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# AL - QURAIN ETERNAL EPIC

(24 FEBRUARY 1991)



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In the Name of God  
the Compassionate the Merciful

**AL - QURAIN ETERNAL EPIC**

(24 FEBRUARY 1991)

**CENTRE FOR ARAB GULF STUDIES**

**UNIVERSITY OF EXETER**

29 NOV 1995

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Department of Antiquity & Museums

## INTRODUCTION

Allah said in his Glorious Qur'an: "Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead, Nay, they live, finding their sustenance in the presence of their God".

Patriotism was manifested by the will of people who accepted the challenge and resisted the injustice and tyranny, in order to liberate their country. The outcome was a trail of martyrs, who have recorded heroic and eternal epics with their blood for sustaining their country.

"Al-Qurain epic" is an epic created by young Kuwaiti men who believed strongly in Allah and in their just cause. They took an oath among themselves that they should sacrifice every precious thing to keep their country high and proud. Al-Qurain epic took place on the 24th of February, 1991, two days before the dawn of liberation. 19 Young Kuwaiti men out of 31 members of Al Messilah group - "Kuwait Force", participated in the Al-Qurain encounter. The rest of the group members couldn't participate for reasons beyond their will. As some of them were held prisoners shortly before the heroic encounter, others were unable to reach the headquarters, the day before. The young men faced a terrible and unmatched assault by the invading Iraqi troops, but they resisted bravely. The battle lasted for 10 hours (from 8 A.M. till 6 P.M). Provided with their faith in Allah, and their belief in liberating their homeland, the martyrs were armed with machine guns. On the other hand, the invading troops were armed to the teeth with heavy armor and tanks.

The martyrs have sacrificed themselves, to keep this epic alive in the memory of history. 12 members of the group were martyred and 7 survived. The surviving 7 will be witness to the challenge and glorious resistance.

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## AI - QURAIN HOUSING PROJECT

Al-Qurain martyr's houses are part of a Government project, aimed at providing the best housing opportunities for its people. The Public Housing Authority initiated a scheme mapping out a coastal zone to be transferred to a residential area. The most recent innovations in the fields of city-planning, architecture and land utilization were adopted, Al Baida Trading & Contracting Company carried out Al-Qurain housing project, sector (C), which is considered one of the largest integrated housing projects, to be carried out by the Public Housing Authority. The project includes (12415) housing units, along with all the necessary public utilities. The total contract for such housing project amounts to a sum of (KD 15.639.000). Al-Qurain project is surrounded by Sabah Al-Salem Suburb's project to the north, by Al Funtas project to the south, by the Public Construction line parallel to A-Fahahil road to the east, and by the express way to the west.



## Building specifications of Al-Qurain Martyr's houses:

<b>Construction system:</b>	Concrete building, cement bricks
<b>The outside coating:</b>	Bricks.
<b>Faced colours:</b>	Light red, dark red, light yellow, white.
<b>Exterior doors &amp; windows:</b>	Aluminum, the windows in the ground floor have bronze tinted glass with metal grills.
<b>The gate:</b>	Iron in various colours

The housing units used by Al-Qurain Martyr's cover an area of 400 square meters. The dimensions of each unit vary according to its architectural style as well as its position in the detailed layout. The housing units are either square (20M x 20M), or rectangular (23M x 17.4M) or (22M x 18M) in shape. Every set of blocks connects with the side road by one entrance, leading to one or more inner spaces, onto which the units open. Every house has its own wall which is high enough to guarantee its privacy

## Al - Qurain house interior layout:

The ground floor consists of:

**Diwaniyyah:** Taking into consideration the complete privacy of the house residents, the diwaniyyah is placed close to the main gate.

**The main entrance:** The entrance hall is connected to the living room and the main stairs.

**The living room:** It is directly connected to the main stairs and the entrance.

**The Staircase:** It is located in a central position where it leads to the main entrance, and connects the ground floor with the first floor.

**A multi - purpose room:** It can be used as a dining room, or an extra bedroom. It is close to the kitchen and the ground bathroom.

**The annex:** It consists of a kitchen connected to a store-room, a servant's room, a bathroom, and a laundry room The annex has a private entrance through the garden..

