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Agenda items 2 and 6

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

Universal periodic review

Written statement* submitted by Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, 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.

[20 August 2020]

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



Human rights situation in the State of Kuwait

We do not exaggerate what we mentioned in our report that the human rights situation in Kuwait has not improved, but has worsened with the spread of the Corona pandemic that swept the world. The government is to refer a number of leaders and officials to investigate this crime. What's worse is that all the procedures that were carried out - i.e. the procedures for human trafficking - were carried out in an official manner according to the procedures followed. Therefore none of the officials can be indicted, and this places more burden on the government in order to end this file, which is to be done by canceling the sponsorship system as a radical solution. This is what the government does not want to do. To put it in a more simple way, the most influential senior officials in the state are benefiting from this corrupt system, that there is a mafia called the human trafficking mafia.

The Assistant Undersecretary for Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, HE Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi, stated to the local press on August 16 that the Human Rights Council had internationally praised Kuwait's human rights record in response to a question about what it means to adopt the report of Kuwait. And this matter does not reflect the truth or the reality in the field of human rights in Kuwait. This forced us to ask him a question about who praised the record of Kuwait, and he did not provide an answer.

Many files like the file of the Bidun, and Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis, and women in general, and the file of freedoms, did not move. The government of Kuwait did not take any measures that could resolve these files, but rather, increased its pressure on the Bidun file during the crisis of the Corona pandemic. In particular the doctors among them and the nurses who volunteered for free of charge in the front lines to confront the Corona pandemic. As for the Kuwaiti woman married to a non-Kuwaiti, she is prevented from returning her children from her non-Kuwaiti husband to Kuwait. Not to mention that she continues to be deprived of the rest of her rights guaranteed by the constitution. As for the file of freedoms, Kuwait has released more than two thousand criminals and ISIS prisoners under the pretext of reducing overcrowding in prisons; but the thirteen prisoners who have been locked away for freedom of speech on Twitter have not been released.

Finally, we call on the government of Kuwait to set a timetable for it to implement the recommendations of the Human Rights Council. More particularly, not to let the matter exacerbate especially in the matter of freedoms, where a total of more than 800 years in prison have been given for Kuwaitis involved in free speech in Twitter, and 16 Kuwaiti asylum seekers.
