



Kuwait celebrates historic anniversaries

60 years of Independence, 30 years of Liberation

THE TIMES REPORT

Kuwait, once the epitome of progress and development, a pioneer in the cultural renaissance of the Arab world, is today only a shadow of the promises and potential it displayed at the time of its independence in 1961.

For over six decades, before attaining independence, Kuwait remained a protectorate of the British Empire. In 1961, following discussions between Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and the British Political Resident in the Arabian Gulf,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



What Being Kuwaiti Means to Me

By Nourah Al-Oseimi
Exclusive To The Times, Kuwait

I have always identified as an introspective individual. During the month of February, in particular, I find myself postulating alternate realities wherein I was born during the invasion, or I was born before the invasion or I was not born at all. The latter could have been a reality. These

words would not be here, I would not be here. My father was a soldier and like the many brave soldiers in 1990, he refused to leave his country. He filled my childhood with tales of his bravery, the Kuwaiti soldiers' unwavering loyalty to their nation and the strong sense of brotherhood that bound all Kuwaitis despite status, wealth or background.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Abrupt U-turn on decision to allow foreigners into Kuwait

In an unexpected announcement on Saturday evening the Directorate General for Civil Aviation (DGCA) announced that the decision to allow foreigners into the country from Sunday, 21 February, had been rescinded on the recommendations of the health authorities.

The sudden announcement caught everyone by surprise, and to say that it disrupted the travel plans of thousands of foreigners as well as that of airline schedule planners around the world would be a colossal understatement.

The announcement also did not make

clear what changed on the grounds with regard to the health situation in Kuwait, between Friday morning when the signal for foreigners to land in Kuwait was still green, and Saturday evening when the DGCA hit the red button. The coronavirus pandemic has not turned more virulent overnight, and neither have any new contagious mutant versions of the virus been discovered, so why the sudden U-turn?

Kuwaiti passengers are still allowed to enter, why? Do they have a special pandemic protection on? But then, they are also subject to institutional quarantine in one of the approved local hotels for 7 days,

and another 7 days of quarantine at home. So why not allow expatriate passengers to do the same?

Earlier the DGCA had raised the hopes of tens of thousands of stranded passengers from 35 countries on a banned list, when it announced that such passengers would be allowed to fly directly to Kuwait from 21 February, and that they would have to undergo 14-day institutional quarantine in a local hotel at their own expense. Thousands of hopeful stranded passengers had also registered on the Kuwait Mosafer app as demanded by the authorities. Then what happened?



Four-phase coronavirus vaccination plan revealed

Ministry of Health (MoH) has announced that the plan to vaccinate citizens and residents is moving ahead as planned following the arrival of the new batch of vaccines and assurances of continued supplies in future.

The plan envisaged by the relevant government entities, in consultation with medical experts and health authorities, is to administer the anti-coronavirus vaccination in four broad phases, so as to reach the required level of community immunity.



The first stage of vaccination, which is currently being delivered is for frontline workers including medical and nursing staff, the elderly over 65 years of age, people with special needs and people with chronic diseases, especially in care homes.

The second phase is planned to target other groups, such as teachers, child care workers and those in the age group from 50 to 64 years. The third stage of the vaccination campaign will include adults and workers in specific occupations in society and

those who are more likely to be infected, as well as those in the age group of 30 to 49 years, subject to the availability of vaccine stocks and the arrival of new batches of vaccines.

In the fourth and last phase of the campaign vaccinations will be provided to the remaining segments of society, with the exception of pregnant ladies and those under the age of 16, or those suffering from the infectious disease.

In addition, MoH noted that there is increasing daily demand to register on the online platform dedicated to the vaccination drive, reflecting increased health awareness in society about the need to take vaccines while adhering to health

requirements, with the aim of overcoming the COVID-19 crisis.

Plans to vaccinate all arriving passengers are also being considered by the MoH, subject to availability of vaccine stocks and continued supply of new batches of vaccines. Domestic workers are also likely to be accorded priority when it comes to vaccinations. This is part of efforts by health authorities to attain the greatest possible community immunity at the earliest, since this group of people are considered one of the most vulnerable when it comes to both infection and transmission due to the contact with all family members and outsiders.

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May his soul Rest in Peace

COVID-19 biggest educational disruption in history

In an interview last week with Kuwait News Agency, the Director-General of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Audrey Azoulay, said that the COVID-19 pandemic has possibly caused the biggest educational disruption in history.

She added that at the height of the pandemic in spring of 2020, around 1.6 billion students in over 190 countries around the world were forced to abstain from classes, which was equivalent to 90 percent of students worldwide. Though a year has nearly passed since then, around 800 million students still remain outside classrooms due to partial closure of schools or decreasing school hours. She also pointed out that the gap in funding education might increase to US\$200 billion and affect children especially in poor countries, as well as female students and students in lower and middle-income countries losing about four months

of education compared to high-income countries where students lost around six weeks of education.

She indicated that if the situation continues the losses will be unmeasurable, especially in the case of children who will have their mental health at risk. Azoulay urged authorities to keep schools open and also called for reopening educational institutes at the earliest possible opportunity with necessary health guidelines and precautions put in place.

The Director-General pointed out that UNESCO supported online studying and distance learning, but stressed that it should not replace education at schools and universities. Being at school and interacting with students and teachers are very important aspects of the educational process and it is necessary for governments and organizations to find means to protect students' health and also boost their

academic interests and wellbeing.

The UNESCO Director-General also warned that some 450 million students worldwide were not able to benefit from distance education, pointing out that four out of five students in Africa were unable to use this method compared to their counterparts in Western Europe and North America where only one out of seven students was in a similar situation.

In regards to the impact of COVID-19 on culture, Azoulay said that some 54 percent of World Heritage sites are closed or partially closed and this affected employment, with many workers on the verge of poverty due to the fact that some 13 percent of museums around the world will not reopen due to hard lockdowns.

UNESCO, she stressed, will stand in solidarity with cultural sites' employees in addition to artists to keep art and culture alive. She added that UNESCO encouraged supporting artists



in the cultural sector by buying their products and urged cyber platforms to review their tax policies for said products to help culture and art thrive once more.

Philippines Embassy provides consular services at temporary venue

RICKY LAXA
STAFF WRITER

The Philippine Embassy in Kuwait opened its consular services to Filipinos in Kuwait at The Disabled Club in Hawally. Consular services such as passport renewal and extension, authentication of documents, registry of birth for new born children, registry of marriage, and release of new passport services. The mobile services kicked off on 17 February, and timings are from 8am till 3pm and entry is limited only to 250 Filipinos at a time. This mobile service will be available for two months.



In a brief interview with the Philippine Ambassador His Excellency Mohammad Noordin Padosina Lomondot, quoted that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with Public Authority for

Manpower allowed the use of the facilities of the sports club for the embassy to be able to renew passports and for employers and employees not to pay penalties. Ambassador Lomondot added that the embassy has already processed more than 10,000 passports during the recent walk-in and appointment system held at the embassy recently and it hopes to process about 50,000 - 70,000 more passports in the coming months.

Reports also stated that 130,000 workers were not able to renew their visas due to inability to renew passports and Filipinos are included in the number and many are household workers. Ambassador Lomondot urged all Filipinos to

take this opportunity to avail the services and thanked Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Kuwait Paralympic Committee. Philippine Vice Consul Adrian Baccay furthermore explained that walk-in applicants is only for those requiring passport renewal, extension and release, and that other services can be availed via appointment system online: <http://kuwaitpe.setmore.com>

The temporary premises of the Philippine Embassy is located at Street 3 and Block 3 of Sabah Al Salem area, while its new embassy is located in Messilah area and currently undergoing construction.

National Day & Liberation Day Greetings

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What Being Kuwaiti Means to Me

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I will not spend too much time reflecting on the horrors of the past. My heart goes out to all who lost a family member or a loved one during this dark period in Kuwait's history. The focus of my message can be summarized in one word; 'resilience'. I am forever awed by our undying commitment to better ourselves and our country. I am forever grateful that our strong, proud and authentic patriotism never faltered even in the most difficult of times.

As young Kuwaitis, we face a lot of criticism for how entitled we may seem. There is no denying that so many of us were born into a life of privilege. I am not here to defend our privilege or our affluence, instead, I am here to advocate for the many young, talented individuals who do not rely on their privilege to lead valuable, purpose-driven lives. I turn my attention to the fascinating young men and women I interviewed over the past several years in my 'Essentially Kuwaiti' series and I cannot help but realize how much they embody the Kuwaiti spirit. I think about the thousands of young people that I have not had the pleasure of meeting who continue to do inspiring work on a daily basis.

What does it mean to be Kuwaiti? No words can capture that essence, no words can do it justice. To be Kuwaiti is to be remarkable. To be brave. To be noble. To be, to be, to be. Essentially, being Kuwaiti is exactly that. We get to be what we choose to be. We are immersed in opportunity, potential and drive. We have a constitution that declares us all as equals. This past year has unequivocally demonstrated to us the true Kuwaiti spirit. Standing



in the face of a global pandemic, mourning the loss of our Humanitarian leader the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, may he rest in peace and observing the graceful and peaceful transition of leadership to our beloved new Amir His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the epitome representative of fairness, strength and excellence. Navigating the challenges of this pandemic is no easy feat. Over the past year, we have lost over a thousand citizens and residents to this deadly virus and we are reminded again that life is finite.

