

## 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 of the Peaceful gathering at Al-Irada Square on September 4, 2021

The International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights (ICSFT) followed up on the activities in Al\_Irada Square in Kuwait entitled "Saturday Save the Country 13" on 4 September 2021.

The International Legal Adviser, Anwar Al-Rashid, Head of the Monitoring and Documentation Group of the ICSFT, stressed that the peaceful gathering took place smoothly and regularly. Additionally, speakers rotated in turn, and many of those attending made statements to the electronic press. It is striking that the paper press has not covered any of the events that have taken place in Al\_Irada Square over the past 13 weeks. However, the ICSFT Monitoring team has monitored and documented the following:

<u>First:</u> The Kuwaiti Ministry of the Interior continues to harass the peaceful gathering participants by reaching Al\_Irada Square by closing the east and west parking lots. Despite our appeals and those of the audience not to close these parking lots, the Ministry of the Interior continues this policy towards the citizens, which is a clear violation of the legitimate right of citizens to peaceful assembly. Moreover, participants are, thus, forced to walk long distances in high heat and hot weather.

**Second:** security officers, who tried to arrest and interrogate, have observed a deliberate abuse of two young female citizens. The two young women stated that the actions of the security forces had caused them terror and awe. Our representative in Kuwait, Anwar Rashid, documented their words on his Twitter account.

<u>Third:</u> The withdrawal of all media representatives as the representative of the ICSFT began his statement from Al\_Irada Square. The aim was to prevent the coverage of his statement that the Government had not implemented the recommendations of the Human Rights Council. This emphasizes the Government's control over and direction of the media in its own interests, as well as the coverage of citizens' legitimate rights supported by the Human Rights Council.

ICSFT stresses the importance of implementing the recommendations of the Human Rights Council concerning the amendment of laws restricting freedoms, especially after a total of 300 years and four months of imprisonment for tweets and opinion-makers, which was documented by the campaign "Tweeting is not a crime". Nevertheless, the Kuwaiti Government continues to block the implementation of the recommendations of the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council in July 2020, which it took note of when they were issued.

Head of the Monitoring and Documentation Team at the ICSFT Human rights advisor Anwar Al-Rasheed Kuwait, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Website: www.icsft.net- Email: uncoordinator@icsft.net / info@icsft.net