

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 265594

CO 083

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 27, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. RICHARD D. ATKINS

SUBJECT: VIEWS REGARDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
WHICH HAVE BEEN OCCURRING IN KUWAIT SINCE THE
END OF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
JIM SCHAEFER		ORG	91/08/27	AS A	91/09/15 TC
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4800 4640

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

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

Richard D. Atkins
Executive Offices
24th Floor
Packard Building
111 South 15th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Mr. Atkins,

On behalf of President Bush, I would like to thank you for your recent letter expressing your views regarding the human rights violations which have been occurring in Kuwait since the end of 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

265594

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL DEFENSE COUNSEL

EXECUTIVE OFFICES • 24TH FLOOR • PACKARD BUILDING • 111 SOUTH 15TH STREET • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102 USA • (215) 977-9982
Telex: 4930187 ILDCUI
Fax: 215-564-2859

Reply to:

August 20, 1991

RICHARD D. ATKINS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
24TH FLOOR, PACKARD BLD'G
111 SOUTH 15TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102
(215) 751-9500

GERALD H. GOLDSTEIN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
29TH FLOOR
TOWER LIFE BLD'G
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78205
(512) 226-1463

MICHAEL GRIFFITH
ATTORNEY AT LAW
250 OLD COUNTRY ROAD
MINEOLA, NY 11501
(516) 747-3344

THEODORE SIMON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
SUITE 2400, ARCHITECTS BLD'G
117 SOUTH 17TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103
(215) 563-5550

J. Schaefer

President George Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you today concerning a human rights matter which is of concern to me both as a lawyer and as a human being. I am referring to the human rights violations which have been occurring in Kuwait since the end of the Iraqi occupation. As I am sure you are aware, there have been many abuses involved in the trial of "collaborators" of the Iraqi invasion. I am writing to you to request your personal attention into this matter and intervention with the Kuwaiti authorities to halt these abuses.

In many of the trials for the collaborators much of the evidence used has been obtained through torture and involuntary confessions. In addition, Kuwaiti authorities have often failed to inform the defendant of the charge against him/her at the time of arrest and have further denied defendants the rights to appeal their sentences to higher tribunals. As these abuses are violations of international law, as well as the fundamental principles of due process, and since the possible penalties for collaboration include the death penalty (which has already been sentenced over thirteen times), it is extremely important that the international community respond to the situation and do so quickly.

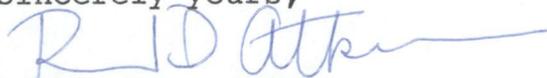
Furthermore, I am especially concerned over the reported practice by the Kuwaiti officials of expelling non-Kuwaiti residents, including many Palestinians, to Iraq. In Iraq these individuals are at risk of imprisonment, torture or execution, and as is the case, these summary expulsions represent a clear violation of international law.

President George Bush
August 20, 1991
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In my experience in international criminal law, I have had the opportunity to observe the judicial process in many foreign countries, and I am extremely concerned at the state of the judicial process of Kuwait, so soon after it has been liberated from the oppressive Iraqi regime. I urge you to put pressure on the Kuwaiti authorities to review all sentences under the military tribunals, and to ensure that all defendants receive a fair trial and are afforded the opportunity to appeal sentences, and that the practice of summary expulsions be immediately stopped.

Thank you very much for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Richard D. Atkins

RDA/br

cc: His Highness Sheiekh Jaber Al-Sabah
P.O. Box 799
Safat 13008 Kuwait