

Stranded Bahrainis 'struggling' to return home from Iraqi cities

MPs urge govt intervention to bring all Bahrainis home from Iraq

● The MPs stated that they have been contacted by families who said that their relatives are in Iraq, struggling to come back.

● Bahrain Embassy in Iraq said that it has been receiving calls from citizens, who wanted to return to the Kingdom.

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Bahraini citizens stranded in Iraq are struggling to come back, according to parliamentarians.

The lawmakers said that there were many Bahrainis caught in unsafe places in Iraq and are unable to return to the Kingdom.

They urged the government to speed up efforts to send all Bahrainis home as Iraq is moving to more instability.

The MPs who submitted the proposal include Ahmed Al Damistani, Zainab Amir, Fadhel Al Sawad, Ahmed Al Saloom and Hamad Al Kooheji.

The MPs stated that they have been contacted by families who



The lawmakers claimed that many Bahrainis were unable to return to the Kingdom.

said that their relatives are in Iraq, struggling to come back.

Last week, Bahrain Embassy in Iraq said that it has been receiving calls from citizens, who wanted to return to the Kingdom following escalation of clashes in the country.

The embassy stated that it is working with an airlines to ensure their safe return to the Kingdom as soon as possible.

"All Bahraini citizens in Iraq will receive required attention and support," the embassy stated.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has warned citizens against travelling to Iraq amidst the recent developments.

"The Kingdom of Bahrain is following the development of events in the brotherly Republic of Iraq that came as a result of the condemned terrorist acts which the Kingdom previously denounced, stressing the need to de-escalate in order to overcome this period, and to address all forms of violence, extremism and terrorism,"

the ministry stated.

"The Kingdom also stresses the importance of immediate action to be taken by the international community, affirming the need to take all necessary measures to ensure security and stability in the region because of its vital and strategic importance for the



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BAHRAIN EMBASSY

whole world," it added.

Iraq's parliament has already urged the government to remove thousands of American troops from the country, stepping up pressure over the US killing of a top Iranian general in Baghdad.

US installations were also facing new military stresses, with missiles slamming into the Baghdad enclave where the US embassy is located and an air base north of the capital housing American troops.

Ties have deteriorated after an American precision drone strike on the Baghdad international airport that killed Iran's Major General Qassem Soleimani and top Iraqi military figure Abu Mahdi

Al Muhandis.

Iraq's foreign ministry summoned the US ambassador, while caretaker premier Adel Abdel Mahdi attended an extraordinary parliamentary session to slam the strike as a "political assassination."

He joined 168 lawmakers — just enough for quorum in Iraq's 329-seat parliament — to discuss the removal of US troops.

Some 5,200 US soldiers are stationed across Iraqi bases to support local troops preventing a resurgence of Daesh.

They are deployed as part of the broader international coalition, invited by the Iraqi government in 2014 to help fight Daesh.

"The parliament has voted to commit the Iraqi government to cancel its request to the international coalition for help to fight IS," speaker Mohammed Halbusi announced, using another acronym for Daesh.

The Cabinet would have to approve any decision but the premier had earlier indicated support for a removal.

House rejects plan to stop sale of energy drinks to under 18

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Plan to restrict sale of energy drinks to youngsters under 18 years old has been rejected by the Parliament.

The rejected proposal called for imposing a fine as high as BD2,000 on shops that sell energy drinks to youngsters under 18 years.

The proposal, which was intended to improve the health of the youth of the country came under intense debate in the parliament yesterday.

However, the Parliamentary Services Committee recommended that the council reject the proposal as there are regulations already in place.

"There is no need for a law; there is the Gulf technical regulations that we follow and a

We follow Gulf technical regulations and a special law is not required in this case.

SERVICES COMMITTEE

special law is not required in this case."

The proposal was earlier approved by the Shura Council.

The council approved fines ranging from BD100 to BD2,000 for non-compliance with the proposed law.

It also instructed sellers of energy drinks to put up a clear sign that those under 18 cannot buy energy drinks.

The proposal also included article that prohibited manufac-

ture, import or trade energy drinks products that are not compatible with the regulations.

The council stated that due to the unhealthy nature of energy drinks, it aims to reduce its consumption in the country.

The move comes in light of research that excessive consumption of energy drinks can lead to severe health problems in children.

Anxiety, insomnia, gastrointestinal upset, headaches, and hyperactivity are some of the side effects of high level of consumption of energy drinks.

More serious long-term effects such as diabetes and heart disease have also been associated with energy drink consumption, according to experts.

Tamkeen, society sign agreement

Manama

Labour Fund (Tamkeen) and Good Word Society have signed an agreement to hone the skills of Bahraini job-seekers and facilitating their entry into the entrepreneurship sector after their graduation.

Tamkeen Chief Executive Officer Dr Ibrahim Mohammed Janahi signed the agreement with Good Word Society Chairman Hassan Mohammed Bouhazza.

A series of workshops will be held for the participants benefiting from the programme, who will also pay field visits to execu-

tive and consultancy authorities to be updated about successful entrepreneurs and hone their practical skills.

Under the agreement, a batch of twenty young participants will be trained on the entrepreneurship, targeting particularly job-seekers who are registered with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development Ministry.

Mr Humaidan recently held a meeting with Transportation and Telecommunications Minister Kamal Ahmed and discussed ways of benefiting from the opportunities in this sector to provide jobs for citizens.

The meeting followed the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister to support the business environment in all productive sectors and integrate jobseekers in the private sector.

Mr Humaidan stressed the importance of stepping all efforts to support different economic and development sectors and removing all obstacles hindering them so as to attract investments and woo more companies that generate jobs for citizens.

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