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**FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Letter dated 8 December 1988 from the Permanent Representative of  
Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement issued by Kuwait on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 38.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement issued by Kuwait on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary  
of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The world is celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration is rightly considered as an outstanding historical event and one of the most significant of the major achievements in the history of the United Nations.

The lofty principles laid down in the Declaration remain vital with respect to their goals and objectives in creating a better world in which justice, freedom and peace prevail and where there is no discrimination by reason of race, colour, language or religion or on any other grounds.

The ongoing international observance of this anniversary reflects the genuine desire of the peoples of the world for respect for the legitimate and inalienable human rights for which the Declaration calls and without which injustice, oppression and iniquity would prevail.

The translation of the principles of the Declaration into law acquires an obligatory character for the States of the world and, in essence, has the goal of eliminating the exploitation of man by man.

Kuwait strongly believes in the right of all individuals to freedom, honour and a life of dignity, and it supports social justice and equality of opportunity for all individuals, as is affirmed in the clear and unequivocal provisions of the Kuwaiti Constitution.

In recalling these exalted humanitarian principles, Kuwait can only express its grief that racist practices in flagrant violation of elementary principles of human rights persist in the world.

The plight of the Palestinian people and its being deprived of the most elementary legitimate and humanitarian rights by racist Israeli usurpers is the best living example of such violations.

The odious racist practices of the white racist minority in South Africa are one more example of the fact that such heinous violations persist in our civilized world.

The implementation of the principles of human rights, which we consider as a constitution for the conduct of States, must be based on justice, equality and fairness and must not apply to some peoples rather than others.

Our observance of this historic occasion must provide the international community with the opportunity to reaffirm the principles of the Declaration and to abide by them in letter and spirit in all fields and with respect to all peoples.