As we near the celebration of our National and Liberation Days, I urge all Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis reading this to reflect on their treatment and outlook towards our country. I urge you to be more considerate and mindful towards one another. Kuwait, like many other nations, faces several socio-political challenges. Kuwait, like many

other nations, faces uncertainty as oil revenues dwindle. On the other hand, Kuwait, uniquely, bolsters a strong youthful presence leading a positive movement. Kuwait, uniquely, is the home of many innovators paving the way towards an inspired future for our country. Kuwait, you never cease to amaze me.

Take a moment and ask yourself, are the opportunities extended to you in this country available to you elsewhere? We live in a globalized world, and many of us have the opportunity to leave and explore the vast potential we have outside of Kuwait and yet we choose to stay. I used to fantasize about starting a new life elsewhere until I started to reflect deeply about what that life would look like. Would this life include a safe, nurturing home? Would this life include the comfort of my mother's cooking? Would this life include the dynamic career opportunities that have been offered to me here?

My journey as a young adult in Kuwait has been eclectic, to say the least. Over the past six years I have made more career changes than one can possibly imagine. I attribute this to the fact that I am a millennial and my 20s are for exploration. Over the past six years, I have worked in the private sector, public sector and in international organizations. All of these powerful, reputable institutions – housed under one roof, Kuwait.

Kuwait is a world of opportunities. I am constantly blindsided by the sheer amount of variety that exists here in terms of activities, interests and career opportunities. Some of you may feel differently, some of you may feel that opportunities to advance are only extended to certain individuals. I beg to differ. Kuwait is a nation for those who persevere, work hard and offer real value. I believe that wholeheartedly and that is what makes me proud to be Kuwaiti, knowing that all my efforts and hard work is being poured into this nation that has given me so much – a nation that will never stop giving.

Nourah Al-Oseimi is a 28-year-old Kuwaiti who holds a Master's degree in Business Administration. Nourah has worked in different places such as the Central Bank of Kuwait and the United Nations. She serves as a free-lance contributing writer to the Times Kuwait – Newsmagazine. Her column – Essentially Kuwaiti (<https://www.timeskuwait.com/news/category/interviews/essentially-kuwaiti/>) – features an in-depth look on exceptional young Kuwaitis and their efforts towards the realization of a New Kuwait.

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Kuwait celebrates historic anniversaries

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

it was mutually agreed to abrogate the protectorate status and grant Kuwait full independence on 19 July 1961.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah became Kuwait's first Amir and under his sagacious leadership the country developed on all fronts. Following independence, Kuwait formally applied for membership in the United Nations and on 14 May, 1963 the United Nations General Assembly welcomed Kuwait as the global organization's 111th Member State.

In the wake of its new found global recognition, Kuwait became an important player in the international family of nations, leveraging its immense surplus oil wealth to become a major foreign-aid donor. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, which was founded in 1961, became an active supporter and enabler of development projects throughout the Arab world and beyond.

A few months after independence, Sheikh Abdullah also formed a popular committee to draft a modern constitution for the newly independent nation. A draft constitution was approved on 11 November, 1961, outlining Kuwait's system of governance as a 'fully independent Arab State

with a democratic style of government, where sovereignty rests with the nation, which is the source of power'. Under the constitution, a constituent assembly was formed in 1962 and a year later the first parliamentary elections were held. Kuwait thus became the first Arab country in the region to have a constitution, an elected parliament, and a democratic style of governance.

From the early 1960s to well into the 70s, Kuwait was the most developed country and the largest oil exporter in the region. It was the first nation in the Middle East to diversify its new found oil wealth by establishing the world's first sovereign wealth fund through the Kuwait Investment Authority. Kuwait University, established in 1966, was a beacon of academic excellence that drew students from all across the Arab world. On the cultural front, theater, art and literature flourished and the media was described as one of the most outspoken, expressing and promoting ideas and ideologies that were until then taboo in much of the region. Liberal ideas and Western attitudes and lifestyle were conspicuously visible in society.

It is to the credit of Kuwait's first Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and the founding fathers of the nation who crafted a versatile constitution for the country in its early years that Kuwait continued to remain an independent,

democratic country committed to the principles enshrined in its constitution. It was also in honor of Sheikh Abdullah's role in establishing the country's independence and in laying the foundation for a strong democratic and constitutional nation that remains crucial in the evolution and progress of modern Kuwait to this day, that in 1965 Kuwait decided to shift its National Day to 25 February, the day of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem's accession in 1950.

The discovery of oil in 1939 and its first export in 1947 changed the fortunes and future of Kuwait. Kuwait experienced a period of prosperity driven by oil that also fueled a major public-work program that allowed Kuwaitis to enjoy a modern standard of living. The infrastructure construction projects and developments to the oil industry attracted an influx of foreign workers mainly from Egypt, India and Palestine.

Transforming from a pearl-diving, fishing and trading nation to an oil-rich state was both a boon and a bane to the country. As is usual with other natural-resource-rich nations, the new found immense wealth allowed the country to develop rapidly into a modern state that ensured its citizens with the lifelong privileges and perks of a welfare state. While this state largesse benefited generations of citizens it also endowed many of them with a sense of entitlement that discouraged self-reliance, responsibility for individual growth and development, entrepreneurship or the need to persevere in the face of challenges.

Kuwait's six decades of marching along the path of democracy and a representative form of government through an elected parliament has often led to hiccups and hindrances to the formulation and implementation of policies and processes that the country direly needs to ensure a sustainable and dependable future for the country and its citizens. Contentious, elected legislators and an appointed executive have often clashed on the floors of the National Assembly leading to grillings, resignations, parliament suspensions and even downright abrogation. But Kuwait has managed to still plod along the democratic path, bruised but not beaten.

The latest suspension of parliament by the Amir His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah was on Wednesday. The Amiri decree suspended parliamentary sessions for one month as of 18 February. The move follows yet another standoff between the elected assembly and the appointed government that led to the resignation of the cabinet in January, barely a month after it took office.

The Amir had reappointed Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah and tasked him with nominating a new cabinet. The prime minister had asked for more time to hold elaborate consultations with all stakeholders before forming the cabinet. Last month's cabinet resignation had come after more than 30 MPs in the 50-seat assembly supported a motion to question the prime minister on various issues, including his choice of ministers. The on going political tension complicates efforts to tackle a severe liquidity crunch caused by low oil revenues and in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic and stymied by the inability to borrow on international markets due to lack of legislative approval.

Despite these democratic shortcomings to its functioning, on the global stage Kuwait's strong standing in the international community, its humanitarian and development assistance to countries around the world and the strength of its global diplomacy have been held in high esteem worldwide. This global acclaim came to the country's aid in 1990 during the vicious Iraqi invasion and seven-month occupation of Kuwait

In the aftermath of the 2 August, 1990 Iraqi invasion by Iraqi troops under Saddam Hussein, the international community unanimously demanded

that Iraq withdraw its forces immediately. In 1991, when the Iraqi forces despite numerous warnings, refused to comply with the United Nations' ultimatum to withdraw its troops from Kuwait, an international coalition under the United States helped to drive back the aggressor and ensure Kuwait's freedom and sovereignty.

Barely 100 hours after it began in the early hours of 24 February, 1991, Operation Desert Storm, the ground offensive by coalition forces against the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, came to an end on 26 February 1991. Though there were a few pockets of resistance, the international coalition formed under the umbrella of the United Nations and led by the United States met with very little, if any, opposition as they swept through Kuwait and penetrated deep into Iraq. Saddam Hussein had promised the "mother of all battles" against any army that attempted to retake Kuwait; but what ensued was the sight of thousands of Iraqi soldiers stationed in and around Kuwait surrendering en masse to the coalition forces, with some remnants of Saddam's rag-tag army scurrying back to Iraq in whatever vehicles they could commandeer.

Shortly after news of the resounding victory of the coalition forces, the then US President George H.W. Bush declared that Kuwait, invaded by Iraq on August 2, was liberated, that Iraq had been defeated, and that the allies' objectives had been met. "Seven months ago, we drew a line in the sand," said the president. "We said that aggression would not stand. America and the world have kept its word."

Exactly eight decades before Kuwait's Liberation Day, the US-based Arabian Mission of the Reformed Church arrived in Kuwait to build the country's first dispensary in 1911.

Though initially there were some Kuwaitis who viewed the American medical presence in the country with suspicion and hostility, appreciation for the hospital and its value to the public surged in 1920, when Kuwait came under attack by tribes from the central Arabian Peninsula.

The wounded and maimed in the Battle of Jahra and other skirmishes sought treatment at the hospital, and, to the credit of the limited number of physicians and nursing staff there at the time, the lives of 100 of the 104 critically wounded soldiers were saved. Gratitude to the medical staff and trust in the hospital grew immensely and soon the 'American', as it was referred to by the locals, became a respected institution in the country.

From this early American medical facility began what would become a long legacy of relations between the United States and Kuwait. Relations between the two countries grew over the ensuing decades, through the years of discovery of oil, the country's independence, and its growth and transformation into a wealthy, modern welfare nation. In the seventies and eighties, Kuwait's independent foreign policy often found it at odds with the interests of the United States and the two countries enjoyed for the most part an on-and-off frayed friendship. It is ironic that, just as in 1920, it took another war to bring the two nations and peoples together.

