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June 30, 1993

(By Facsimile)
His Excellency Meshari al-Anjari
Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs
Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs
Al-Safat
Kuwait City
Kuwait

Your Excellency,

The Lawyers Committee for Human Rights was pleased to meet with you during its visit to Kuwait in January 1993. We were encouraged to learn during that meeting of your personal commitment to the passage of legislation aimed at increasing safeguards for the independence of the judiciary in Kuwait, and to learn of your concern that the government of Kuwait should abide by human rights standards.

Since our visit to Kuwait we have observed with disquiet the continuation of trials of alleged collaborators with Iraqi occupation forces taking place before State Security Courts. We believe that these trials fall short of international standards for fair trial, as set down in Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The Lawyers Committee's concerns about trials before State Security Courts were laid out in our two reports: *Kuwait, Building the Rule of Law*, January 1992, and *Laying the Foundations, Human Rights in Kuwait: Obstacles and Opportunities*, April 1993. These objections include: the lack of an adequate right to appeal against State Security Court verdicts; and in particular, concern that abuses, which took place during the early weeks and months of detention of many of the prisoners currently being brought to trial, may invalidate much of the evidence on which convictions are being based.

The Lawyers Committee has formal relations with the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of American States.