



# **INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS**

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

## **Bidoon in the State of Kuwait**

**For more than 60 years, and still the State of Kuwait "Stand helpless" has been unable to resolve a humanitarian issue that is the blackest in its human rights record, and deals with it in a racist and humiliating manner, with almost total refusal to resolve this issue and invoking with arguments that is weak excuses that do not exempt it from performing its minimum duties towards that category.**

**More than 130,000 people living on the land of Kuwait, whom have been deprived of their right to citizenship or to obtain legal residence, thus, they have been denied them basic rights such as education, health, work and Real Estate Property, add to documenting marriage and divorce contracts, registering children, Mobility between countries with their own passports and many more.**

**The number will increase as long as the State of Kuwait continues to deprive children born on its territory who have acquired the status of Bidoon by inheritance from the right to citizenship and to recognize them as legitimate citizens and to enable them to exercise all their rights in violation of article 24 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1996.**

### **Article 24**

- 1. Every child shall have, without any discrimination as to race, color sex, language, religion, national or social origin, property or birth, the right to such measures of protection as are required by his status as a minor, on the part of his family, society and the State.**
- 2. Every child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have a name.**
- 3. Every child has the right to acquire a nationality.**

**The government exploited the sectarian aspect to evade the solution of the Bidoon problem, and illusory the Sunni Deputy Parliamentarians that the most of the Bidoon**



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are Shiite, and if they were naturalized, they will rise Shiites voices in Kuwait. Although this demographic danger in the sectarian distribution was excluded from it the annexation around of 700,000 (seven hundred thousand) new citizen, most of them whom are of Saudi nationality originally, to be dual citizenship Kuwaiti nationality.

The State of Kuwait sought to solve this issue after many procrastinations to establishing the Central Organ to solve the situation of illegal residents, but unfortunately, this step did not increase unless of ill-treatment, humiliation and racial discrimination for the status of the Bidoon on.

The Central Organ for the Addressing the situation of illegal residents was established by Emiri Decree No. 467 of 2010, Which makes it, not subject to legislative and legislative authority by the National Assembly. This allows it to penetrate the constitution and laws and bypass the three authorities (legislative, judicial and executive) and issue orders directly to the executive bodies in the country from ministries, bodies, banks and judicial affairs without interference.

**Article 8: "No bodies shall take any procedures related to deal with the Status of illegal residents without coordination with The Central Organ, as the only official reference authority to deal with this category, and all the governmental bodies and others, must cooperate with The Central Organ to complete its work and to provide it with the information, Documents, documents, which it requests, and compliance with the decisions and circulars issued by The Central Organ".**

The National Assembly is still watching this sitcom without asking to repeal the legislation of this law or amend it as a "legislator" to limit the violations against the Bidoon category and subject it to legislative control. It also was met the issue by silence, Ignore, favoritism, courtesy and applause to The Central Organ and how it illegal deal with the file of the case of stateless persons.

The Bidoon's have been disappointed, after the ignore from all the official bodies for their daily suffering to live freely and with dignity and inhibition them by oppression and detention, the confusion and frustration were evident by appeals to social networking sites, and resorting to human rights organizations, and the Pursuit for asylum in the hope of reaching legitimate humanity rights.



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**According to testimonies received from one of the Bidoon, he asserts that:**

**"The Central Organ exploits of the bad conditions of the Bidoon and asks them to sign a pledge of "correct information" that is fabricated and to recognize the possession of the nationality of one of the neighboring countries or African countries, and requires you to sign undertaking written without seeing the information written in the card (Signe, then you will see what is written) If you do otherwise, they will deprive you from all the Ingredients of life ... note that, that most of Bedoons have had documents and statistics in 1965 and earlier, and most of them served in the Kuwaiti army and police and in the oil sector ....!**

**The Central Organ also sought to classify the Bidoon into four categories, and each category was given limited advantages, which lead to the creation of sensitivity among those categories. It is recalled, that the Kuwaiti Constitution in Article 29 affirms that "people are equal in human dignity and are equal at the law in public rights and duties, not discriminated against by reason of race, origin, language or religion"**

**In a further step to consolidate the odious discrimination against the Bedoons, the Government of the State of Kuwait has rejected the law granting Kuwaiti citizenship to non-Muslims and amending the previous law, which requires to be Muslim, which was voted upon by the Legislative and Legal Committee and its return it back to the National Assembly, despite of this positive step by abolishing the religious condition, from Naturalization Law, but in return expanded the circle Racial of discrimination against Bedoons who have the right and priority to obtain citizenship.**

**The Central Organ also approved the closure of Bedoon bank accounts, and handed over their money to enter into another battle, that would fight them for their livelihood and pension, a decision that prevents them from receiving their salaries and receiving assistance from Zakat House and charitable committees.**

**Recently, The Kuwaiti authorities banned the "Bidoon Cultural Week" which was scheduled to take place on March 30 until April 2, 2019, in order to isolate the Bidoon from the cultural façade of the country.**

**There are many and many daily violations of which a Member State of the United Nations has failed and which are considered a center of humanitarian action in finding a radical solution for it.**



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**Within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism in front of human rights council for state of Kuwait, 20 recommendations were directed on the Bidoon issue, and the necessity of ratifying on the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and the empowerment of Bedoons to fully acquire their rights and the necessity to develop a mechanism for processing citizenship applications Of statelessness in accordance with international standards, and ensure the issuance of their legal documents their own, with their grant of legal status including the recognition of their rights Civil and political.**

**except if, the state of Kuwait's position on these recommendations was negative, by rejecting 19 recommendations and only one recommendation took note of them. On the other hand, The Central Organ to address the affairs of illegal residents affirms, that the granting of Kuwaiti nationality is a sovereign right of the State, which is assessed according to its supreme interests and Subject to controls and conditions Organized by of Kuwaiti Nationality Law No. 15/1959 and its amendments.**

**Public rejection, delay and procrastination in resolving the issue of statelessness in Kuwait makes the policy of racism a real danger that distorts the image of Kuwait, which the ancient legislators sought to keep it shining with democracy, justice and equality.**

**The International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights Demands on the United Nations to put an end to the suffering of the Bedoons in Kuwait at a special emergency session of the Human Rights Council to issue resolutions and help the State of Kuwait to develop radical solutions to solve this problem and highlight Kuwait's violations of Bidoon rights. And the establishment from UN committees Competent by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of minorities, to oversee the handling of this case to avoid any pretext for the Kuwaiti government to procrastinate in resolving this issue and investigate all violations against this category of humanity.**

**The Council Demands the Kuwaiti authorities to abolish all laws and regulations based on racial discrimination against the Bidoon, and to grant them full civil rights, including the right to resort to the judiciary to challenge the decisions of the Central Organ against them. And start the process of naturalization without laying the consequences or give the slightest justification to prolong the process.**



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**The Council Also Confirms the necessity for Kuwait to accede to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness of 1961 and to recognize the right of the Bidoon to citizenship and access to social services.**