

'This is Bahrain' in hot water

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Additionally, they shared old pictures showing Bahrainis protesting and taking part in Arab-Israeli war in the 1940s, to further emphasise on the stance of the people of Bahrain towards the Arabism of the Palestinian lands.

The matter also escalated as several lawmakers pledged to hold the group accountable for the "shameful visit". This included Second Deputy Speaker of the Parliament Abdulhalim Murad, the council's Permanent Committee for the Support of the Palestinian People Committee Chairman Mohammed Al Emmadi, MP Ghazi Al Rahma to mention a few.

Al Rahma commented on his official page on Twitter that "the group doesn't represent the people of Bahrain and it should be disowned".

"This is Bahrain, by its action, have humiliated all Bahrainis, and this matter will not casually pass through. Holding it accountable for its heinous act is a national duty," Al Rahma said while pledging to take action against the group.

'No official visit'

In its first response to the online frenzy, 'This is Bahrain' affirmed in a written statement that "the visit isn't official" and that "the delegation isn't representing any official establishment".

The statement read, "This is Bahrain delegation visiting Israel and comprising of expatriates from various religious affiliations living in Bahrain does not represent any official entity".

"With reference to reports

carried by some media and social networking sites about the visit of a delegation from "This is Bahrain" to Israel and Occupied Jerusalem, the society confirms that the delegation, which includes some foreign nationals from different religions residing in the Kingdom of Bahrain, does not represent any official body in the Kingdom. The delegation represents solely the society and has undertaken the visit on its own initiative," the society said in its statement.

It also mentioned, "The initiative by 'This is Bahrain' is based on the principle of tolerance and coexistence, an approach embraced by the Kingdom of Bahrain and a feature of its society, and aims to visit Islamic, Christian, Jewish and other holy sites across the world."

Fateel stressed on the same and clarified further by tweeting, "Firstly, the visit of Al Aqsa Mosque is desirable for every Muslim, and secondly, it is a religious delegation, not a political one. Thirdly, the delegation stressed the position of His Majesty the King on the just Palestinian issue and that Al Quds is the capital of occupied Palestine and fourthly there is no normalisation or any letter to Israel with us. Fifthly, there is no fair media coverage and the source has fabricated our speech."

"We are not a government delegation and we don't believe in the normalisation with the Zionists. I represent only myself and the statement

was cropped and edited. Bottom-line is that we attended a religious conference for tolerance and coexistence and visited the Al Aqsa Mosque and we affirmed the right of the Palestinian people in their state with Al Quds as its capital," Fateel added.

Not kicked out

Several Palestinian and regional

news agencies reported that the delegation was asked to leave the premises of Al Aqsa Mosque by the Palestinian Endowments. However, this couldn't be confirmed.

Despite Fateel's confirmation of visiting the mosque, a member of the group told DT New that "they weren't asked to leave the mosque as they didn't even visit it".



Fadhel Fateel speaking to Israeli media



A picture shared online of protests in Bahrain during the Arab-Israeli war in the 1940s



A picture posted online claimed to be of Bahraini soldiers taking part in the Arab-Israeli war in the 1940s



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