



[The Emir of Kuwait Passes Away at the Age of 91](#)

Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah passed away last week at the age of 91. Sheikh Sabah was revered for his diplomacy efforts in the Middle East, and spent four decades as Kuwait's foreign minister before becoming emir in 2006. He was an active mediator on a variety of regional issues, including the Saudi-led boycott of Qatar, and also hosted donor summits aimed at raising funds for humanitarian aid and reconstruction efforts in both Iraq and Syria. Sheikh Sabah was respectfully referred to by various titles including "the emir of humanity" and the "dean of Arab diplomacy" for his work in these areas, and he was named a humanitarian leader by the United Nations as well. The emir was held in high regard for his role as an effective voice of peace and stability in the region. He had traveled to the United States for medical care earlier this year in July after undergoing surgery, and suffered a medical setback which led to his passing.

Sheikh Sabah was born in 1929 and was the great-grandson of the founder of modern-day Kuwait. He became Kuwait's foreign minister in 1963 and served in that role for 40 years until 2003, when he was named prime minister by his half-brother Emir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad. During his time as foreign minister, he navigated the country through the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and spearheaded the efforts to reconcile ties between the two countries after the First Gulf War. Sheikh Sabah was named Emir of Kuwait in 2006 following the death of Sheikh Jaber and his successor's removal from the post because of health concerns.

The emir was a major proponent of using diplomacy to solve regional issues. One of the greatest challenges he and other leaders in the Middle East faced in recent years was the Saudi-led boycott of Qatar, which his mediating efforts helped prevent from escalating into a potential armed conflict. Sheikh Sabah was also admired for his generosity, hosting donor conferences in 2013 and 2014 to raise funds for Syrian citizens, and one in 2018 for the reconstruction of Iraq due to the country's war against ISIS.

Due to Sheikh Sabah's legacy and lifelong efforts, Kuwait has been seen as a mediating presence in the Middle East. While situated between Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Iran, Kuwait has not only been able to maintain good relations with its neighbors, it has also served as a consistent intermediary regarding regional issues and disputes. In addition to that, the country has been a generous donor to various humanitarian causes, largely due to the benevolence of the recently passed emir.