In a speech given on the occasion of commemorating the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait in 2016, former US Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Douglas A. Silliman noted that people usually learn from difficult periods in its history and graduate with the lessons learned. This, he said, serves as a motivation for the development and progress of the country.

Since liberation in 1991, Kuwait has remained committed to a path of peace and prosperity through upholding democracy and emphasizing national unity and development as its priorities. Kuwait is also aware that remembering the past is vital to the present and future of the country, as it enables each new generation to learn about the value of freedom and the high-price paid by their forebears to ensure Kuwait remains free forever.

25 FEBRUARY

60

THE TIMES KUWAIT

Tareq Yousuf Al Shumaimry
 Editor-in-Chief

extends his heartiest Congratulations
 to the Government and the people of Kuwait
 on the occasion of Kuwait's
**National Day
 &
 Liberation Day**

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21 - 27 February, 2021

7

All travelers to Kuwait must register on KuwaitMosafer.gov.kw

Further to an announcement by the Kuwait Directorate General for Civil Aviation (DGCA), all travelers to Kuwait must register on the online platform KuwaitMosafer: <https://kuwaitmosafer.gov.kw>. KuwaitMosafer, developed by National Aviation Services (NAS) was launched in July 2020 for the convenience of all travelers departing from and arriving to Kuwait.

The platform offers passengers a single solution to book PCR test appointments, submit official health declarations, organize flight check-in slots and book a host of airport services to make travelling easier.

KuwaitMosafer also links to the Kuwait Ministry of Health's COVID-19 vaccination records under COVID-19 Vaccine Certificate. This is on par with global innovations attempting to implement border control policies for safer travel practices.

Post 21st February 2021, arriving passengers must book the mandatory hotel quarantine and PCR tests in Kuwait via KuwaitMosafer. All the processes are user friendly, simple and available in English as well as Arabic, making it easy for all travelers to access.

Kuwait is the first airport in the region to leverage technology to implement a single platform to assist travelers in fulfilling COVID-19 travel requirements ahead of time, thus reducing queuing at the airport as well as other disruptions.

The app has been developed with three key objectives that include protecting the health of passengers and airport staff by improving

awareness and enabling contactless procedures. It assists passengers in fulfilling post COVID-19 travel requirements, which will help reduce waiting times and disruption. And it also helps airport operators overcome the challenges of reduced capacity due to social distancing by offering advance service bookings such as check-in appointments.

To register, passengers can visit <https://kuwaitmosafer.gov.kw>, from their mobile phone, laptop or personal computers and input their flight details to book the required services.

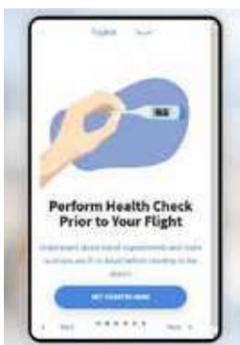
A customer care email is available to answer queries or address any technical challenges: customer.service@kuwaitmosafer.com

This technology is the first of its kind in the Middle East, serving as a communication gateway between passengers and authorities. Travelers can also enter comments, feedback, seek assistance, and

advise on any unsanitary locations within the airport for immediate rectification.

All travelers are strongly advised to check the PCR testing, quarantine procedures and visa requirements for their respective destination country before travel. This should be done well in advance of their flights to ensure they book the test according to the required timelines.

KuwaitMosafer is supplemented by BelSalamah.com, another online platform to facilitate the return of Article 20 domestic workers from high-risk countries. Sponsors or travel agents can book a package for workers with existing or new visas.



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KUWAITI WOMEN MOST EMANCIPATED IN THE MIDDLE EAST



following the discovery of oil in the late 1930s, women in Kuwait experienced many changes to their social status. In the 1950s their access to education and employment increased dramatically, and it was often women themselves who pushed for these educational advances and opportunities. In 1956 a group of them rallied for their right to go abroad to study.

With education came a greater awareness of their role in society and in the late 1960s early 70s there were calls and campaigns for women's suffrage. Women frequently took their petition to parliament, which was however always rejected by the male lawmakers.

But the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait in 1990-91 forever changed not only the view of women by their male counterparts but also women's own outlook about their gender and capabilities. During the occupation, Kuwaiti women played a significant role in resisting the Iraqi invasion and several were martyred in defense of Kuwait's freedom. This tumultuous period served as a catalyst for the eventual liberalization of women's political and social rights in the country.

Following the liberation there were more strident calls for more women's representation in the political life of the country. In 1993, Nabila Al-Mulla became the first female ambassador in the Gulf region. True political equality, however, remained elusive as the Election Law continued to ban political rights for women for another decade.

In 1999, the then Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, during an interregnum of parliament, promulgated a decree granting women suffrage. However, the next duly elected parliament overturned this decision. In 2003, another government-sponsored bill that would give women the right to vote and run in municipal councils was rejected by the parliament.

Between 2000 and 2005 a number of cases were filed in courts by activists against the Minister of Interior for his refusal to include women in the election tables. In 2004 women took their protests to the halls of parliament and a year later held one of the largest demonstrations in Kuwait's history.

Through the combined efforts of activists, lawyers, politicians, and everyday citizens, women were finally able to get Parliament to grant them their voting rights on 18 May, 2005. Parliament granted women their voting right by a simple amendment that removed the word 'men' from Article 1 of the election-law. The amendment was passed by a vote of 35 in favor and 23 against.

For the first time in Kuwait's history, women were able to file their names as candidates in the snap elections that were called for in 2006. Though 32 women ran for parliament in this election, and in the subsequent election in 2008 there were 27 women in a pool of 275 candidates, none managed to secure a seat.

But through persistence and by running effective and professional campaigns women were finally able to shatter the glass

ceiling and four of them made their way into parliament in the 2009 elections. The four, Massouma Al Mubarak, Aseel Al Awadhi, Rola Dashti, and Salwa Al Jassar, assured a place for themselves in the history of women's fight for equality in Kuwait. Dr. Mubarak also became the first Kuwaiti woman to serve as a cabinet minister.

In February 2012, all four women lost their seats in parliament but the subsequent elections in December 2012 saw Masooma Al Mubarak return to parliament, along with newcomers Safaa Al Hashem and Thekra Al-Rashidi. Throughout their time in parliament, women legislators were the driving force behind drafting many new labor laws, including those that stipulated regulations surrounding working conditions and workers' rights, especially those for women.

Today, women in Kuwait are among the most emancipated in the Middle-East. Women form over 46 percent of those employed in the country and are seen in every sector of the economy and play an important role in the political and administrative life of the country. Employment rate of women in Kuwait is the highest in the MENA region and Kuwait is also ranked top among all Arab countries in the Human Development Report's Gender Inequality Index.

Though women in Kuwait are seeing their long history of official, political and social activism finally beginning to bear fruit, they need to remain vigilant against changing political scenarios that might attempt to rescind their hard won freedom and equality.

Women played an important role in the social fabric of Kuwait long before the discovery of oil in the country. For hundreds of years, they were the linchpin that held together Kuwaiti families, playing an active role in parenting, livestock rearing and weaving fabric for dresses and tents during the spartan days of life in the desert. Despite this crucial role in raising the family she had very few rights even when it came to important personal matters, as they were not viewed by the patriarchal society as persons with individual rights of their own.

It was only with the opening of the first private school for girls in 1926, that women began to learn reading and writing. Public schooling began in 1937 and though enrollment of girls was initially low, by 1940s many young Kuwaiti women were enrolled in primary schools.

With the modernization that began

CONDOLENCES



Tareq Y. Al Shumaimry
Editor-in-Chief

expresses
his heartfelt condolences

to

Al Rashed Family

on the sad demise of

Basil Saad Al Rashed

Director - Al Rashed International Shipping Co (K.S.C.C)

May his soul Rest in Peace

25-26 FEBRUARY KUWAIT | Happy NATIONAL DAY LIBERATION DAY

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Embassies felicitate Kuwait on National and Liberation Days



Argentina



On behalf of the government of Argentina, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on the occasions of the 60th anniversary of Independence and the 30th anniversary of Liberation Day, and to offer the people of Kuwait best wishes for success and prosperity.

I would also like to hail the excellent relations between Argentina and Kuwait and reassure my commitment to expand our mutual collaboration.

May I wish your highness the Amir, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, good health and happiness

H.E. Claudia Alexandra Zampierri
 Ambassador of the Argentina



The historic twin occasions of Kuwait's 60th anniversary of National Day and 30th anniversary of Liberation Day is a joyous occasion for all Kuwaitis and residents in the country.

As we celebrate these glorious days we also reflect on the wisdom of our founding fathers and the great sacrifices they made to ensure Kuwait remains safe, peaceful and prosperous for future generations.

We are also grateful and thankful for the support from the international community

who have always stood by Kuwait's sovereignty. On this occasion I wish to thank all heads of missions in Kuwait for their continued support and cooperation and wish them success in all their endeavors.



Tareq Yousuf Al-Shumaimry
 Editor-in-Chief

would like to conclude my message with my best wishes for good health, success and personal well-being to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Crown Prince, the Government as well as to offer the people of Kuwait the best wishes for continued welfare and prosperity.

H.E. Sarmen Baghdassarian
 Ambassador of Armenia



Austria



It is my great pleasure to extend on behalf of the Government, the Embassy and the people of Austria and on my own behalf to His Highness, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah the Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness, Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince and the people of the friendly country of Kuwait the most sincere and heartiest

congratulations on the occasion of Kuwait's 60th anniversary of National Day and the 30th anniversary of Kuwait's liberation.

