

Fatima Hussein

«دخلت الحياة وسوف أخرج منها دون احتراف
لأنني عاشقة كبرى لحريتي».

(فاطمة حسين)

Fatima Hussein Issa al-Qiney is a pioneer Kuwaiti writer and a prominent figure in the media. She was born in Kuwait in 1937 where she received her high-school education, and later continued her education at Cairo University (1956-1960). Her career life started in New York where she presented a programme on the daily events of a Kuwaiti woman in New York. She came back to Kuwait in 1962 and worked for the Kuwaiti radio presenting the women's programme. Then she decided to work in the field of politics, but she faced many obstacles so she resigned and joined the television, preparing the programme on the family from 1963 till 1977. Now *Fatima* is a member of the Consultancy Council for the Media. She is married to *Suleiman al-Mutawaa*, a consultant with the Kuwaiti Oil Company and has two sons and one daughter.

A firm believer in women's potential and the need to integrate women in all development programmes. She is a strong advocate of women's social, economic, political and electoral rights. When asked about her opinion on the Fatwa (ruling) concerning women's right to vote and be elected, she responded by saying that the Fatwa will relegate women back to the Ottoman subordination.

She believes that the government should adopt national legislation and in particular laws governing personal status, to conform to the principles of equality. For her, legislation has a strong effect on women's participation in the field of public work. The status of women is undermined due to legal codes, tradition and norms.



(From *Sayidaty*)

In her book published recently «A Point»^(*), she wrote about the media, education, the press, the changing roles of women, and love. The book is a rich comprehensive collection of essays, stories, perceptions and opinions of all aspects of life from within the culture of the Middle East. Her literary work voices *Fatima's* strive for freedom and reflects an outspoken character who aims to improve her society and country.

(*) Hussein, Fatima: *A Circle*. Kuwait: Al-Rabiaan, 1985. First edition, 247 pages.