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SHEIKH AL-MAIL PARDONED AND ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME WITH AMIRI PARDON DECREE

Reference: PR/442301 - Regional Center: Middle East and North Africa

JANUARY 19, 2023 - The Kuwaiti Cabinet has issued a statement announcing the Amiri Pardon Decree (No. 8 of 2023), granting amnesty to 34 Kuwaiti citizens living abroad. Among those pardoned is Sheikh Mohamad Al-Mail, the 25-year-old Chancellor of the Upper Hand Organization.

Sheikh Al-Mail has been granted amnesty for penalties he received because of his religious and political opinions and his role in establishing the Upper Hand Organization. The organization, established in 2012, promotes Islamic sovereignty and the emergence of Imam Mahdi. In 2017, he was granted political asylum by the United Kingdom. The Kuwaiti authorities had banned the Upper Hand Organization, which has a significant following in Kuwait and the Gulf and operates in multiple countries worldwide.

The Amiri Pardon Decree represents a significant advancement in the country's efforts to expand freedom, as it grants amnesty to individuals like Sheikh Al-Mail, allowing them to return home without fear of repercussions for their beliefs. Although the scope of the amnesty is not entirely clear in the case of Sheikh al-Mail, who has 13 political cases, it has been confirmed that four cases related to cybercrimes and state security have been dropped. However, it is uncertain if the pardon will extend to the remaining nine charges of contempt of religion and the judiciary. At this time, Sheikh Al-Mail has not commented on this development.

The Cabinet's statement emphasized the political leadership's belief that achieving stability requires national reconciliation that benefits the people of the country and a new chapter of correcting the course.

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