**The first floor:** Consists of a large bedroom with a bathroom and a dressing corner, as well as 3 bedrooms with a mutual bathroom, a dining-room and one extra room.

**The roof:** The main staircase leads to the roof, where there are water tanks.



### The Arising of Al Messilah Group (Kuwait Force)

On the second of August 1990, when Saddam's Army invaded Kuwait destroying the land and torturing its peaceful people, young Kuwaiti men rushed to form fighting groups as part of what is known as popular resistance. One of the organized groups adopted the name of Al-Messilah Group, "Kuwait Force". It consisted of 31 young men. Its main task was to resist the invading force by all means. They collected weapons from many sources such as the military base. They also bought some from the Iraqi soldiers who were ready to sell their weapons for the cheapest price in order to buy food and water. After accumulating a vast amount of weapons, the leader of the group decided, after consulting his group, that some of the supply should be used for operations and the surplus should be buried so as to be used when needed.



The group operations concentrated on sniping Iraqi soldiers and planting bombs on Iraqi munition trucks. At the beginning, the group members did not face any difficulty in accomplishing their tasks. This was due to the carelessness of the invaders during deployment since they assumed that the situation was secure. But gradually they started to become stricter in their control. They set up check-points everywhere and started to hide in the fields. The group leader consulted his group members about leaving the present place to a safer one. It was then decided to move to Al-Qurain district as it was a new area unknown to the Iraqi intelligence, thus providing a suitable and secured base. The group continued its heroic acts until the beginning of November when the Iraqi forces tightened their control on the people and severely tortured every suspect. This urged the group members to stop their military operations and to shift to civil services such as working in bakeries and water transportation. On the 17th of January, when the air attack was announced, the leader ordered that the buried weapons are to be brought out and prepared for the major showdown. Since Al-Qurain area was heavily populated and fearing civilians might be exposed to a violent attack by Saddam's forces, the leader decided to move to a less populated place. A house in another area of the same district was chosen, since the owner was not in Kuwait at that time. The weapons were transported safely in spite of difficulties during the transportation process.

## THE IMMORTAL EPIC OF AL-QURAIN (The Heroic Epic)

On the 20th of February 1991, just before the ground attack and the operations to liberate Kuwait were carried out by the coalition forces, the Iraqi forces started to arrest young Kuwaiti men from their homes and take them as prisoners of war. Meanwhile, part of al-Messilah group members were in a state of readiness to play the role they dreamt of, and which they toiled hard preparing for. When the land battle started on the 24th February, the group was ecstatic. At last liberation was in sight. The Messilah group was expecting the Kuwaiti and the coalition forces to enter Kuwait allowing its members to play their role in disclosing the enemy positions and headquarters.

At 8 O'clock in the morning of the same day, the leader asked his group members to wear the uniform he had designed, being a white shirt inscribed with the name and the motto of the group. While preparing their weapons, an Iraqi intelligence car stopped in front of the group headquarters. It was patrolling the area looking for young Kuwaiti men and was followed by a minibus transporting a number of armed Iraqis. An Iraqi soldier stepped out of the car and walked towards the house. He knocked on the door but nobody answered. As usual in such cases, his commanding officer ordered him to jump over the wall in order to break into the house to steal it. Meanwhile, inside the house, the group leader and one of the members standing by his side were watching the developing situation through a window facing the street. The leader then realized he was in a critical situation and a decision had to be quickly taken. It was either surrendering to the Iraqi forces meaning certain execution, or defending oneself and homeland. The decision taken by the leader and members of the group was martyrdom on the soil of the motherland. The leader attempted to shoot the Iraqi soldier but unfortunately, his weapon jammed. The leader's colleague, standing behind him, then opened the fire which marked the start of the Epic of steadfastness and challenge. The Iraqi officer, who was standing beside the car, was injured while the rest of the Iraqi soldiers fled away. A few moments later the heavily armed





aggressors returned from all direction and surrounded the house. The leader ordered the members of his group to spread all over the house and jump to the nearby houses to divert the attention of the aggressor's forces. The battle continued until six O'clock in the evening. The tyrants used heavy weapons such as tanks, machine guns, RPG while the group members were using light arms. The young Kuwaitis tackled the battle bravely. Where 3 members of the group were martyred immediately and 9 were captured. Their bodies were later found in another place after having been tortured by Saddam's agents. Allah ordained that seven members of the group survived the battle. The Iraqi forces failed to find them within the rubble of the house in the gloomy darkness due to the electrical power failure. They were saved to recount events of the immortal battle. Saddam's army, on the other hand, was left utterly defeated and lost hundreds of personnel leaving only shame and disgrace behind.