Austria and Kuwait share over 60 years of strong diplomatic relations in all fields based on common principles, international norms and mutual understanding.

These 60 years of Kuwait's full independence have been truly a full success story. It made Kuwait one of the best countries to live in. I am therefore very happy to have returned again to Kuwait as Austrian ambassador for a second time in 2020 after my first tenure as the Austrian Ambassador from 2008 to 2012.

I wish the people and the State of Kuwait a bright future, prosperity, lasting peace and stability.

H.E. Marian Wrba
 Ambassador of Austria



Armenia



On behalf of the people, the Government, and the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia to the State of Kuwait, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Crown Prince, the Government, and the friendly people of Kuwait on the occasions of Kuwait's 60th anniversary of Independence and 30th anniversary of Liberation Day.



Ever since its independence and liberation, Kuwait has been a country of peace, thanks to its wise leaders and their remarkably balanced foreign policy that helped the country successfully navigate through many hardships and critical stages throughout its history.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the leadership of the State of Kuwait for their support and cooperation with the Embassy, as well as for their kindness towards the Armenian community in giving the privilege to enjoy the benefits of this great country and to play a bridging role in the ties between Armenia and Kuwait. I



Australia



I would like to extend my congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, alongside the Crown Prince, and the government and people of Kuwait on National and Liberation days.



I also extend my thanks and our appreciation for all those who work on the frontlines to protect us on a daily basis, and pay my respects to those who lost their lives in the fight against COVID-19.

This year is the 30th anniversary of Kuwait's liberation from the 1990-1991 Gulf War,

in which Australia was proud to be a member of the coalition forces who helped liberate Kuwait. I wish all my Kuwaiti friends and neighbors a joyous, memorable, and safe celebration.

H.E. Jonathan Gilbert
 Ambassador of Australia



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Azerbaijan



On behalf of the people and government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as on my own behalf, I sincerely congratulate the brotherly people and state of Kuwait on the occasion of Liberation Day and National Day holidays.

We are confident that our cooperation with the new leadership, parliament and Government of Kuwait, based on

previous traditions, on principles of friendship and brotherhood, will continue successfully in the mutual interests of our peoples and states.

I think there is a great potential for expanding our relations. We must be ready for the rapid restoration and development of our cooperation in the post-pandemic period.

Hoping that all the hardships remained in the past year, on these joyful holidays I express my best wishes for happiness, sustainable development and prosperity of the brotherly people and state of Kuwait.

H.E. Elkhan Gahraman
 Ambassador of Azerbaijan

Bangladesh

On behalf of the Government and People of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, I have the honor to extend to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness Prime Minister Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah my cordial congratulations on the occasion of the National Day and the Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait. I wish His Highness continued good health and the people of Kuwait continued blessing with peace, prosperity and happiness under His Highness's leadership.



On these notable occasions, I would like to reaffirm Bangladesh's desire to strengthen friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the State of Kuwait under the dynamic leadership of Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh. I remain confident that through the joint efforts, bilateral ties between Bangladesh

and Kuwait will be further deepened and enhanced for the mutual benefit of our two nations.

May I again offer congratulations to the people of Kuwait on the occasion of the National Day, and wish all a happy celebration.

Maj Gen Md. Ashikuzzaman
 Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bhutan

On the joyous occasion of the 60th anniversary of National Day and the 30th Anniversary of the Liberation Day of the friendly country of Kuwait, His Majesty the King and the Royal Family of Bhutan, the Government and the People of Bhutan, join me in sending our warm felicitations and 'Tashi Delek' to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the friendly people of Kuwait.

Over the years, Kuwait has witnessed rapid development in various fields. Politically, the government has succeeded in establishing deep rooted principles of democracy, people's participation in decision making, freedom of speech and expression. Economically, there is rapid progress in its path to transform the country into an economic and financial hub in the region. In the diplomatic front, His Highness the Amir continues to be the leading voice on the world stage for peace, moderation and friendly relations.

I am confident that the close and deep rooted ties of friendship, understanding and cooperation between Bhutan and Kuwait, will continue to grow under the wise, dynamic and enlightened leadership of our two leaders, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait and His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan.

May I avail this opportunity to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes for His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister, personal well-being, happiness and health as well as for continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Kuwait.

H.E. Tshering Gyaltshen Penjor
 Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bhutan

Botswana



On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Botswana, I wish to convey to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, and through His Highness, to the Government and people of Kuwait, our warm congratulations as they celebrate the 60th anniversary of Kuwait's independence and the 30th anniversary of Kuwait's liberation day.

Let me take this opportunity to extend best wishes of peace and prosperity to Kuwait especially under this difficult environment overshadowed by the coronavirus pandemic. I am confident that under the visionary leadership of His Highness the Amir, Kuwait will overcome this scourge and emerge stronger. May Almighty God bless His Highness The Amir with continued good health and endow Kuwait with peace and prosperity.

H.E. Manyepdza P. LESETEDI
 Embassy of the Republic of Botswana

Brazil

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Federative Republic of Brazil, and on my own, I have the honor to congratulate His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah, and the Government and people of the State of Kuwait on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of National Day, 30th anniversary of Liberation Day.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to express the Brazilian appreciation for the constructive role played by Kuwait in support of stability in the Middle East, notably in the context of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and to wish the Kuwaiti people a future of continuous peace and prosperity.

H.E. Francisco Mauro Brasil De Holanda
 Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil

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Cambodia



On behalf of the Royal Government and People of Cambodia and on my own behalf, I have a great pleasure to extend my most heartfelt and warmest congratulations to the Government and People of Kuwait, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of National Day and the 30th anniversary of Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait.

The Kingdom of Cambodia and the State of Kuwait are enjoying good bilateral relations which are based on mutual trust, support and confidence, as well as continued happiness, development and prosperity between our two peoples and countries in the many years ahead.

Under the dynamic leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait will become a more progressive, prosperous and developed country in the world.

Taking this joyful occasion, I would like to congratulate His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister and H.E. Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, on this auspicious day for their outstanding contribution in building Kuwait as a country of happiness, success, progress and prosperity.

Finally, I wish all people of this country good health and further prosperity in this meaningful festive month and in the years to come.

H.E. Hun Han
 Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Canada



The last year has been one of challenges, sacrifices and transitions. As we approach the annual celebration of the National and Liberation Day of Kuwait, we are especially glad to take a step back and reflect on the strong links that unite us and will continue to strengthen the bilateral relationship between Canada and Kuwait.

Our commercial links will continue to expand as the world returns to normality. The number of Kuwaiti students going to

Canada will grow once again. Our hope for an ever peaceful and better world will continue to be highlighted.

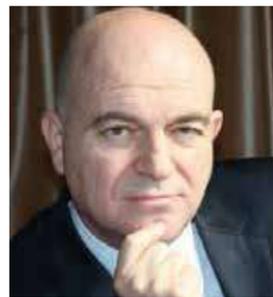
On behalf of the Canadian Embassy we want to wish all our Kuwaiti friends a safe, healthy and fruitful National Day and a particularly important 30th Liberation Day. Looking forward to seeing more of everyone in 2021.

H.E. Louis Pierre Emond
 Ambassador of Canada

Croatia

On the occasion of Kuwait National Day and Kuwait Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait, I am pleased to offer sincere congratulations on behalf of the citizens of the Republic of Croatia and on my behalf.

In this challenging time when countries across the globe are fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, and unfortunately in which



neither of our States has been spared, I wish progress and prosperity to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and to the citizens of Kuwait.

We are in an extraordinary situation that will have a major impact on all people, economics and societies as a whole. It is my

deep conviction that together we will succeed in containing this virus and enable our citizens to return to their daily lives as soon as possible.

I use this opportunity to express confidence that even in this challenging time, we will continue to develop and strengthen friendly ties and cooperation between our two States in all areas of joint interest for the well-being of our citizens.

H.E. Amir Muharemi
 Ambassador of Croatia

Czech Republic

It is my honor to extend my warmest and sincere congratulations on the 60th anniversary of the Independence and 39th anniversary of the Liberation of the State of Kuwait. I am doing it not only in my name, but on behalf of the Czech Republic and its people.

I am very proud to recall the Czech troop's participation in the international coalition to liberate the State of Kuwait and to protect principles of freedom and sovereignty on

its territory. I strongly believe that building a solid ground for friendship, mutual respect and cooperation in relations between two countries and these principles will continue and deepen in the coming future.

Let me wish our two friendly countries further development, welfare and prosperity.



H.E. Martin Dvořák
 Ambassador of the Czech Republic

Ethiopia

On behalf of the government and people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and that of my own, I would like to convey my warmest greetings and congratulations to the government and people of the State of Kuwait on the 60th anniversary of National Day and 30th anniversary of Liberation Day.

Ethiopia and Kuwait enjoy historical and cultural relations. These relations have gained momentum since both countries have opened their respective Embassies in 1997. Our bilateral, economic and people to people relations have grown ever stronger over the last years. Ethiopia and Kuwait share the same values and are strong supporters of regional integration and multilateralism, which contributes to the strengthening of peace and security in their respective regions and beyond. A series of high-level visits from the two countries have been made at various times resulting in the signing of several agreements.



