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By Saad Al-Ali (with photo) WASHINGTON, Jan 26 (KUNA) -- Local officials in the United States have praised the democratic environment in Kuwait, making it unique in the Middle East region in the area of democratic reforms.

This came during a series of meetings held by Chairman of the Kuwaiti Municipal Council Abdul Rahman Al-Homaidan with American officials.

Al-Homaidan is heading a delegation on a week long visit to Washington at the invitation of the Washington-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) where they are meeting with Local officials in Washington and the State of Maryland.

"The officials we met have told us that the democratic system in Kuwait is of great value," Al-Homaidan said.

He told KUNA that his talks with President of the NDI Kenneth Wollack and Senior Associate and Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa Programs, Leslie Campbell, focused on the work of the NDI abroad since its establishment in 1983. The NDI has 10 offices in the Arab World among the 100 offices stationed around the world.

"The Delegation was briefed about the federal system in the US and the constitutional authorities given to state and local governors and Mayors," he said.

Al-Homaidan and the delegation visited the Montgomery County in the State of Maryland where they met with head of the county's governor and attended a session of Rockville county's city Hall council.

The Delegation also visited Annapolis, the capital of Maryland where they met with the deputy governor of Maryland.

During the course of the visit, Al-Homaidan and the delegation attended a number of seminars organized by centers of strategic studies and think-tanks.

The delegation's visit, he said, is designed to get acquainted with the federal and local laws in the US through meetings with local officials in different states. (end) sa.

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