

Bahraini lawmakers lash Qatari hostility

MPs affirm full support for all measures taken by the UAE to maintain its security and stability

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Parliamentarians yesterday strongly condemned the hostile acts of Qatari jets against civilian aircrafts in the region.

In a joint statement issued, the lawmakers said: "The House of Representatives strongly condemns the hostile behaviour of the State of Qatar against UAE civilian aircrafts, which also resulted in endangering the safety of regional civil aviation and the lives of innocent people."

The Council affirmed that the interception is a violation of international conventions, norms and humanitarian values.

Bahrain, the lawmakers said, will support all measures taken by the UAE to maintain its security and stability.

Qatari fighter jets, on January 15, intercepted a UAE flag carrier en route to the Manama forcing both the UAE and Bahrain to file complaints against the country at the UN aviation agency. Qatari officials, however, denied the incident.

In a formal complaint to

the UN's International Civil Aviation Organisation, the Emirates said that Qatari acts were a violation of the Chicago Convention, which governs the use of airspace.

Even though Qatari officials denied the incident, Bahrain's Civil Aviation Affairs in Transportation and Telecommunications Ministry released radar tracks proving the interception.

According to the recordings released by Bahrain's state television, Emirates flight No. EK837 was flying from Dubai towards Bahrain International Airport at 3,170 meters (10,400 feet). The footages also showed Qatari fighter jets flying at around 2,590 meters (8,500 feet) and crossed briefly in front of the Emirates plane's flight path.

The MPs also warned in their statement that the "practices of the Qatari regime and its disregard for international laws cannot be tolerated, which at the same time also proves that the hostile Qatari practices are a threat to the peace, security and stability of the region."



Parliament session in progress

Expats replacing Bahrainis in govt jobs: MP

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All Bahraini retirees in the public sector were replaced by expats from 2013 to 2017, a Bahraini MP claimed.

Speaking during a regular weekly session of the House of Representatives yesterday, Financial and Economic Affairs Committee Member MP Jalal Kadhim said: "A total of 4,250 Bahraini government employees retired in the past four years and they were all replaced by expats."

Kadhim made the claims during a discussion on a reply made by the Civil Service Bureau (CSB)'s on the numbers of temporary Bahraini employees working in the public sector.

CSB, in its reply, told the MP that there are currently 44 temporary Bahraini employees working in the sector, which Kadhim pointed out

as unclear and an evasion to his questions.

Citing his previous meetings with ministers and heads of various authorities on the issue, Kadhim told the session: "A large number of Bahrainis are currently working on a temporary basis in these establishments, which is way more than what CSB claims."

"56 temporary employees are working in the Labour and Social Development Ministry for the past six years," Kadhim said.

There are "more than 400 temporary employees in Education Ministry, 47 in Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry and 132 in the Information Affairs Ministry."

"Why can't CSB be transparent and clear about these figures," he asked stressing that "this reflects occupational instability in the Kingdom of Bahrain."

He told the session that contracts

of non-Bahrainis working in the government sector are renewed automatically biennially, allowing them to lead a "luxurious life at the cost of citizens."

This happens, the MP said, when Bahrainis are being relieved or terminated from their jobs. "This instability is harmful to Bahraini families."

Citing an earlier reply by Finance Minister Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Kadhim said: "There are 4,250 expats employed in government establishments between the years 2013-2017."

"The authorities reply to our queries, claiming they're not sparing any effort to reduce unemployment among Bahrainis, are only mere ink on paper," he said.

"There are Bahrainis working temporarily in the government for over 11 years, without any occupational stability. Because of this,

"56 temporary employees are working in the Labour and Social Development Ministry, while there are "more than 400 temporary employees in Education Ministry, 47 in Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry and 132 in the Information Affairs Ministry"

they're not eligible for any bonuses, incentives and promotions," the MP stressed.

Replying to the MP was the government's representative at the session, Shura Council and Representative Council Affairs Minister Ghanim Al Buainain.

The minister insisted that the reply to the MP's queries was sufficient and underlined that "they were only directed to the CSB, not any other authority, and only tackled the number of temporary Bahraini employees in the government, not expats".