



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

Report of the International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights at Al-Irada Square on Saturday, titled “Save the Homeland 9”, on August 7, 2021

The monitoring and documentation team in the State of Kuwait and the Arab Gulf states, headed by the representative of ICSFT, the international human rights advisor, Anwar Al-Rasheed, followed up the peaceful gathering in Al-Irada Square on Saturday entitled “Save the Homeland 9”, on the seventh of August. The monitoring work team observed the following:

First: The Kuwaiti government is still insisting on closing the car parks near to Al-Irada Square, even though the protesters have previously informed the authorities about the place and timing of the gathering. However, we noticed this for the ninth week in a row, despite the appeal of activists and organizers of the peaceful gathering in Al-Irada Square to the concerned authorities to open car parks, but the authorities hasn't responded. It is clear that the authorities aim, according to observers, to restrict the protesters in every possible way.

Second: In a remarkable development, we monitored the use of violence from the security force with the protesters. Security forces stormed the location of the protesters, in clear and explicit violation of Article 44 of the Kuwaiti Constitution. The security force also used violence against protesters to extract a microphone by force from the speaker's hand, which caused shock, panic and chaos; however, no one was injured physically.

Third: The security forces brought in a number of municipality employees to confiscate the protesters' banners. Municipality employees and security men behind them advanced to invade Al-Irada Square again after their first break-in to confiscate the microphone. However, the young protesters standing in front of them to protect the two women, who were carrying two single banners, prevented this successfully.

Fourth: The commander of the security force in charge of the area sent a member of the women's police to pursue the two women to extract the banners from them. However, the follow-up of our observers contributed to the disruption of their mission.

Over the past eight weeks, ICSFT has been repeatedly requesting that the car parks and all roads leading to Al Irada Square not be closed. He also called for refraining from any manifestations of restrictions on the demonstrators to prevent them from reaching Al-Irada Square to express their opinions. Moreover, it should be noted that the Kuwaiti people's activities are considered legitimate rights



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guaranteed by the Kuwaiti constitution under Articles 36 and 44 of it. These rights are also supported by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by the State of Kuwait.

The ICSFT also calls upon the Kuwaiti authorities to heed the rightful demands of the demonstrators. It calls on them to respect Kuwaiti people rights that they demand in a peaceful and civilized manner, in addition to reconsidering its constitutional and international obligations related to human rights and freedoms.

Head of the Monitoring and Documentation Team at the ICSFT

Human rights advisor

Anwar Al-Rasheed

Kuwait, August 7th, 2021

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