The economic relations have also gained momentum as Ethiopian government has undertaken successive reforms. As one of top investor destinations in Africa, Ethiopia has maintained investor interest from Kuwait, and I hope that the structural reform programs in Ethiopia and the recent launch of African Continental Free Trade Area will increase investments to the country. Ethiopia is also one of favorite travel destinations for many Kuwaitis and the Gulf country hosts quite a number of Ethiopian expatriates. Moreover, Kuwait has been providing financial support for various development projects in Ethiopia through the Kuwait Development Fund for Arab Economic Development. I am confident that our relations will further strengthen in the years ahead to our mutual benefit.

Let me conclude my message by extending again my best wishes to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his personal well-being, success, and health, as well as peace and prosperity to all citizens of the country as you celebrate your National and Liberation Days.

H.E. Abdulfatah Abdullahi Hassan
 Ambassador of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia



Embassies felicitate Kuwait on National and Liberation Days



On behalf of the European Union (EU), I have the honor to convey our heartfelt congratulations to the Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Crown Prince, Sheikh Meshaal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Government and great people of Kuwait on the occasions of the 60th anniversary of National Day

and 30th anniversary of Liberation Day. I am proud of the EU's strong relationship with the State of Kuwait. Our friendship goes a long way back and we are looking forward to further enhancing our cooperation.

Since the opening of the EU Delegation in 2019, our joint efforts have intensified in the fields of political dialogue, trade and investment, security, humanitarian assistance, international development cooperation, green and digital transformations.

I am sure that we are going to see a remarkable new momentum in our unique relationship, in the years to come. Together, we can achieve our ambitious goals for the people of the EU and Kuwait, especially since we share many values and interests.

Best wishes of peace and prosperity from all of us at the EU Delegation to Kuwait.

H.E. Dr. Cristian Tudor
 EU Ambassador



On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of National Day of Kuwait and the 30th anniversary of the Liberation, I would like to convey to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and to all our Kuwaiti friends my warmest congratulations and best wishes for prosperity, health and success.

France and Kuwait enjoy deep and long-standing ties of friendship and trust. The French people keep a vibrant memory of France participating in the coalition that led to the Liberation of Kuwait. Over 15 000 French troops contributed in liberating our Kuwaiti friends and this commitment continues to this day with a strong defense cooperation.

This year we also celebrate the 60th anniversary of the independence of Kuwait and of our friendship. A very special year for both our countries and a great occasion to give a renewed momentum to our partnership. The enhanced strategic dialogue between our two countries is the first signal of this new momentum.

Our two countries also share a common commitment to the promotion of multilateralism, regional stability and international solidarity. Kuwait has worked steadily for regional stability and peace. In this regard, I would like once again to commend Kuwait's mediation efforts, which have enabled the reconciliation of the Gulf countries. We strongly believe our two countries can work hand in hand to further peace in the Middle East at a critical juncture.

The multiplication of global issues, exacerbated since the onset of the pandemics, reminds us how essential it is that we continue our collaborative efforts to build a more just, sustainable and secure world. Kuwait has a long-standing tradition of being a critical actor in multilateral and humanitarian action. From global health to protecting our planet I am very confident our joint contribution can make a difference.

H.E. Anne Claire Legendre
 Ambassador of France



On 25 February 2021, Kuwait marks its 60th anniversary of National Day. Let me send to the leaders of Kuwait and to the Kuwaiti society congratulations from the German Embassy for 60 years of Freedom and Independence.

Let me also send you congratulations for the 26th of February. This marks Kuwait's liberation day, a day of great importance to the State of Kuwait and so to the friendly country of Germany, too. We have been at your side 30 years ago and will continue to do so. Kuwait has achieved great prosperity over the years and it has been at the center of humanitarian initiatives world-wide. Kuwait indeed has every reason to feel proud. Today Kuwaitis mark their freedom and their liberation. It gives me great pleasure to share Kuwait's joy and happiness.

Have a safe National and Liberation Day and please wear your masks and maintain social distancing.

H.E. Stefan Möbs
 Ambassador of Germany



It is a great honor and pleasure for me to extend my best wishes to His Highness the Amir and the people of Kuwait on the two annual great celebrations in Kuwait's history.

Invasion of Kuwait has been an immoral act of aggression and a terrible mistake led by a very wrong geopolitical assessment of the international circumstances. Greece immediately rejected the results of the invasion and stood in solidarity with His Highness the Amir and the Kuwaiti people. My country participated in the international coalition which led to the liberation of Kuwait, and so was created one more solid bond between the two friendly countries and societies.

God bless Kuwait.

H.E. Konstantinos Piperigos
 Ambassador of Greece



The future of a nation is always determined how its people remember their most important historical events. Anniversaries of joyous historical moments have a special role in the common memory: through these special dates in the calendar we can remind ourselves how precious freedom is and how thankful we have to be to live in continuous freedom and prosperity.

Hungary celebrated the 30th anniversary of the end of the Soviet-style dictatorship and the proclamation of the democratic Republic in 1989, just like Kuwait celebrates the 30th anniversary of the liberation in these days. Both the Hungarian and Kuwaiti nations went through historical difficulties and have emerged stronger from these crises that make us similar in many ways.

On this unique anniversary let me express my sincere congratulations towards the freedom-loving Kuwaiti people on the occasion of the Kuwaiti National Day, furthermore, I wish good health and continuous successes to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

H.E. Dr. István Gyula Soós
 Ambassador of Hungary



On behalf of the Government and the 1.3 billion people of the Republic of India, and the Indian community in Kuwait, I extend my heartfelt greetings to the leadership, the Government, and the people of the friendly State of Kuwait on the happy occasion of the 60th anniversary of National Day and the 30th anniversary of Liberation Day of Kuwait.

I take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt greetings and best wishes for the continued good health and personal wellbeing to His Highness Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah; His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Mishaal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah; and His Highness the Prime Minister, and a warm, festive greetings to the friendly people of the State of Kuwait.

This year is an important milestone in our relationship as we will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations of our two friendly countries. Our already close bilateral relationship extends beyond the centuries-old historical and cultural linkages to encompass political, trade, economic and vibrant people-to-people ties. Today our bilateral relationship has evolved into a long standing dynamic partnership.

While remaining committed to working closely with Kuwait in enhancing our bilateral cooperation in all spheres, I pray for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the people of the State of Kuwait. And finally, for all the love, warmth and care, on behalf of the Indian Community in Kuwait, "Shukran Jazeelan Ila Daulat ul Kuwait".

H.E. Sibi George
 Ambassador of India



On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, the Embassy, and the Indonesian community in Kuwait, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Government, and the people of Kuwait on the occasion of National Day and Liberation Day 2021 of the State of Kuwait.

May Allah give His Highness the Amir best of health, happiness, and well-being and may the State of Kuwait continue to flourish in peace, prosperity, and harmony under His Highness the Amir's leadership.

The relationship between Indonesia and Kuwait has continued to improve since the diplomatic relations between the two countries were first established. Both countries have seen much progress being made in various sectors. The current pandemic situation is indeed an obstacle we need to overcome to further increase cooperation to the highest level. However, we are optimistic that all the good intentions to enhance cooperation will be realized in the future.

Finally, allow me to conclude my greetings by extending my best wishes for the continued progress and development of the State of Kuwait, and also for the health and prosperity of its people.

H.E. Tri Tharyat
 Ambassador of Indonesia



Embassies felicitate Kuwait on National and Liberation Days



Italy



I want to congratulate the Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, and all the friendly people of Kuwait, on the occasion of the anniversary celebrations of their National and Liberation Days.

This year the celebration comes at a very difficult moment at the international level: the world community is answering to a very complex pandemic, and we all know that only united we will be able to overcome it. The Government of Kuwait is providing a very serious and important contribution to these efforts.

Also allow me to praise the role played by Kuwait in the definition of an overarching solution to the GCC rift: a role played with wise leadership and patience, which is quintessential of the Kuwaiti approach to security and stability in the region.

H.E. Carlo Baldocci
 Ambassador of Italy



Kenya



On behalf of the government of the Republic of Kenya, and on my own behalf, I would like to extend my best wishes to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the state Kuwait, the Government and the people of Kuwait on this auspicious occasion of the 60th anniversary of Kuwait National Day and 30th anniversary of

Kuwait Liberation Day.

Kenya and Kuwait enjoy warm and cordial relations and it is our continued expectation that these relations deepens our countries cooperation both at the bilateral and multilateral arenas.

We commemorate with Kuwait and pray that the almighty Allah continue to bestow his grace and mercy on the state of Kuwait.

H.E. Halima Mohamad
 Ambassador of Kenya



Korea



On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Korea, and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Kuwait, I wish to convey my warmest greetings to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah

Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the friendly people of the State of Kuwait on the happy occasion of 60th anniversary of National Day and the 30th anniversary of Liberation Day of Kuwait.

The Republic of Korea is proud to have been part of the multinational coalition that contributed to the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion in 1991, and also proud of the incredible progress the two countries have made in their bilateral relationship over the past years.

Malaysia



On behalf of the Government and the brotherly people of Malaysia, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister,

the Government and the people of Kuwait, on the joyous occasion of the 60th anniversary of National Day of the State of Kuwait and the 30th anniversary of the Liberation of the State of Kuwait.

Since the establishment of our diplomatic relations in 1974, Kuwait and Malaysia have continued to remain on an upward trajectory. Therefore, I am confident that under the wise



Laos



On behalf of the People, the Government and the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) to the State of Kuwait, I would like to convey my sincere congratulations and best wishes to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Crown Prince

and His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al Hamad Al Sabah, Prime Minister on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of National Day and 30th anniversary of the Independent Day of the State of Kuwait.

