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The Permanent Delegation of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations Office in Geneva presents its best regards to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

With reference to the letter of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of association dated 15 February 2023, in which he requests information about the procedures, directives and protocols in place by law enforcement officials to maintain order in peaceful demonstrations, we inform you of the response of the Ministry of the Interior in this regard. as follows:

□ With regard to the laws and procedures that regulate protests and peaceful gatherings, there are no regulations or policies that impose restrictions on them in the State of Kuwait, provided that permits are obtained from the Ministry of Interior and commitment to peace and order by the demonstrators, and there are no challenges or obstacles facing the authorities during the demonstrations, so that the directives are **The security services must exercise restraint, avoid contact with demonstrators, and not use force except when necessary, such as in cases of creating chaos.**

□ Law enforcers in the Ministry also receive courses inside and outside the country accredited by various bodies to obtain a high level of training on an ongoing basis through refresher courses, and to ensure the safety of law enforcers. The force is equipped with the necessary tools used in democratic

countries to maintain security and order, and the security services are charged with maintaining The system during demonstrations. There are several sectors involved in this task, all of which are under the supervision of His Excellency the distinguished Lieutenant General/ Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, and leaders are always continuously trained to lead crisis and disaster management.

□ Laws, regulations and decisions are implemented, including but not limited to the Kuwaiti Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure and Trials, and through the tasks and powers assigned to the public security sector by registering reports and complaints that constitute any human rights violations and referring them to investigation authorities.

□ It is also possible to file a civil lawsuit before the criminal courts in accordance with what was stipulated in Article No. (111) of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Trials No. (17) of 1960, which stipulates: “Everyone who suffers harm due to the crime may file a lawsuit for his civil rights before the court that hears the criminal lawsuit.” , in whatever state the case is until the pleading is completed, and in this case he has the status of an injured plaintiff in the criminal case if someone else is the one who filed it. The civil plaintiff may claim his right during the preliminary investigation with a request he submits to the investigator, and he is treated as a plaintiff party during the investigation.”

□ The public security sector also takes all necessary measures to provide accountability for cases involving gross human rights violations, and these measures include the following:

- 1– Receiving reports of all types, examining them from a legal perspective, collecting information related to them, and recording them in the records;
- 2– Go to the place where the event occurred, inspect and initiate procedures by hearing the statements of the informant, witnesses, and the statements of the accused, dealing with the report, and notifying the investigating authorities thereof.
- 3– Register any violation case and refer it to the competent authorities;
- 4– Implementing the decisions issued by the competent investigation authorities;
- 5– Take all necessary precautions regarding reports and preserve physical evidence at the crime scene;
- 6– Among the measures taken by Public Security is to move to the place where the event occurred, inspect and initiate its procedures by hearing the statements of the informant, witnesses, and the statements of the accused, dealing with the report, notifying the investigating authorities, recording the related cases and referring them to the competent authorities, taking all necessary precautions regarding reports, and preserving physical evidence at the crime scene.

□ Note that those affected come to police stations to submit reports and complaints related to this matter and then refer them to the competent authorities to effectively and quickly investigate any allegations of human rights violations, including abuse of power and arbitrary detention whenever they are used by police officers.

□ The Ministry of Interior is also preparing a plan to facilitate demonstrations in accordance with the law by issuing orders and instructions to the field

commander to adhere to recommendations and human rights protocols in order to protect the demonstrators and gradually deal with the demonstrators through guidance, warnings, and warnings not to violate the law.

□ It should be noted that there are no arrests or arrests outside the framework of the law of demonstrators who are required to obtain permission and approvals from the relevant authorities in accordance with the law.

□ In all cases, the events are documented by the law enforcement force to identify those who transgress by the security personnel, who are referred to the competent authorities (the judiciary).

The Permanent Delegation of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations Office in Geneva takes this opportunity to express its utmost gratitude and appreciation to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom
of peaceful assembly and association
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palace of Nations
1211 Geneva 10