

Uproar as illegal car washers 'take over' parking spaces

Residents raise growing concerns against unauthorised parking restrictions in open grounds

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Several individuals have reported being accosted by car washers who claim to regulate parking spaces and insist that parking is only permitted for those seeking their car washing services.

In an increasingly common occurrence, residents have taken to a popular online platform to shed light on a growing issue concerning unauthorised car parking restrictions in open grounds.

Joel, a frustrated resident, shared his experience, stating, "Every morning on my way to work at 6:30 am, I encounter a random individual who insists that I can't park my car in what is essentially an open ground. This has become a daily incon-

venience for me, and I am left questioning the legitimacy of such restrictions."

The prevalent belief among affected residents is that these car washers derive their income from washing cars in the vicinity. However, the actions of these individuals have raised questions about the authority they possess in deciding who can park where.

Residents argue that the parking spaces in question are public property, and no official signage prohibiting parking has been installed.

Khalid shared his personal experience online, stating, "A few weeks ago, I parked in an open ground in front of my office as I do every day. Out of nowhere, one of these car washers approached me and asked if I wanted him to wash my car. I declined his offer, but he



Car washers stopping cars in parking lots

then informed me that I was not allowed to park there and that I would face consequences if I did not move my car. Concerned about potential damage to my vehicle, I reluctantly relocated it," he added.

Assertive behaviour

While some residents have attributed these encounters to expats, suggesting that they may exhibit more assertive behaviour, Abood offered an alternative perspective.



The residents are eager for the local authorities to promptly resolve the issue by clearly defining parking regulations in open areas and implementing measures to guarantee unrestricted access to parking spaces for everyone.

He explained that many of these car washers are low-in-

come earners whose primary goal is survival. They often approach drivers to offer their services and, in some cases, provide advice about parking restrictions to prevent fines or potential risks in certain areas like Juffair and Gudaibiya, where roadside parking can be problematic.

The Daily Tribune attempted to engage with the car washers situated near parking lots, but they remained unresponsive and said, "Please, we are poor, and we don't want to go back to our country."

As concerns continue to mount, residents hope that local authorities will address the issue promptly by clarifying the parking regulations in open grounds and taking appropriate measures to ensure that parking spaces are accessible to all without unnecessary restrictions.

Court clears husband of BD2,000 alimony arrears

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The Supreme Sharia Court of Appeal overturned a ruling that obligated a husband to pay more than BD2,000 as arrears of alimony to his ex-wife.

The husband proved that he had paid the required alimony, but his ex-wife tried to claim that the amounts he paid were the deferred dowry, not alimony.

About details, the husband's lawyer said that his ex-wife filed a lawsuit against him demanding him to pay arrears of alimony despite the fact that he did pay through bank transfers.

She, however, claimed before the court of first instance that those amounts were the deferred dowry. The court ruled to obligate the husband to pay more than BD2,000 as a total alimony since 2019. The husband



refused and appealed the ruling before the Court of Appeal.

Deficiencies

In her argument before the court of appeal, the lawyer stated that the first-degree ruling was marred by deficiencies in reasoning and her client, the husband, was acquitted and the claimant must prove otherwise with evidence and witnesses.

The lawyer provided evidence that her client regularly transferred a monthly alimony since 2019, and the court

of first instance did not rely on those transfers to clear his guilt. In addition to the fact that her client's witnesses and some of the defendant's witnesses acknowledged that her client have been paying alimony on a monthly basis.

The court stated that the plaintiff proved that he paid the arrears of alimony via electronic transfers and the ex-wife's claim that the amounts were deferral of the dowry was not supported by evidence as well as the testimony she presented was insufficient.

The court indicated that the appeal is based on a valid and worthy reason for acceptance and ruled to cancel the first instance ruling obligating the plaintiff to pay the outstanding alimony and to reject the ex-wife's case.

Woman acquitted of embezzling funds and equipment in fashion store case

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The Lower Criminal Court has acquitted a woman of charges related to embezzlement of funds and equipment from a well-known fashion store.

The court found that she was the actual owner of the stores, while the plaintiff was merely a partner.

The alleged victim claimed that the accused had misappropriated goods and revenues from the stores over a period of seven years. However, the court expressed doubts about the incident, stating that the plaintiff failed to prove ownership of the confiscated items or the amount of money allegedly embezzled.

Furthermore, the court noted that the plaintiff also failed to establish ownership of the stolen items in the civil lawsuit. The court questioned why,

if the accused was managing the establishment, the plaintiff did not demand the revenues throughout her tenure of over seven years. Due to these reasons, the court cast doubt on the incident and the ownership claim of the alleged victim, leading to the acquittal of the accused.

The plaintiff had filed a lawsuit claiming that he was a partner in a specialised fashion establishment dealing with dress details, and that the accused, who is the wife of his partner, managed several branches in the Kingdom of Bahrain. He alleged that she continued to manage the stores for nearly five years before deciding to replace her and appoint a new manager.

Inventory check

He further claimed that the new manager began an inven-

tory check of the stores, only to discover that the accused had taken goods from the stores and embezzled unspecified amounts of money. It later became evident to him that the accused had been regularly embezzling the profits of the stores, taking advantage of her authorisation to oversee all the outlets.

The court reviewed the lawsuit and examined civil judgments that rejected the plaintiff's claims, which also accused the defendant of failing to pay profits and exploiting her authorisation to manage the stores by not paying the employees' salaries.

It was revealed that the lawsuit filed against her was dismissed due to the plaintiff's failure to provide evidence supporting his accusations and the absence of substantiated claims of embezzlement, as he had alleged.

Tamkeen kicks off Global Entrepreneurship Week

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The Labour Fund "Tamkeen" kicked off the annual Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW), an initiative of the Global Entrepreneurship Network "GEN" which will take place from November 14-21.

This year the lineup features over 30 events focusing on promising key economic sectors. Events include specialised workshops, panel discussions and a wide-range of dialogues with experts and specialists representing various sectors, as well as exclusive fashion shows organised by a group of Bahraini creatives



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in cooperation with partners and supporters of the entrepreneurship ecosystem.

The GEW initiative brings together entrepreneurs, investors, decision-makers, and other stakeholders to exchange experiences.

iGA holds training workshop for civil researchers and surveyors

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The Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) held a workshop to enhance the skills of 61 surveyors ahead of the launch of the trial phase of the Household Income & Expenditure Survey 2024.

iGA Deputy Chief Executive of Statistics and Population Registry, Duaa Sultan Alharban said that this workshop aims to familiarize participants with the survey and train them on using research tools. She noted the survey's accuracy in measuring living standards and the role it plays in the formulation of developmental, economical, and social plans, as well as supporting policymakers in the Kingdom.

She added that, in line with



Participants in the workshop

the international best practices, the project will be implemented on a random sampling of Bahraini and non-Bahraini families across the Kingdom's governorates. It will also take into consideration the social and economic factors of families to ensure a high level of credibility.

The workshop focused on

training pillars such as providing a detailed brief on the importance of the survey, its impact on Bahraini society, and its objectives. It also shed light on the tasks of the survey's workers and educated them on what instructions to follow throughout.

The legality and confidentiality of the data was also highlight-

ed. The researchers received training on how to fill in detail the survey's application forms, electronic participation in the survey, and how to input the information correctly.

Surveys

The iGA has regularly carried out the Household Income & Expenditure Surveys over the past decades, which are effective tools for economical and social planning, in line with its commitment to providing accurate and trusted data to support decision-makers. The first survey was launched in 1974-1975. This was followed by a second in 1983-1984, a third in 1994-1995, a fourth in 2005-2006, and a fifth in 2014-2015.