



اللجنة الوطنية لشئون الأسرى والمفقودين
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR M. & P.O.W'S AFFAIRS

الرقم : _____

التاريخ : _____

The Honorable Ibrahim M. Al-Shaheen
Deputy chairman of Kuwaiti national committee for P.O.W's in Iraq
April 6th 2006
House Committee on International Relations, Subcommittee on
Oversight and Investigations

Honorable Chairman, Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the people and Government of the State of Kuwait, I extend to you, our utmost thanks and appreciation for your continues support to the issues that are vital to the state of Kuwait, especially to the issue of Kuwaiti POW's in Iraq.

Also extending many thanks to your kind and considerate invitation to participate in this hearing.

May I briefly introduce a summary of this humanitarian tragedy..

On the Second of August 1990, Iraqi armed forces invaded Kuwait in an act of aggression that was universally condemned. The Iraqi forces remained in Kuwait for seven months, during which they committed all sorts of atrocities against the Kuwaiti people. Such as, cruel executions of innocent individuals in front of their families, random and mass arrests of citizens, detained in various locations before transferring them forcefully to prisons in Iraq. A crime against humanity and a violation of human rights.

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During the years that followed the liberation of Kuwait, every conceivable effort was exerted in vain, to convince the former Iraqi regime to account for the fate of the prisoners. A humanitarian committee chaired by the International Red Cross was set up to resolve this issue. Iraq signed its commitment to actively participates in the meetings. But the former regime boycotted the meetings in 1992 until 1994, and then again boycotted from 1998 until 2003. All along, Kuwait insisted on the humanitarian nature of the issue, expressing the importance for the families to know the fate of their loved ones, whether alive and held prisoners, or diseased. Over 50 meetings were held before the fall of Saddam regime, during which Iraq's answers to Kuwait's requests to identify the fate of the prisoners was the claim that it had no information. It was only after the fall of Saddam's regime that the search process picked up steam, breaking free from all deadlock criminally imposed by that regime for such a long period. Key information that had been insistently requested and persistently denied, suddenly became available. It was possible to locate the first mass graves and to start up with the process of mortal remains exhumations and identifications.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Results achieved to date, confirmed through DNA tests, the identification of 227 individuals out of the 605 prisoners. The tests also confirmed the they were executed in 1990-91.

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Hence, it is ascertained that the former Iraqi regime intentionally violating all its obligations on this tragic humanitarian issue.

It is appalling to realize just how much mental distress has been needlessly imposed on POW's families by such immoral behavior extended over such a long period of time , and perhaps for years to come, until all individual cases are definitely resolved. Family members of disappeared persons are certainly considered to be victims as well, and subject to the worse psychological torments.

All possible hints and bits of information leading to identify the final fate and burial site of the prisoners are most valuable. We appreciate the kindness and assistance of our friends in the US in sharing such information. We are aware of the presence of a huge amount of documents alleged to belong to former Iraqi regime. Certainly many of them are useful in resolving several issues. But we have to caution that some of them might be forged. We, In Kuwait have been offered several of such documents. But it is important and most useful to follow all leads, by seriously investigating all available documents and information, so that bits and pieces can be used to solve the many puzzles left by Saddam. Even though that this particular document has discrepancies, other documents could be useful.

To conclude, I extend our thanks to the US Congress, Government and Military, for the support we have been receiving. May I request a more detailed report of this issue to be attached to this statement.

Thank you,

Ibrahim M. Al-Shahee, Ph.D.

CURRICULUM VITAE

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor of Architecture, Washington State University, U.S. 1971
- Master of Architecture, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, U.S. 1973
- Student of Professor Louis Kahn
- Ph. D. in Architecture and Planning, Technical University of Prague, Tchechoslovakia, 1985

Professional:

1977-1991	Director General, National Housing Authority
1988-1991	Vice Chairman, Credit and Loan Bank
1990-1993	Director of the Kuwait Emergency and Reconstruction Program. (The government program for rebuilding Kuwait after liberation war).
1991-1992	Cabinet member Minister of State for Municipal Affairs.
1992	Al-Shaheen Consultant office, Owner.
1993	Member, Supreme council of Housing
Since 1994	Deputy Chairman, National Committee for Kuwait P.O.W's in Iraq.
1993-1997	Member, Board of Directors, Kuwait Real Estate Company, Vice Chairman.
1995-1997	Member Board of Directors, Kuwait Real Estate Bank.
Since 1997	Board member, First Investment Co., Member executive committee.
Since 2002	Chairman, Kuwait Computer Company.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Member of several Architectural Juries.
- Delegate at numerous conferences
- Consultant to Kuwait Institute for Advancement of Science for the Institute's head quarters.
- Member and participant in several activities of Kuwait Society of Engineers.
- Member of Committee to establish Department of Architecture at Kuwait University.

Publications:

- * Book "Architecture Development in Kuwait" in 1989
- * Book "Urban Development in Gulf Area" in 1989

Non-Professional and Charitable Activities:

- Member of Board, Al-Najat Charity Society-Treasurer.
- Member of Board, Africa Muslim Agency (Direct Aid Society)-Treasurer.
- Oil Painting
- Member of Kuwait Red Crescent