the back "Human Rights Monitor - Monitoring and Documentation", which forced him to take it off and continue with the tasks assigned to him.

One of the women activists was dealt with some violence by the women's police in an attempt to snatch the banner she was carrying. Moreover, the activist Khalifa Al-Hashash was arrested and transferred to Al-Salhiya police station, and then released. In addition to that, access to non-Kuwaiti journalists was prevented.

The International Council Supporting Fair Trial & Human Rights hereby would like to draw your kind attention to the several recommendations received by the State of Kuwait during the Universal periodic review which ensure the necessity to protect and respect human rights defenders such as:



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- Amend and repeal all laws and policies restricting freedom of opinion and expression, and protect human rights defenders, journalists and bloggers from persecution and harassment (Germany)
- Ensure a safe and enabling space for journalists and human rights defenders and fully guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, opinion and peaceful assembly, in line with international standards (Italy);
- Ensure a safe and enabling environment to civil society and human rights defenders, including through the prohibition and punishment of all forms of harassment and reprisals (Mexico);

In addition to 302 recommendations, most of them related to freedom of expression.

ICSFT hope that the State of Kuwait will take into consideration all its commitments and fully respect all the recommendations submitted by the countries and the Non-Governmental Organizations during the UPR.

ICSFT call on the relevant bodies in the United Nations to carry out their duties and demand the State of Kuwait to fully respect the defenders of human rights and all the Kuwaiti people who wanted to express their demands in a peaceful way, which are: Fighting corruption, amending laws restricting freedom of expression, returning the displaced, and releasing prisoners of conscience. Noting that they are not just demands, but are legitimate rights for them.

Copy to:

- The UN Human Rights Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa
- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
- Special Rapporteur on Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association

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- Members states in the Human Rights Council

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