

## **GCC interior ministers determined to maintain security, stability**

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The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) interior ministers reiterated here Sunday they were steadfastly determined to work together to maintain regional security and stability.

They voiced their determination in a final communique of the Eighth Consultative Meeting of the GCC Interior Ministers.

They also blessed a bilateral agreement between Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE) on the free movement of both countries' people through the use of ID cards only, rather than passports, which was preceded by a similar deal between Saudi Arabia and Sultanate of Oman.

Such agreements are to be followed by other similar deals between Saudi Arabia and other GCC member countries, they said.

In this context, they called on GCC agencies involved to enforce a resolution by the GCC Supreme Council to recognize the use of smart ID cards in the movement of people among the GCC members in a bid to make smooth the movement of people and goods among them.

As for security, the GCC interior ministers stressed the significance of permanent security coordination and cooperation among the GCC members, calling on GCC security agencies to keep vigilant against potential security perils and risks resultant from the ongoing regional security developments.

Concerning Iraq, they expressed concern over the negative ramifications of the volatile security situation in Iraq, having reiterated their bloc's support for the Iraqi people to wriggle out of their distress and maintain their country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

On the Palestinian issue, the GCC interior ministers emphatically denounced Israeli aggressions on the defenseless Palestinian people, which undermine good offices aiming to achieve just and total peace in the region.

They acclaimed sincere efforts by Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdel-Aziz to put an end to Palestinian inter-fighting, urging the international community to act to ease out the suffering of the Palestinian people.

Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Minister of Defence Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah attended the Consultative Meeting of the GCC Interior Ministers.