Al-Qurain Epic is one of the historic and patriotic epics which became an example of heroism, sacrifice and steadfastness, written in blood, by a group that belong to this beloved homeland. This group, has shown readiness to sacrifice their souls in challenging the oppressive forces though their weaponry was scarce and simple. Those heroes have left an historical testimony on the soil of Al-Qurain.

H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait, has visited this historical monument, and ordered that this ordinary house become a national museum which will commemorate the steadfastness of the Kuwaitis and their rejection of any foreign occupant on their homeland stand as a symbol of pride; and be a reminder of a path to be followed by young Kuwaiti generations. It is also a testimony of the crime of the Iraqi tyrants, who looted every valuable thing inside the houses, and left behind nothing but total destruction.



### **The members of Al Messilah Group (Kuwait force)**

Al Messilah Group consisted of 31 young Kuwaitis. (19) members took part in the battle, (12) of them died as martyrs, and the (7) members survived. The rest of the Group couldn't participate, either because some of them were held prisoners, or because they couldn't get to the headquarters before the battle.

### **The Members who fought the battle.**

- 1 - Mohammed Yousif Karim
- 2 - Sami Sayed Hadi Alawy
- 3 - Jamal Ibrahim Al-Banai
- 4 - Talal Sultan Al-Hazza
- 5 - Hazim Jabir Saleh
- 6 - Meshaal Al-Mutairi
- 7 - Ahmad Jabir Saleh
- 8 - Sayed Hadi Mohammed Alawy
- 9 - Yousif Khudair Ali
- 10 - Amer Faraj Al-Enezi
- 11 - Jassim Mohammed Ali
- 12 - Mubarak Ali Safar
- 13 - Ibrahim Ali Safar
- 14 - Abdullah Abd Al Nabi Mendeny
- 15 - Khalil Khair Allah Al-Blushi
- 16 - Khalid Ahmed Mohammed Al-Kandari
- 17 - Hussein Ali Rizah
- 18 - Mohammed Othman Al-Shay'e
- 19 - Bader Nassir Al-Eidan



### **The Martyrs of Al-Messilah Group:**

- 1 - Sayed Hadi Mohammed Alawi
- 2 - Yousif Khudair Ali
- 3 - Amer Faraj Al Enezi
- 4 - Jassim Mohammed Ali Ghloom
- 5 - Mubarak Ali Safar
- 6 - Ibrahim Ali Safar
- 7 - Abdullah Abd Al Nabi Mendeny
- 8 - Khalil Khair Allah Al-Blushi
- 9 - Khalid Ahmed Mohammed Al-Kandari
- 10 - Hussain Ali Ghloom Rizah
- 11 - Mohammed Othman Al Shay'e
- 12 - Bader Nassir Al-Eidan

### **The Members, who didn't fight the battle**

- 1 - Hamed Sayed Mohammed Alawy
- 2 - Jamal Mohammed Al-Ibrahim
- 3 - Abbass Ibrahim Al-Kallaf
- 4 - Sayed Ahmed Al-Kallaf
- 5 - Jassim Hussain Al-Kallaf
- 6 - Sayed Jamil Al-Kallaf
- 7 - Tarik Hussain Al-Failakawi
- 8 - Mohammed Sayed Al-Mosawi
- 9 - Ali Sharaf Al-Kallaf
- 10 - Naif Ebeid Al-Ahmad
- 11 - Basim Mohammed Al-Ibrahim



## Personal Details:

**1 - Martyr Name:** Sayyed Hady Sayyed  
Mohammed Alwayy  
**Date of Birth:** 1949  
**Place of work:** Kuwait Municipality  
**Social Status:** Married with 9 children  
**Date of Martyrdom:** 24th February, 1991



