

*Translated from Arabic*

6 February 2018

Sir,

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you that, since 26 February 2017, several Iraqi freight and cargo vessels have entered Kuwaiti territorial waters without prior authorization. United Kingdom Hydrographic Office map No. 1235 (see annex) indicates the position of the Iraqi vessels in Kuwaiti territorial waters, which are delimited by the decree issued on 17 December 1967 concerning the breadth of the territorial sea of the State of Kuwait. That decree was updated by decree No. 317 (2014), which was issued on 29 October 2014, concerning the delimitation of the maritime zones of the State of Kuwait in accordance with article 15 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It is clear that those vessels have transgressed and violated the right of innocent passage set out in articles in 18 and 19 of the Convention.

Although the Government of Kuwait sent many letters of protest to the Iraqi Government in which it called for those violations to halt and the vessels to leave, it did not receive a response from Iraq. The vessels remain in their locations. The Government of Kuwait draws your attention to this matter because of its repercussions for security and stability in that region.

It should be noted that, since 2005, the Government of Kuwait has called for the commencement of negotiations to delimit the maritime boundary beyond point 162, as established by Security Council resolution 833 (1993). The records of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi supreme ministerial committees all indicate that it was agreed that such negotiations should commence. The Government of Kuwait renews its call upon the Iraqi Government to commence negotiations to complete the delimitation of the maritime boundary between the two States.

I kindly request Your Excellency to have the present letter published in the forthcoming issue of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Mansour Ayyad Sh. A. **Alotaibi**  
Permanent Representative