

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

0083

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 31, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: SISTER PATRICIA KROMMER C.S.J.

SUBJECT: VIEWS REGARDING SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS TAKING PLACE IN KUWAIT

ACTION DISPOSITION

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME) ACT CODE DATE YY/MM/DD TYPE RESP C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ORG 91/05/31 [Handwritten initials] 91/06/21 [Handwritten date]

REFERRAL NOTE:

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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4500 4800

MI MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

*ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION *OUTGOING *
* * *CORRESPONDENCE: *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL * OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-COMPLETED * CODE = A *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC * OUTGOING *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * * *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE * * *
*X-INTERIM REPLY * * *

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 9110010

Date June 24, 1991

FOR: Mr. William F. Sittmann
Executive Secretary
National Security Council Staff
The White House

REFERENCE:

To: The President

From: Sister Patricia Krommer C.S.J.

Date: May 21, 1991

Subject: Views regarding serious human rights violations
taking place in Kuwait

WH Referral Dated: June 4, 1991

NSCS ID# (if any): 242501

 The attached item was sent directly to the
Department of State

ACTION TAKEN:

 A draft reply is attached.

 A draft reply will be forwarded.

 A translation is attached.

 X An information copy of a direct reply is attached.

 We believe no response is necessary for the reason
cited below.

 The Department of State has no objection to the
proposed travel.

 Other (see remarks).

REMARKS:

Susan R. Edwards
for Director
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED

SITUATION ROOM

91 JUN 24 10 : 46
91 JUN 25 7 : 21

WHITE HOUSE

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RECEIVED



United States Department of State .

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 21, 1991

Dear Sister Krommer:

I am replying on the President's behalf to your letter of May 21, 1991, in which you expressed concerns about human rights problems in Kuwait.

Although some non-Kuwaitis, Palestinians included, helped the resistance, there is still a widespread perception among the Kuwaiti populace that many actively assisted Saddam Hussein's troops during their brutal occupation of Kuwait. Given the horrors inflicted upon Kuwaiti families by Iraqi forces, the potential for retribution is great.

The U.S. Government repeatedly raised this danger with the Government of Kuwait prior to the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf. We made it clear that extra-judicial reprisals and widespread summary expulsions would not be acceptable. The rights of all residents of Kuwait should be respected and individuals should not be allowed to take the law into their own hands, regardless of the suffering they or their loved ones may have experienced.

With these concerns in mind, members of the U.S. Army Reserve 352nd Civil Affairs Command worked closely with officials from a variety of Kuwaiti Government agencies to plan for the restoration of lawful civil authority in Kuwait. These efforts were effective in significantly reducing, although not completely preventing, acts of retribution. Kuwaiti officials have investigated those incidents of abuse which have occurred, and worked to prevent the widespread reprisals which many had feared. The Kuwaiti Army has pulled back out of the city, and the police have resumed their responsibilities for civil order. Ministry of Justice officials have been placed in police and military stations to establish a civilian watchdog presence there.

We also welcome the Kuwaiti Government's authorization of unfettered access for the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) to all detention sites, so that the ICRC may monitor the procedures and conditions under which the detainees are held, and identify any unacceptable treatment.

The U.S. Government has been concerned by claims made by Kuwaiti defense attorneys regarding the security trials and reports on the handing down of excessive sentences. We have made it clear to the Kuwaiti government that all trials must be fair and that all defendants must be afforded due process in accordance with international human rights standards. Kuwait has taken some positive steps to allay these concerns. The trials have been open to the public and international observers. Defendants are being provided counsel and lawyers are apparently being given more time to prepare for the trials. Some cases have been dismissed for lack of evidence. We shall continue to emphasize to the Government of Kuwait that fair trials must be provided to all accused.

We expect the Government of Kuwait to continue its efforts to suppress vigilantism. The U.S. Embassy will continue to investigate independently allegations of abuse and, if it has confirmed reports, raise our concerns with the Kuwaiti Government.

Given the intensity and breadth of the Kuwaiti people's animosity toward those regarded as having cooperated with the Iraqi occupiers, the potential for private retribution remains. The U.S. Government will continue to work to see that such actions are avoided, through ongoing cooperation with the Government of Kuwait and the international community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas R. Keene". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Douglas R. Keene
Director
Office of Arabian Peninsula Affairs

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

9110010

'91 JUN-04 9:40 AM
JUNE 4, 1991

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 242501

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MAY 21, 1991

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: SISTER PATRICIA KROMMER C.S.J.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HUMANITARIAN LAW PROJECT
8124 WEST 3RD STREET
LOS ANGELES CA 90048

SUBJECT: VIEWS REGARDING SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS TAKING PLACE IN KUWAIT

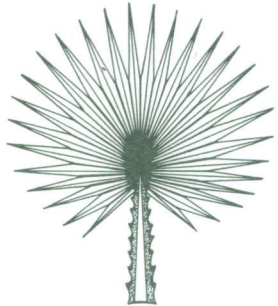
PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

242501

1/1
DOS



HUMANITARIAN LAW PROJECT

8124 West 3rd Street
Los Angeles, California 90048
Phone: (213) 658-7156
Fax: (213) 658-8349

May 21, 1991

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Executive Director

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

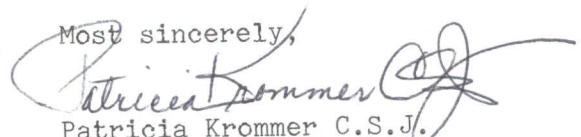
Newspaper accounts and television news coverage have revealed in the past weeks some serious human rights violations taking place in Kuwait. Amnesty International has released several reports which are deeply troubling regarding the so-called "legal process" and the systematic torture of jailed "suspects." The U.S. State Department has even made comments through their spokesperson, Ms. Tutweiler, regarding the rather short shrift justice being meted out to suspected "collaborators."

This is both a dangerous situation, and one which is easily manipulated to serve less than just purposes. A particular target appears to be Palestinians.

For the United States to step back and permit such an arbitrary situation not only gives tacit approval of potential and actual miscarriage of justice, but becomes a source of embarrassment to the United States in the wake of our efforts to liberate that country.

I respectfully request, therefore, that you intervene with the authorities in Kuwait, and support international monitors, such as Amnesty International who are providing documented information to the world, and the media. This situation should not be permitted to continue.

I look forward to your response to this request, and to a policy in relationship to Kuwait which expects the same quality of justice as has been defined in international law, in the International Declaration of Human Rights, and as practiced by law-abiding nations in the World Community.

Most sincerely,

Patricia Krommer C.S.J.
Executive Director

Cc: Board of Directors

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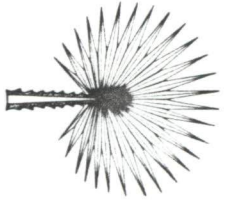
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*For identification only



**HUMANITARIAN
LAW PROJECT**

8124 West 3rd Street
Los Angeles, California
90048

Address Correction Requested



President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

