

Advocacy dossier

Mansoor Al-Muhareb

منصور المحارب

At liberty **Kuwait**

Mansoor Al-Muhareb is a Kuwaiti blogger living in exile in London who has been sentenced in absentia in two cases over his posts on X. Kuwait revoked his citizenship by Emiri Decree No. 121 of 2026 on 28 July 2026.

01

The case at a glance

Mansoor Al-Muhareb is a Kuwaiti blogger living in exile in London who has been sentenced in absentia in two cases over his posts on X. Kuwait revoked his citizenship by Emiri Decree No. 121 of 2026 on 28 July 2026.

Status **At liberty**	Country **Kuwait**
Sentence	Two years in prison with hard labour in absentia (Criminal Court, 27 October 2024); three years in prison with hard labour and a fine of 3,000 Kuwaiti dinars (Court of Appeal, May 2025, upheld by the Court of Cassation in July 2025)
Charges	Challenging the powers of the Emir (state security case over a post on the dissolution of the National Assembly) Offences over posts criticising the Interior Minister Fahad Al-Yousef

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Drop all charges against Mansoor Al-Muhareb related to the peaceful exercise of fundamental rights.

02 End the judicial harassment of Mansoor Al-Muhareb and guarantee a fair process meanwhile.

03 Guarantee that Mansoor Al-Muhareb faces no arrest, travel restriction or other reprisal for peaceful human rights work.

02

How the case unfolded

October 2024

Charge filed

Charged by State Security over a post on the dissolved parliament

Three days after he posted that the May 2024 dissolution of the National Assembly was unconstitutional, the State Security Apparatus brought a case against him for challenging the powers of the Emir.

27 October 2024

Ruling in absentia

Sentenced in absentia to two years with hard labour

The Criminal Court sentenced him in absentia to two years in prison with hard labour in a state security case, for challenging the powers of the Emir. He was living in the United Kingdom.

February 2025

Verdict

Ordered to pay compensation over posts on the Interior Minister

In a second case, over posts criticising the First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Fahad Al-Yousef, the Criminal Court ordered him to pay 2,000 Kuwaiti dinars in compensation.

May 2025

Appeal: sentence increased

Court of Appeal raises the penalty to three years

The Court of Appeal increased the penalty in the second case to three years in prison with hard labour and a fine of 3,000 Kuwaiti dinars.

July 2025

Final judgment

Court of Cassation upholds the three-year sentence

The Court of Cassation upheld the appeal ruling, making the three-year sentence in the second case final.

10 June 2026

Other act

Authorities seize his Kuwaiti SIM card and take over his accounts

The authorities seized the Kuwaiti SIM card linked to his social media accounts, changed the login details, deleted his Snapchat account and took control of his X account, which had more than 100,000 followers.

25 June 2026

Other act

State Security reports his second X account for impersonation

Using the account it had seized, the State Security Apparatus complained to X that his second X account was impersonating him.

28 July 2026

Citizenship revoked

Stripped of Kuwaiti citizenship by Emiri Decree No. 121 of 2026

Emiri Decree No. 121 of 2026 revoked the citizenship of six people, among them Mansoor Al-Muhareb and the exiled freelance journalist Abdullah Al-Saleh. He told CPJ that the measure was retaliation intended to make an example of them, and that it extended to their families.

03

The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: Mansoor Al-Muhareb lives in exile in London. Kuwait revoked his citizenship on 28 July 2026, and he faces two prison sentences issued while he was abroad, one of them final.

Background and Work

Mansoor Al-Muhareb is a Kuwaiti blogger and online activist. The Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) describes him as using his X account, followed by more than 100,000 people, to comment on daily affairs, including the authorities' treatment of civil society activists and bloggers, and to criticise government policy. After the National Assembly was dissolved in May 2024 he publicly called the dissolution unconstitutional and questioned the legal basis for suspending articles of the constitution without a declared state of emergency.

He now lives in the United Kingdom. GCHR reports that he left Kuwait after receiving messages, by text and through intermediaries, linked to the First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Fahad Al-Yousef, warning him to stop writing online or face prison.

The Case

Three days after his post on the dissolution, the State Security Apparatus brought a case against him. On 27 October 2024 the Criminal Court sentenced him in absentia to two years in prison with hard labour in a state security case, for challenging the powers of the Emir. On 1 November 2024 he wrote that the fate of Kuwait's loyal citizens was "either imprisonment or displacement".

A second case concerned posts criticising Fahad Al-Yousef. In February 2025 the Criminal Court ordered him to pay 2,000 Kuwaiti dinars in compensation. In May 2025 the Court of Appeal increased the penalty to three years in prison with hard labour and a fine of 3,000 dinars, and in July 2025 the Court of Cassation upheld that ruling.

Measures in Exile

On 10 June 2026 the authorities seized the Kuwaiti SIM card linked to his social media accounts. They changed his login details, deleted his Snapchat account and took control of his X account. On 25 June 2026 the State Security Apparatus used the seized account to complain to X that his second account was impersonating him.

On 28 July 2026 Emiri Decree No. 121 of 2026 revoked the citizenship of six people, including Mansoor Al-Muhareb, the exiled freelance journalist Abdullah Al-Saleh, Lulwa Al-Hussainan, Abdulaziz Al-Foudari and the academic and online activist Mohammed Al-Matar. GCHR placed the decree within a wider use of nationality revocation against critics. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reported the decree in an August 2026 article that also covered the revocation, on 29 April 2026, of the citizenship of the journalist Ahmed Shihab-Eldin. Al-Muhareb told CPJ that the measure was "harsh" retaliation aimed at making an example of exiled critics, and that it extended to their families.

The decree came amid a broader use of nationality law in Kuwait. Amnesty International reported in its review of 2025 that the authorities had revoked the citizenship of tens of thousands of people by

applying amendments to the Nationality Law retroactively, most of them women naturalised through marriage. GCHR reported that the decision concerning Al-Muhareb was issued at 8 p.m. on 28 July 2026, and that he lives in London near the Kuwaiti embassy.

International Response

GCHR called for the in-absentia verdict to be overturned and all charges dropped, and urged the United Kingdom to give him full protection and political asylum. CPJ included his case in its reporting on Kuwait's use of citizenship revocation against journalists and commentators in exile.

Latest updates on this case Scan the code or visit: https://humena.org/defenders/mansoor-al-muhareb/

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