

### Part 3: The Description Certificate: The Sustenance of Corruption

The right of every Kuwaiti citizen to own and transfer ownership of property is embodied within our constitution. The municipality, however, in its daily obstruction of issuing certificates of description for properties which infringe on building codes is considered a violation of this constitutional right. As a result, the mandate to issue this certificate has become the daily bread for every corrupt man issuing it illegally and abusing this certificate to transfer poisoned properties to others who have no clue of the danger laying behind the possession of such properties, and here corruption has turned into deception and fraud.

This method was followed by the municipality to fight the overwhelming wave of violations, but can a mistake be corrected by a bigger mistake? Did this action decrease the buildup of violations? And was the municipality able to control forged certificates? The awkward thing is the municipality confining those who want to get rid of the violation and vacate his property through the court. For instance, the rental law allows the owner of a property which was built more than 25 years ago to evict the building's tenants under several conditions. One of these conditions is he must submit the certificate of the property's age from the Municipality of Kuwait. The court will not consider the case without that certificate, but the municipality refuses to issue the certificate if the building has even the smallest of any code violations! I swear to God this is so weird and bizarre. The only reason anyone would ask for this certificate is to demolish the building and rebuild. The violation will be removed along with the removal of the building, so why is the municipality obstructing him? What should the owner do then? Should he pay every one of his tenants to leave of their own accord? Or should he pay some corrupt bureaucrat to save him from his dilemma? He is exactly like a ghost hovering between land and sky.