

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/CONF.157/NI/3  
3 June 1993

ENGLISH  
Original: ENGLISH

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Vienna, 14-25 June 1993  
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

GENERAL DEBATE ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
AND ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF OBSTACLES TO FURTHER PROGRESS IN  
THIS AREA AND WAYS IN WHICH THEY CAN BE OVERCOME

Contribution by the Committee on the Defence of Human Rights of Kuwait

Questionnaire on parliamentary human rights bodies

Country: Kuwait

Nature of parliament: Single Chamber National Assembly

Name of body: Committee on the Defence of Human Rights

Date of founding: 24 October 1992

Nature (standing/ad hoc): Temporary, it was approved as a standing committee  
on 2 February 1993

Terms of reference:

(a) To follow up governmental bodies' functions to ensure their  
compliance with human rights;

(b) To hold symposia, to undertake research relating to human rights,  
to aim at establishing a specialized library containing all documents relating  
to human rights in order to enlighten the people about human rights;

(c) To promote contacts with international organizations, public bodies  
and world parliaments to exchange information and experiences;

(d) To follow up human rights violations around the world;

(e) To receive complaints linked to human rights and to bring about suitable solutions in joint efforts with official bodies;

(f) To make sure of securing fair treatment for the accused and the imprisoned as well as guarantees of respect for their human dignity.

Composition, mode of appointment and length of members' terms: The Committee is composed of seven members, who are recommended by the members of the National Assembly

Chairmanship: The members of the Committee elect the Chairman and the Rapporteur from among its members. The present officers are Mr. Mohammed S. Al Marshad, Chairman and Mr. Ahmed Al-Nassar, Rapporteur.

Relations with the other bodies of the Chamber: It is one of the parliamentary committees of the National Assembly. The standing order of the National Assembly regulates the relations between these committees.

Relations with the national Government: The Committee is independent of governmental bodies by virtue of the principle of separation of powers; nevertheless, these bodies cooperate with each other.

Other information: The Committee held 27 sessions from 24 October 1992 to 16 May 1993. It contacted some prominent organizations and persons, some of which were:

(a) Minister of Justice and Administrative Affairs (State of Kuwait);

(b) Attorney-General (State of Kuwait);

(c) Kuwait Association to Defend War Victims;

(d) International Committee of the Red Cross;

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(f) Mr. Neil Hicts, Coordinator of the Middle East and North Africa programme of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights and Dr. Ann Mayer, a consultant to the Committee;

(g) Arab Lawyers Committee;

(h) The Ambassador of the United States of America to Kuwait;

(i) The Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Kuwait;

(j) The Consul of Germany in Kuwait.

-----