

**Kuwait continues LGBT crackdown, arrests transsexual man**  
**By Bikya Masr**  
**13 June 2012**

CAIRO: A crackdown on LGBT people in Kuwait is continuing, with security upping their “efforts” to curtail the community’s movements in the country.

A new report, published across local media on Monday, revealed that a transsexual man was arrested by police on charges of “immorality.”

The 18-year-old transgender man was detained after a fight erupted between him and a group of young men over his appearance.

He was reportedly dressed in the traditional male dishdasha and ghutra, but it did not stop the fight from occurring.

He was reported in the press to be a “cross dresser,” but a transgender activist in Kuwait told pinknews.co.uk that he was a transgender man.

The men mistakenly thought the transgender man was a male-to-female transgender woman and began to harass him. Two shops were damaged during the transphobic incident and the police arrested some of the men who caused the damage.

Instead of protecting or intervening to help, the police arrested him and he was charged with “imitating the opposite sex,” reported Al-Anba.

It comes after some 10 LGBT youth were arrested in the country over the weekend on similar charges.

Kuwaiti lesbian Yousra AbdelAziz told Bikyamasr.com that “this is just the beginning of what we are seeing in the country. Police and people are really attacking anyone who is different and it is sad to see all these violations of our basic human rights.”

Kuwait’s morality police reportedly arrested at least 10 LGBT teenagers in the country for “satanic rituals” under a crackdown in the name of “morality.”

Security sources in the country have said that the LGBT youth were targeted under “vice” claims.

PinkNews.co.uk also reported that the 10 teenagers between the ages of 16- and 18-years-old were arrested on June 8 after police alleged the rituals and “indecent acts” taking place.

The Kuwaiti daily al-Rai in addition claimed that they are also “suspected of homosexuality.”

Kuwaiti police “received complaints” the group held nightly meetings in a disused building in Al-Sharq district of Kuwait city, the report said.

During questioning the adolescents claimed they were working on a film, a claim the police dismissed as the building has no electricity and no photographic equipment was found.

Brigadier General Hossein Shirazi referred the matter to the Criminal Investigation Department of Kuwait.

Al-Rai has also reported that 20 men and one woman were arrested in the areas of Salamiya and Hawalli of Kuwait city for “suspicious parties.”

The al-Anba daily claimed the number of people arrested was 27 in several suspect apartments where they usually meet to commit “immoral activities.”

Kuwaiti Times alleged that some of the people were found to be “intoxicated.”

Al-Rai claimed that some of the suspects were arrested in previous raids and were released after signing a document that they will not repeat their “activities.”

© Bikya Masr 2011. All rights reserved