

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 252476

0083

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 09, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. JAMES C. HARRINGTON

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN REGARDING REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN KUWAIT

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
JIM SCHAEFER		ORG	91/07/09	<i>AJA</i>	109/15 TC
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4800 4640 _____

PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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*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      *                      *                      *
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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.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 15, 1991

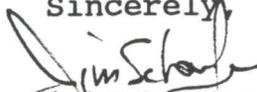
James C. Harrington
Legal Director
Texas Civil Rights Project
227 Congress Avenue
Suite 340
Austin, TX 78701-4021

Dear Mr. Harrington,

On behalf of President Bush, I would like to thank you for your recent letter expressing your concern regarding reports of human rights violations in Kuwait occurring since the Iraqi occupation. Please be rest assured that your comments have been shared with the appropriate individuals and will be given the greatest review and consideration.

Again, let me thank you on behalf of the President for sharing your thoughts with us on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Jim Schaefer
Assistant Director
Office of Public Liaison

11
J. Schaeffer

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TEXAS CIVIL RIGHTS PROJECT

227 Congress Avenue (Suite 340) Austin, Texas 78701-4021
(512) 474-5073

James C. Harrington
Legal Director

July 5, 1991

President George Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

I am concerned about reports of human rights violations in Kuwait. These violations call to question the Kuwaiti government's commitment to allowing, as you said, "human rights to find a home among all nations." I request your personal intervention with the Kuwaiti government to halt these abuses.

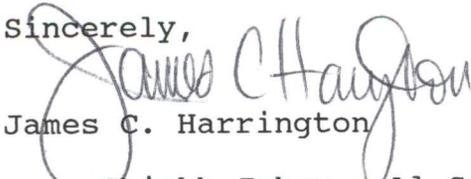
Reports from Kuwait highlight trials which fall short of internationally recognized standards of fairness. The use of confessions possibly obtained through torture, the failure to inform the defendant of the charge at the time of arrest, and the denial of the right to appeal sentences to a higher tribunal are violations of international law.

Additionally, the reported practice of the Kuwaiti authorities of summarily expelling individuals to Iraq when these people will be at large risk of arbitrary imprisonment, torture, "disappearance" or execution demands an international response. This practice of sending people to a country in which they would be at risk of abuses of this type contravenes the principle of non-refoulement, which is binding on all states.

The suspension of human rights today in Kuwait is not an internal matter. Disregard of human rights anywhere is an issue which the international community has an obligation to remedy. I call on you to urge the Kuwaiti authorities to review all sentences under the military tribunals, ensure all defendants with a fair trial, halt the summary expulsions and implement asylum procedures and allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to inspect these procedures.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,


James C. Harrington

cc: Shiekh Jaber a Al-Sabah
P.O. Box 799
Safat 13008
Kuwait