Under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait as well as His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Kuwait has achieved great prosperity over the years, especially the capacity to be the center of humanitarian initiatives world-wide, support dialogue for unity among GCC states, and peace, stability and development globally. Kuwait also pays attention to actively providing COVID-19 vaccination to Kuwaitis and expat communities as quickly as possible.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to His Highness the Amir and other leaders of the State of Kuwait for their continued support and cooperation with the Embassy, as well as the Government of the Lao PDR, in contributing to its socio-economic development. I am confident that the friendly relations and cooperation between two countries Laos-Kuwait would be further developed for the benefit of our nations and for peace and stability in the world.

May I take of this opportunity to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes for His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister personal well-being, happiness and for the progress and prosperity of the State of Kuwait

H.E. Sisonxay Ngaovongsi
 Ambassador of Lao People's Democratic Republic



Mexico



I am truly privileged and honored to celebrate alongside the friendly nation of the State of Kuwait and its people, the milestone of the 60th anniversary of Independence Day and 30th anniversary of Liberation Day. On this historic occasion, I wish to extend to His Highness Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness the Crown Prince, His Highness Prime Minister, the Government and the people of the State of Kuwait our warmest congratulations and best wishes.

We wish that the people of Kuwait continue to be blessed with enduring peace, prosperity and happiness under the strong leadership and wisdom of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait and His Highness the Crown Prince.

I am convinced that our countries boast great potential on the way to developing mutually beneficial cooperation. I express our commitment to continue building on the existing bilateral ties of partnership, as well as to raise them to a qualitatively new level for the benefit of our peoples.

H.E. Miguel Ángel Isidro
 Ambassador of Mexico



Myanmar



On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Kuwait National Day and 30th anniversary of Kuwait Liberation Day it is my great pleasure and honor to convey on behalf of the people and the government of Myanmar the most sincere and warm congratulations to the Kuwaiti government and the Kuwaiti people.

Based on the warm and cordial relationship between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the State of Kuwait I firmly believe that our happily existing cooperation, understanding and relations will develop for mutual benefits of our two countries and the people.

H.E. Kyaw Nyunt Lwin
 Charge d'Affaires of Myanmar



Embassies felicitate Kuwait on National and Liberation Days



Netherlands



I warmly congratulate His Highness the Amir, the government and the people of Kuwait on the 60th anniversary of its independence and the 30th anniversary of its liberation.

I arrived in Kuwait a few months ago and this is the first national day celebration I will attend here. I thoroughly enjoy the festive atmosphere

in the country with so many flags and lights decorating houses and streets. Year after year, the bilateral relations between the Netherlands and the State of Kuwait grow stronger. We regard Kuwait as a trusted partner and a main actor in global humanitarian and peace efforts. Furthermore, we appreciate the mediation role Kuwait plays regarding various regional issues. Our businesses have built substantial partnerships over the years. I look forward to continue working with my Kuwaiti colleagues and friends to enhance our already strong relations based on the common values shared between us and for the benefit of both countries.

I wish the State of Kuwait and its people a bright future, prosperity and lasting peace and stability."

H.E. Laurens Westhoff
Ambassador of Netherlands



Pakistan



It gives me immense pleasure to extend sincere felicitations on the auspicious occasion of National and Liberation Days of the State of Kuwait. Pakistan attaches great significance to the centuries-old bond of brotherhood between our two countries. I am confident that the existing amicable bilateral relations will achieve new milestones in the years ahead.

It is heartening to see the immense strides being made by Kuwait in all fields of human endeavor under the far-sighted leadership of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate Pakistan's strong commitment and support to the brotherly State of Kuwait.

H.E. Syed Sajjad Haider
Ambassador of Pakistan



Perú



The Embassy of Perú would like to congratulate the State of Kuwait for its anniversaries of Independence and Liberation Days. This special occasion under the current circumstances of the pandemic of COVID-19 reminds us of the struggles in which each generation had to strive against in order to succeed to achieve prosperity, peace, freedom and health.

Our highest appreciation to the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and the Crown Prince, His Highness Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and to the people of Kuwait during these special days.

Rolando Lozada
Chargé d' Affaires of Perú



Philippines



On behalf of the 220,000-strong Filipino community in Kuwait, I convey my warmest congratulations and best wishes to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and the government and people of Kuwait on the milestone occasion of their 60th anniversary of National Day and the 30th anniversary of Liberation Day. As we enter the 42nd year of the diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Kuwait, I look forward to strengthening our two countries' ties for the mutual benefit of the Filipino and the Kuwaiti people.

H.E. Mohammad Noordin Lomondot
Ambassador of the Philippines



Poland



On behalf of the Government and People of the Republic Poland and on my behalf, I have honor to convey to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah and the people of Kuwait best wishes of prosperity and success on the occasions of the 60th anniversary of National Day and 30th anniversary of Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait.

On this notable occasion, I would like to assure that Poland's desire is to strengthen cooperation between our countries. Once again we express our appreciation for the mediation efforts of Kuwait contributing to stability and security in the region.

Kuwait is a regional leader in negotiations and peaceful resolutions of arms conflicts. Kuwait's role and standing is an example, a pattern to other countries, on how to resolve diplomatic issues between nations. Since the establishment of the relationship between Poland and Kuwait in 1963, our countries have had friendly relations. The Republic of Poland and the State of Kuwait share the same principles in regard to sovereignty, self-governance and independence.

Once again on this occasion, I would like to extend appreciation of the Kuwaiti efforts in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic, and wish the people of Kuwait peaceful, harmonious and healthful celebrations of Independence and Liberation Days.

H.E. Paweł Lechowicz
Ambassador of the Republic of Poland



Romania



It gives me a distinct pleasure to convey, in my capacity as Ambassador of Romania, my best wishes of peace and prosperity to the Kuwaiti people, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Independence and the 30th anniversary of Liberation of the State of Kuwait.

It is even more relevant to me, as this is the first time Kuwait celebrates it under the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait and, respectively, His Highness Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince, to both of whom I extend my sincere congratulations, warmest wishes of good health, happiness and success.



I take this opportunity to congratulate the Kuwaiti authorities for their efficient management of the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope that, by joint efforts, the international community will overcome it soon worldwide, to the benefit of all of us.

H.E. Daniel Tănase
Ambassador of Romania



Sierra Leone



In observance of the celebrations marking the National Day and Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait on 25th and 26th February 2021 respectively, let me on behalf of His Excellency, the President Dr. Julius Maada Bio, the Government and People of the Republic of Sierra Leone and on my own personal behalf, convey to His Highness the Amir Sheikh

Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al-Sabbah (May Allah Protect Him), the Government and People of the State of Kuwait, warmest felicitations, prosperity and happiness on the historic and momentous occasion in the calendar of the State of Kuwait.

I am delighted to recall that Sierra Leone is recorded in the landmark Liberation of Kuwait. It is my fervent hope that the cordial relations between our two-sisterly countries will continue to further strengthen for the mutual benefit of our two peoples and countries.

I pray that Allah continues to bestow peace and security, love and prosperity to the State of Kuwait as well as the Muslim Ummah. I also pray for Allah's continuous protection in keeping us all safe, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

H.E. Haja Ishata Thomas
Ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone



Slovakia



On behalf of the people, Government and Embassy of the Slovak Republic to the State of Kuwait, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Crown Prince, the Government and the friendly people of Kuwait on the occasions of Kuwait's 60th anniversary of Independence and

30th anniversary of Liberation Day. This year Kuwait is celebrating its National and Liberation Days under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, I wish all my best wishes for every success to His Highness in new tasks.

Kuwait can be rightly proud of its achievements since independence. The country has always been an example of stability and economic growth. Recently the COVID-19 pandemic shook the entire world, Kuwait managed to deal professionally with the crisis that was met with acclaim and praise by many of the International Organizations for the efforts made by the Government. I wish Kuwait to continue serving as an oasis of peace and welfare in the region.

Let me finally conclude my message of greetings by extending to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the heartiest congratulations of H.E. Mrs. Zuzana Čaputová, President of the Slovak Republic on this special occasion. I wish the best for good health, success and personal well-being to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Crown Prince, the Government and to offer the people of Kuwait the best wishes for continued welfare and prosperity.

H.E. Igor Hajdušek
Ambassador of the Slovak Republic

Embassies felicitate Kuwait on National and Liberation Days

South Africa



On the occasion of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of National Day and 30th Anniversary of the Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait it gives me distinct pleasure and honor to convey, on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of South Africa, warmest wishes and sincere congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf

Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the members of the ruling family, government and people of the State of Kuwait.

The year 2020 was a challenge for all humanity with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and through the hardship endured by the global community, we realised the true value of our international partnerships. In this regard, South Africa wishes to reassure the State of Kuwait that it will continue with its current efforts to consolidate the bilateral partnership between the two countries and further enhance the excellent friendship that exists between the Republic of South Africa and the State of Kuwait.

Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to convey to His Highness, the Amir, best wishes for good health and long life, as well as success and prosperity to the friendly people of the State of Kuwait.

H.E. Manelisi Genge
 Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa

Spain



On the occasion of the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the National Day of Kuwait and the 30th anniversary of its Liberation, which this year sadly coincides with the complex circumstances created by the COVID-19 Pandemic, I want to convey personally and on behalf of the Embassy of Spain our message of congratulations to His Highness

the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown

Prince, His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and to the People of Kuwait.