**2 - Martyr Name:** Amer Faraj Al-Enezi  
**Date of Birth:** 1964  
**Place of work:** First Lieutenant at the Ministry  
of Defence  
**Social Status:** Single  
**Date of Martyrdom:** 24th February, 1991



**3 - Martyr Name:** Abdullah Abdulnabi Mendeny  
**Date of Birth:** 1959  
**Place of work:** Sergeant Major at Kuwait Ministry  
of Interior  
**Social Status:** Married with 6 children  
**Date of Martyrdom:** 25th February, 1991



**4 - Martyr Name:** Mohammed Othman Ali Al-Shay'f  
**Date of Birth:** 1961  
**Place of work:** Ministry of Communication  
**Social Status:** Married with 2 children  
**Date of Martyrdom:** 25th February, 1991



**5 - Martyr Name:** Mubarak Ali Safar Mansour  
**Date of Birth:** 1953  
**Place of work:** Ministry of Social Affairs & Labour  
**Social Status:** Married with 2 children  
**Date of Martyrdom:** 25th February, 1991



**6 - Martyr Name:** Yousef Khudair Yousef Ali  
**Date of Birth:** 1955  
**Place of work:** Captain at the Ministry of Defence  
**Social Status:** Married with 2 children  
**Date of Martyrdom:** 24th February, 1991



**7 - Martyr Name:** Khalil Khairallah Abdul-Karim  
Al-Blushi  
**Date of Birth:** 1964  
**Place of work:** Ports Public Authority  
**Social Status:** Newly married  
**Date of Martyrdom:** 25th February, 1991



**8 - Martyr Name:** Ibrahim Ali Safar Mansour  
**Date of Birth:** 1955  
**Place of work:** Ministry of Social Affairs & Labour  
**Social Status:** Married with 4 children  
**Date of Martyrdom:** 25th February, 1991



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**9 - Martyr Name:** Bader Nassir Abdullah Al-Eidan  
**Date of Birth:** 1962  
**Place of work:** Corporal at the Ministry of Interior  
**Social Status:** Married with 4 children  
**Date of Martyrdom:** 25th February, 1991



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**10 - Martyr Name:** Jassim Mohammed Ali Ghloom  
**Date of Birth:** 1960  
**Place of work:** Kuwait Municipality  
**Social Status:** Married with children  
**Date of Martyrdom:** 25th February,



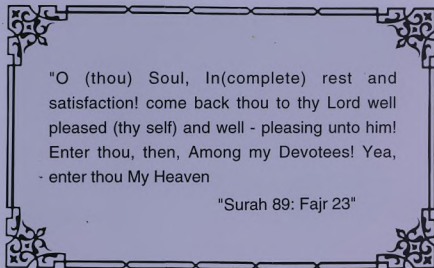
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**11 - Martyr Name:** Khalid Ahmed Mohammed  
Appas Al-Kandari  
**Date of Birth:** 1966  
**Place of work:** Refinery operator in  
Abdullah's Harbour  
(K.N.P.C)  
**Social Status:** Married with 3 children  
**Date of Martyrdom:** 25th February, 1991



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**12 - Martyr Name:** Hussain Ali Ghloom Rizah  
**Date of Birth:** 1970  
**Place of work:** Lance corporal at the Ministry  
of Interior  
**Social Status:** Single  
**Date of Martyrdom:** 25th February, 1991



## References:

- 1 - Personal interviews with the survivors of the battle.
  - 2 - Public Housing Authority, Al-Qurain housing project, Sectors (A, B, C)
  - 3 - Al-Qabas, edition No. 6556 P. 5. Saturday 22 June 1991 (AC)
  - 4 - Al-watan, edition No. 5571/17, pp.22-23 Friday 2 August 1991 (AC)
  - 5 - Al-Fajr al-Jadid, Friday, 2 August 1991 (AC)
  - 6 - Social Security Fund, for the Welfare of P.O.W's & Martyr's families
  - 7 - Higher Organizing Committee for Commemoration of Al-Qurain Battle Martyrs al-Messilah Group, Risalat al-Kuwait Magazine, Al-Qurain Epic.. the sun of Liberation was upon its hands.
- The pictures shows the destruction of the martyr's houses in Al-Qurain after the battle.





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