

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*Mission permanente de l'Etat du Koweït
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
Genève*



**الوفد الدائم لدولة الكويت
لدى الأمم المتحدة
جنيف**

Statement
of

**H.E. Mr. Dharar A.R. RAZZOOQI
Ambassador
State of Kuwait**

to the

**60th Session of the
Commission on Human Rights**

Item 9

Geneva, 25th March 2004

Mr. Chairman,

Unprecedented progress has been made for the sake of emancipation and freedom of mankind. We look back in amazement at the fast pace how things have changed the last year.

Kuwait is member of this community. Its relations with all states are governed by treaties and international conventions, the most important of which is our full commitment to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

We know for sure that the past Iraqi regime was an evil one.

We look back and see that the pillars of evil had fallen and Saddam Hussein is in the custody of the law. Justice will apply on the dictator, that same justice that he denied for millions inside Iraq and outside, during one of the most vicious and bloodthirsty regimes we have ever witnessed in our modern era.

Mr. Chairman,

We Kuwaitis know that it is not enough that you have a just cause, it is very important that you fight to defend that cause, and we did it at all levels.

More than 13 years have passed since the invasion of Kuwait, we learned several lessons, we sacrificed more than a thousand of

martyrs and learned that a just cause is worth to continue fighting and sacrificing for it.

For us "it is time to move on but it is not time to forget yet".

Mr. Chairman,

We cherish the fact that there is no more tyranny and tyrant in Iraq, and there are no longer killing fields.

There is no falsification of facts that can match what the past regime was doing.

Let me remind my distinguished colleagues that history is not written in falsehoods. History is written in facts, and the fact is that we live to defend our cherished values and principles.

It is not my intention to discuss the whole policy of deceit by the past Iraqi regime, but rather to limit my intervention to Chapter III concerning Kuwaiti prisoners of war in the report of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Mavrommatis. The past Iraqi regime systematically denied that there were prisoners of war, Kuwaitis or third-country nationals. According to past Iraqi officials, this issue of Kuwaiti prisoners of war is the figment of imagination by the Kuwaitis.

The past Iraqi regime used to reiterate time and time again that it had no prisoners of war, Kuwaitis or other nationalities, and

alleged that Kuwait politicized the issue of prisoners of war in order to prolong the sanctions on Iraq. Unfortunately, in few spectra in the world there was an audience that believed the policy of procrastination and deceit by the past Iraqi regime. Even worse, a few nations in international fora were persuaded favorably by the past Iraqi practices. But thank God, the majority of the international community and the majority of this Commission stood by Kuwait; and for the last 13 years, this Commission adopted its resolutions calling for the release of Kuwaitis and third-country nationals.

After the fall of the past Iraqi regime, the international community witnessed how brutal that regime was. Those previous allegations in previous reports by the Special Rapporteurs about the flagrant violations of human rights in Iraq, are now well-documented facts.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to express my appreciation to both the Special Rapporteurs in Iraq Mr. Max Van Der Stoel and Mr. Mavrommatis. I would like to express my gratitude to their impartiality and objectiveness. Their reports reflected a mere reality, and reality was our aim, irrespective of the sad conclusions.

Kuwait expresses its appreciation for the report contained in document E/CN.4/2004/36 dated 19 March 2004 and the

addendum presented by Mr. Mavrommatis. In Chapter III concerning Kuwaiti prisoners of war, the Special Rapporteur states that he was given various documents by the Kuwaiti authorities recently discovered or received from Iraqi sources indicating the culpability, at the highest level of the Iraqi authorities, and their full knowledge of the fate of the Kuwaiti POWs and other third-country nationals who were unaccounted for and who have been executed.

Mr. Chairman,

Are we vindicated from the false propaganda of the previous regime that Kuwait was politicizing a humanitarian matter? I would say yes, we are vindicated because we were seeking the truth. At the same time, we feel sorry for those who doubted us. We regret that those prisoners of war, Kuwaiti and third-country nationals, whose rights are protected by the Geneva Conventions, were killed in cold blood and some buried with all their clothes on.

The Special Rapporteur also states that the most horrible thing about the abominable crimes committed against POWs was that the Iraqi authorities had often given the order for their almost immediate execution and at the same time had set up an elaborate machinery of deception to hide this fact from the

relatives who had the right to know, as well as from the Tripartite Commission and the International Community.

Up to now, we identified 82 martyrs Kuwaitis and non Kuwaitis.

Finally, the Special Rapporteur strongly condemned the systematic and grave violations of the human rights of Kuwaiti and other third-country nationals who were executed by the Iraqis by order of the highest authority.

Mr. Chairman,

What we learned simply is that you can never for ever hide the truth, it will come out sooner or later.

Those who died in glory of martyrdom did not die in vain. Kuwait is free. Small Kuwait never stood taller than today. Taller with the support that your esteemed Commission gave us in the past years.

Kuwait will continue in its efforts to look for the prisoners of war through the Tripartite Commission. We will work earnestly to identify the remains whom we found in the mass graves in Iraq.

In our region there is dynamic search for peace and security. There are changes which are indications for a better world where cooperation, democratic values will prevail in the current and unstopable conduct of affairs in our civilized world.

The world is witnessing the emergence of a new era and peoples, one that is based on brotherhood reconciliation and respect of international humanitarian law and covenants.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.