I also want to take advantage of this opportunity to express our best wishes to all Kuwaiti people, as well as a message of close friendship from the Spanish Government and People, emphasizing in this special occasion the importance of our historic and fruitful strategic partnership.

H.E. Miguel Moro Aguilar.
 Ambassador of Spain

Switzerland



The Ambassador of Switzerland and the Swiss mission in Kuwait extend their sincere wishes to the leaders and the Government of the State of Kuwait, and to all the Kuwaiti people on the occasion of its 60th anniversary of National Day and 30th anniversary of Liberation Day.

Kuwait has made great strides on the road of progress and prosperity built on friendship, peace and mutual cooperation and has developed close and friendly relations with all the countries. Switzerland is keen to further strengthen the long existing relations between both countries in solidarity to meet together the current and future challenges.

Best wishes for a Happy National and Liberation Days!

H.E. Dr. Benedict Gubler
 Ambassador of Switzerland

Tajikistan



On behalf of the government and the people of the Republic of Tajikistan and on my own behalf, I would like to express my warmest congratulations on Kuwait's National and Liberation Days and wish His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and all the friendly

people of Kuwait good health, prosperity and permanent peace and stability in their wonderful and beloved country.

On this auspicious occasion, I would also like to highlight the remarkable progress Kuwait has made both within the country and in the region, and people of Kuwait can be justly proud of their country's achievements.

The relations between the Republic of Tajikistan and the State of Kuwait have great prospects for development and are of particular importance for Tajikistan. I sincerely believe that our fruitful cooperation and relations will continue to further strengthen and develop towards mutual prosperity for the benefit of both countries.

H.E. Dr. Zubaydullo Zubaydov
 Ambassador of Tajikistan

Thailand



On the auspicious occasion of the 60th anniversary of the National Day and the 30th anniversary of the Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait, I have the honor to express warmest congratulations and best wishes to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the government and citizens of Kuwait.

Kuwait and Thailand have enjoyed the best of bilateral relations for five decades. It is encouraging to see growing ties of friendship through increasing numbers of trade, medical tourism and people to people contact. Despite the current COVID-19 pandemic, I strongly believe that our two nations will soon emerge stronger and that we will further build on the past 58 years of relationship towards even stronger ties in future.

I am looking forward to enjoying the rest of February with family and friends in Kuwait. To infinity and beyond, I wish all people in Kuwait a splendid and peaceful National Day celebration.

H.E. Rooje Thammongkol
 Ambassador of Thailand



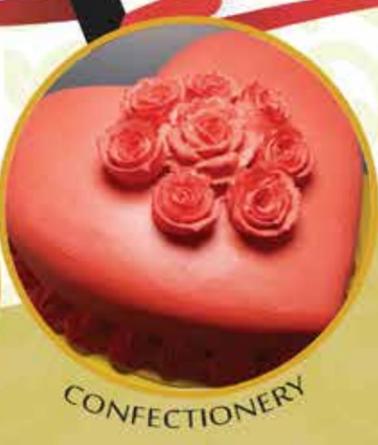




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Embassies felicitate Kuwait on National and Liberation Days



Ukraine



On this special and symbolic occasion of Kuwait's National and Liberation Days, I wish from the bottom of my heart to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait and His Highness Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait, as well as to the friendly and hospitable people of

Kuwait, further progress, success and development. May Kuwait always prosper and grow further towards unexplored horizons.

It is an open secret that re-establishment of the state's independence is always a hard fight. This year on 24 August, my country Ukraine also celebrates the 30th anniversary of re-establishment of its independence. It is always a heroic act to struggle for your freedom. So, this is also a sad day when Kuwaitis pay respect with silent prayers of thanks to the martyrs for their sacrifices.

With great joy and pride I offer my heartfelt congratulations on the anniversary of Kuwait Liberation Day. May the spirit of this day give you the courage to chase your aspirations.

H.E. Balanutsa Oleksandr
 Ambassador of Ukraine



United Nations



I am delighted to communicate the United Nations best wishes to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the occasions of the national

and liberation days. This year we also celebrate 59 years of the cooperation agreement between the United Nations and State of Kuwait. The strategic relations between Kuwait and the United Nations started before Kuwait joined the United Nations in 1963 as the 111 member.

United Nations Kuwait and the United Nations worked together in peacebuilding, conflict resolution and development in Kuwait and worldwide. On behalf of all my colleagues in the United Nations System in Kuwait, I extend our deepest

congratulations to Kuwait on these important occasions and take this opportunity to stand strong side by side with Kuwaiti and residents frontliners who are leading our unified fight against the pandemic and making sure that every individual will be safe and all are safe.

Our best wishes to all Kuwait and all our Kuwaiti Staff in the United Nations System.

Tarek El-Sheikh

United Nations Resident Coordinator



Uzbekistan



On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and on my own personal behalf, it gives me immense pleasure and joy to extend my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Excellency the Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as well as to the honorable people of Kuwait, on the glorious occasion of the 60th anniversary of National Day and the 30th anniversary of Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the strong and friendly bilateral relations in all fields between Uzbekistan and Kuwait that are based on shared values and interests,

reinforced by mutual trust and respect. Uzbekistan looks forward to further consolidating and enhancing bilateral ties in all fields with Kuwait for the mutual benefit of our two countries and its people.

H.E. Bakhromjon Aloev
 Ambassador of Uzbekistan



Vietnam



On the joyful occasion of the 60th anniversary of the National Day and the 30th anniversary of the Liberation Day of the friendly State of Kuwait, on behalf of the people, Government and Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the State of Kuwait, I would like to extend my most heartfelt congratulations to the Government and the

brotherly people of the State of Kuwait.

Over the past years, under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as well as under the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait has made remarkable achievements in various fields, playing an active and meditative role in addressing international and regional issues. Kuwait has been possessing the main elements to move toward achieving Kuwait's 2035 Vision, which aims to transform Kuwait into a financial and trade hub regionally and internationally, and become more attractive to investors. It is notably acknowledged that Kuwait Humanitarian aid, which has been highly appreciated by the United Nations, continues despite the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

H.E. Ngo Toan Thang
 Ambassador of Viet Nam



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Kuwait Liberation - Another perspective on the war to liberate Kuwait

On 17 January, The Times Kuwait published five testimonies written by French veterans who participated in 'Operation Daguet', to commemorate the launching of the air campaign to liberate Kuwait 30 years ago. After having highlighted military operations, we want to look back at this war sequence from a different perspective that is not exclusively military.

In this special supplement on the National and Liberation Days of Kuwait, four new testimonies by both, military and non-military French citizens are being published.

The four providing the testimonies come from diverse professional backgrounds

Denis Boulet, an Army engineer explains how he was tasked with destroying loads of ammunition left over by Iraqi troops retreating from Kuwait. Gery Verjot reminisces about his naval mission off Kuwait's coast. Veteran journalist Pierre Vayle explains why the war to liberate

Kuwait marked a new era in media coverage of wars. Finally, Ibrahim and Camille, who have been working for the French Embassy in Kuwait for the past 30 years, describe the harsh living conditions during the seven-month long Iraqi occupation.

In our next and last focus, we will take

a look at the post-war challenges and dynamics facing Kuwait.

Best regards,

- Colonel Olivier PASSOT

Attaché de Défense près l'Ambassade de France au Koweït

Operation Daguet

Colonel Denis BOULLET

Mine clearance during and after the campaign

What was your mission during Operation Daguet?

I commanded the 3rd company of the 6th Engineer Foreign Regiment (6th REG). This Foreign Legion regiment was engaged in the military campaign against the Iraqi forces. Once they were driven out, we were tasked to clear some areas where

fighting took place, and to destroy huge stocks of Iraqi ammunition. Then, one part of the regiment was relocated to Kuwait. Our mission was to clean up and demine, to provide assistance to the Kuwaiti civilian population (especially the sick and wounded). We operated jointly with the 17th Engineer Airborne Regiment. The



clearance and mine clearance activities lasted from 1 March until 15 May, 1991. I was under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Danigo, the regiment's deputy commander.

Please describe a highlight of this campaign?

I experienced many very emotional mo-

ments during the conflict. Perhaps the day that struck me the most was 24 February in the early morning hours. The entire French division had launched its offensive to the north. I was part of the advanced units that had crossed the Iraqi border. My mission was to clear the road to the division, in case of natural or man-made obstacles. There, I wondered how

many men would be in my company at the end of the day. Fortunately, we did not lose a man that day. We had losses thereafter.

Did you enter Kuwait, and what were your impressions?

I arrived in Kuwait shortly after the liberation. It was an incredible vision. The burning oil wells gave off thick black clouds. It felt like we were constantly living at night... even at noon! Temperatures dropped several degrees because of the cloudy sky. The country was marked by the hardly finished fighting: corpses on the ground, columns of destroyed Iraqi tanks. My regiment was tasked to clean up the beaches, from 1 March. The civilian population had to be able to resume their normal life. After one month of hard work, a ceremony was held to symbolize the normalization. It was a good way to celebrate and meet Kuwaiti people. On 1 April, early morning, we carried out a last check before opening the area to civilian people.

We were fortunate, because we discovered a mine on the beach! Despite continuous clearance, this device had been brought back by the current from the sea...

