

## Prisoners of Conscience

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The meetings of the technical sub-Committee were by and large futile due to Iraqi intransigence and uncooperative attitude.

Although, Iraq has provided scanty details on only 126 POWs nevertheless it has admitted to the taking of POWs and their eventual transfer to Iraqi jails. Despite conceding this fact, they have still refused to disclose any further information on the missing persons. Incidentally, even the Saudis have failed to make any headway in this regard. This Iraqi ploy is nothing new.

They did the same thing with regard to the Iranian POWs who were captured during the Iran-Iraq war. It is easy to fool some of the people some of the time but not all the people all the time. The propaganda machinery of the hostile regime in Iraq has failed to comprehend this fact and that is why Iraq stands alone today when it shuts its eyes to this humanitarian tragedy.

A breakdown of the number of prisoners of different nationalities still held by Iraq is appended below:

Bahraini	01
Omani	01
Lebanese	03
Syrian	04
Egyptian	05
Iranian	05
Saudi	14
Kuwaiti	605

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HOSTAGES**



highlight the issue of these Prisoners of Conscience in each and every international and regional forum, it calls upon all peace loving friendly countries to exert strong pressure on the regime in Iraq to release all Kuwaiti and third country nationals who are still languishing in Iraqi jails. This is one of the pre-requisites of UNSC Resolution 687 to which Iraq has to comply with sincerity and seriousness to merit any consideration of the lifting of sanctions by the apex World Body.

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States in all spheres not only for their mutual benefit but also for the whole Arab nation.

On the Islamic level, Kuwait ardently believes that the progress of the Islamic Ummah is linked with the cooperation and co-existence of the Muslims in a spirit of tolerance and fraternity. Since the dawn of Kuwait's independence, this country exerted strenuous efforts, particularly under Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber al-Sabah, the architect of Kuwait's foreign policy, who worked under the sagacious guidance of His Highness the Amir and the prudent leadership of His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to fulfil Kuwait's strong commitment to the welfare and progress of the Islamic Ummah. This was aptly reflected when it hosted the 5th OIC Summit meeting in January 1987.

On the international plane, Kuwait's foreign relations have always been balanced and based on openness. It is worth mentioning here that Kuwait was the first Gulf country to have recognised and established diplomatic relations with the erstwhile Soviet Union, in the cold war era, when many countries maintained a wary distance from the socialist bloc. This candid approach in the conduct of its relations with other countries, based on cooperation, understanding and continuity, is not a mere coincidence or a passing phase that might be altered with a change of faces in the government.

## Foreign Policy of Kuwait

Rather, it is a philosophy felt deeply by the government and is based on self-confidence and mutual trust between the citizens and the government of Kuwait.

Kuwait aspires to a new approach in International Relations moulded by a New World Order, which is based on international legitimacy and a rejection of the principles of using force, terrorism and aggression to alter the status quo.

Kuwait—strongly advocates the continued role of the United Nations in ensuring international peace and security. Kuwait calls for international cooperation to protect humanity, individuals and groups from the dangers of ethnic, racial and State terrorism and all forms of concomitant threats and blackmails.

Kuwait's strong adherence to what it regards as the basic principles of her external policy has been put to severe tests on a number of occasions.

The brutal invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 is a case in point. Despite the concomitant brutality and terror unleashed by the aggressor, Kuwait did not compromise its principles and honour. His Highness the Amir had once said in October 1985 that "our decision will remain free and we will not yield to black mail, terrorism and emotionalism". This assertion held true five years later during the invasion by Iraq. It was due to the pragmatic leadership and foresight of the rulers of Kuwait that the

brutal aggression was countered. Despite this brutal invasion, Kuwait has no malice towards the Iraqi people in general. Kuwait shares their anguish and pain. However, it agrees with the widely held belief that it is only the ruling clique in Iraq which is responsible not only for the intolerable suffering of the brotherly people of Iraq but also for the breach of peace and stability of the Gulf region.

Kuwait has strong conviction that World peace in general and regional peace, stability and prosperity can only come through a rational approach to divisive issues which could be and should be resolved amicably through discussions.

In this aspect, it has tremendous faith on the United Nations and its principles and charters, as a means of sustaining international legitimacy, peace and security of all the countries. Therefore, it is no mere coincidence that Kuwait shares the belief of all peace loving countries that the compliance of all concerned countries, to the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council with regard to the aggression on Kuwait in 1990, will usher in a new era of peaceful cooperation and co-existence, stability and security and progress and emancipation in the Arab Gulf Region.

*Our Warmest Greetings to the Government and the Brotherly People of The State of Kuwait on their National and Liberation Day*



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## Kuwait: a Partner in Progress

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a loan of US \$200 million to help in financing the infrastructural development projects of the Bangladesh government particularly in energy sector.

These mutually harbored reciprocal sentiments were aptly demonstrated once again when Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, on being appointed Foreign Minister in June 1996, visited Kuwait first, initiating a diplomatic move to foster closer ties with the Muslim world.

The impetus to Kuwait-Bangla ties was given further boost through Kuwaiti involvement as a development partner of Bangladesh which spans over two decades.

Kuwaiti participation in the Bangladeshi development effort is effected through five different mediums. These are:

- (1) Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED);
  - (2) Kuwait Joint Relief Committee (KJRC);
  - (3) Popular Committee of Kuwait;
  - (4) Islamic World Committee;
  - (5) The Society for the Revival of Islamic Heritage.
- All Kuwaiti Official assistance is channelled through KFAED which has provided thirteen long term soft loans to Bangladesh amounting to KD 73,984 million which is equivalent to US Dollar 244,177 million.

A sectoral allocation of this assistance effected through KFAED, is stated below:

Sl.No.	Sector	No. of Loan
1	Agriculture	2 (two)
2	Transport & Communication	2 (two)
3	Electricity	9 (nine)
TOTAL :		13 (thirteen)

Further, in 1980, on a directive from the Amir, Kuwait maintained a deposit of US Dollar 100 million with Bangladesh Bank. In the same year, Kuwait gifted to Bangladesh a Boeing aircraft to help the national carrier of Bangladesh to expand its fleet. Kuwait is presently financing, the construction of two bridges in Shikarpur and Doarika to connect Barisal with the capital city as well as to improve the socio-economic condition of the South-Western part of Bangladesh, and, a road connecting Dhaka with Jafflong through Sylhet.

As Bangladesh stood on the threshold of a new millennium, Kuwait pledged an additional loan of US Dollar 125 million to Bangladesh late last year for implementing 4 new projects in energy and transportation sectors. The projects are:

1. Greater Chittagong Power Distribution Project;
2. Construction of Dopediya Bridge on Barisal-Patukhali Road;
3. Construction of Sangu Bridge on Chittagong-Banshkhali Road;
4. Expansion of Dhaka-Joydevpur Railway Line;
5. Orphan Project;
6. Relief and Rehabilitation programme;
7. Medical Assistance Programme;

Amount in KD	Equ. Amount in Dollar
6,919 million	22,833 million
13,150 million	43,395 million
53,915 million	177,920 million
73,984 million	244,147 million

(Abridged)

*Warmest Felicitations to the Government and the Brotherly People of the State of Kuwait on the Occasion of their 39th National Day*



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*Our Heartiest Felicitations and Warmest Greetings to the Government and the Brotherly People of Kuwait on the Occasion of the 39th National Day of Kuwait*



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*Warmest felicitations to the Brotherly People and the Government of The State of Kuwait on the occasion of their 39th National Day and 9th Liberation Day*



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