What did you learn from this campaign that proved useful takeaways for the rest of your career?

This campaign impacted me for my entire career. I am proud to have liberated Kuwait while taking part in a massive military operation. It was the largest military coalition since World War II. I have been influenced by

this operation in my day-to-day life until today.

What are your current responsibilities?

I retired from the French army in 2014. But I still feel military at heart, and I wanted to continue living my commitment and my passion. As a reservist, I work on several subjects to benefit from my experience: French Army organization and information systems.



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Operation Daguet

Géry VERJOT

Naval campaign off Kuwaiti coasts



What was your mission during Operation Daguet ?

I was serving on the helicopter flight deck of a Mobile Support boat named Loire. This French boat was specialized in mine warfare and was engaged in the military campaign against the Iraqi army. Among my missions was to save any coalition pilot from fire in the event of a crash.

Our deployment began with the demining of the Suez Canal in Egypt to allow the passage of coalition ships. Then, we joined the southern Arabian Gulf with the 'Eagle, Sagittarius, Pegasus' mine hunters and took part in mine clearance

operations off the Kuwaiti coasts from 30 January, 1991.

From the ceasefire on 28 February, 1991, demining action became a priority. My boat took part in cleaning up the Kuwaiti coasts, within a coalition of French, Belgian and Dutch assets. These three countries had come together to build the mine hunters



that we were equipped with. We were able to demonstrate this specialty, which few naval forces actually have.

As soon as Kuwait was liberated, the country requested assistance in neutralizing the minefields the Iraqis had installed to protect themselves from an

amphibious assault on Kuwait City. Instead of the sketchy shallow anchorages that we expected, we discovered the existence of six minefields and four mine lines off the coast, mixing rope mines and bottom mines. The multinational force destroyed 530 of the 1,240 neutralized mines, including 213 destroyed by French ships. The operation ended on 16 July, 1991.

Please describe a highlight of the campaign for you?

I remember the first mine we found at sea. The explosion caused a huge shower of water... I never imagined such power! Afterwards, I understood why the helicopter-borne assault ship USS Tripoli was so damaged after hitting a drift mine on 18 February, 1991... I saw it at the port in Bahrain.

Did you enter Kuwait, and what were your impressions?

Our ship called in Kuwait City on 24 February, 1991. We were accompanied by a small demining boat for divers named the Pluton. We found other French army soldiers who were in Kuwait. With them, we made patrols in the city. We saw the burning oil wells set on fire by the Iraqis before they retreated. Even with the sun at

its zenith, it was almost dark!

The buildings were all damaged, charred vehicles and debris of all kinds littered the streets. The Iraqis had left behind many home-made explosive devices. Some sites were closed to access by US troops. The Iraqis had also opened the heavy fuel oil slicks and the area around the port was covered with oil slicks.

Did the lessons learned during this campaign help you during the rest of your military career ?

This campaign marked my entire career and my daily life. I realized what a modern conflict was, including about the considerable military equipment. I also measured the dramatic consequences for the populations concerned. This experience made me want to come back to Kuwait one day.

What do you do now ?

I left the French Navy in 2012 after 30 years of service but I kept a strong link with the military community by joining in the same year with the company Defense Conseil International (DCI), in charge of the transfer of French military expertise know-how to friendly forces. I have been an official representative of DCI in Kuwait since July 2020.

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Heartiest Greetings
to the Government and the people of Kuwait
on the occasion of Kuwait's
National Day & Liberation Day

Pierre Bayle Special correspondent in the war zone

Who are you, Pierre Bayle ?

I am retired, after a long career as a journalist. I have been working for Agence France Presse in several parts of the world, namely in the Middle East. There I learned Arabic language.

What was your mission during operation Daguet ?

I was a special correspondent for Agence France Presse to cover the Gulf War and the French Operation Daguet. I arrived in Saudi Arabia in January 1991. We were hundreds of journalists from all over the world. During the air phase of the campaign, I stayed in Arabia, mainly in Riyadh. We had access to command posts and air bases (Dahran and Ahsa) from which coalition planes took off. We ventured onto roads near Kuwait to observe the airstrikes. But the roads were totally saturated with the countless vehicles, tanks, trucks of the coalition. Then, on February 24, I was inserted into a French armored regiment. It was with the 1st Spahis Regiment that I left the Hafar al-Batin camp (Saudi Arabia) heading North to As-Salman military base, a strategic site in southern Iraq. After three days of fighting, our units took control of As-Salman, defeating the Iraqi forces present.

Please describe a highlight of this campaign ?

There have been so many! Of course, I remember the stress when the regiment in which I was embedded entered Iraqi territory, and when we got in contact with the first enemy lines.

Soon after, I was impressed by the humanity of our soldiers, when they captured their surrendering adversaries. Iraqi soldiers were receiving food and medical treatment.

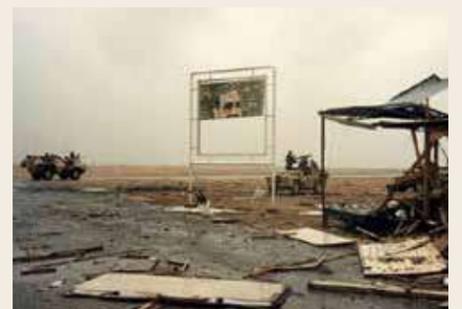
Another point that struck me: the information warfare. The major satellite television channels covered the conflict in real



time. As a war reporter, I had never seen this before.

Did you enter Kuwait? Did something hit your mind ?

I accompanied the French Minister of Defense (Mr. Pierre Joxe) when he visited Kuwait after the war. There, we visited the French units in charge of demining. There were millions of mines under the sand. In Kuwait, I realized that the operation was transitioning. After months of preparing for combat, and then fighting, the coalition evolved into a reconstruction force. This experience is still present in my mind 30 years later. I wanted to write down my memories and photos. I just published them in a journal called "passing by Daguet". (Publisher: Blurb).



Operation Daguet

M. Ibrahim Youssef and M. Camille

Harsh living conditions under Iraqi occupation



Where were you when Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait?

Ibrahim: I was living in Kuwait with my wife and two children. I was an electrician at the time. On 1 August, 1990, I went on vacation to Lebanon with my family, as we did every year. I had no idea what was going to happen the next day. And on 2 August, I heard on television that Kuwait had been invaded by the Iraqi army!

Camille: I was working in Kuwait as a direct seller for a household equipment company. On 2 August in the morning, as I was leaving for work, I saw soldiers

everywhere in the streets and at the crossroads. It was only when I came close that I realized that they were Iraqis. They ordered me to stay at home. There was no way to leave the house for two weeks!

What did you decide to do then?

Ibrahim: I was in Lebanon, I wanted to return to Kuwait despite the war and the occupation. We had an apartment and a car. I wanted to go back to help my Kuwaiti friends. Also I had a job waiting for me... at least that is what I thought. I left with my wife, but our children remained in Lebanon. On 15 August, we decided to hit the road: taxis took us to Syria, then to Jordan, then to Iraq. I returned via Rweishat and it took us two days, but we made it to Kuwait.



Camille: After a few weeks at home, we were allowed to go out again. Without any money, as no one was allowed to withdraw from the bank, you could not do anything. So I decided to open a small bag and suitcase factory. It allowed me to survive.

How was the situation in Kuwait?

Ibrahim: I returned to Kuwait, I was shocked to see a devastated country. I did not expect this. Many buildings were destroyed. Public services were no longer functioning. The streets were deserted. The stores were closed. They had been looted. Even houses had been visited and stolen. We found our apartment in the Hawally district with the front door forced open. Fortunately, the looters had taken almost nothing. However, my car was missing.

Camille: The Iraqis imposed new license plates for cars on us, which read 'Kuwait Province'. If we had Kuwaiti plates, or if we had Kuwaiti money, we could be fired at without warning.

What did you do to survive, since there was nothing in the shops?

Ibrahim: That is right, there was nothing left in the stores. Only a few rare bakeries were still open. The running water was no longer working. In addition, the Kuwaiti dinars were no longer worth anything.

I started looking for work. It was day to day: transporting food, repairing electrical wiring, helping Kuwaitis (they had to stay concealed and could not leave their homes). Everyone was operating in survival mode.

Camille: We would go shopping in improvised markets (souks) in several neighborhoods. There was a souk at the roundabout on Amman Street and another at the Kurdish roundabout in Hawally. You had to be imaginative to find essentials.

How did you end up working for the Embassy of France?

Ibrahim: Quite by chance, I was put in contact with people who worked for the French Embassy, which was in the Jabriya district. It was closed and the building damaged. But a certain Madame Maha was in charge of watching the building. We officially reopened the embassy



on 1 March, after the liberation. French soldiers hoisted the tricolor flag. They had to inspect every room and

to demine if necessary. I helped the diplomats and the military run this embassy, which took a few weeks. Since then, I have not stopped working for the French Embassy in Kuwait. So today I am celebrating 30 years of good and loyal service!

Camille: Same as Ibrahim: I offered my services when the French decided to reopen their embassy. This became possible when the French military arrived. The Iraqis had left a lot of weapons in circulation, fueling trafficking, crime and insecurity.

There were many checkpoints in the streets. To maintain law and order, the Kuwaiti soldiers were assisted by soldiers from other brotherly countries such as Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman.

Heartiest Greetings
 to the Government, citizens and residents of Kuwait
 on the occasion of
National Day and Liberation Day

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