

Kuwait to enact mandatory DNA collection from every citizen to build national genetic database

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.

[Visitors] to Kuwait [in 2016] may be in for a shock when they find they'll have to give the government...their DNA. A 2015 law requiring all citizens, residents and visitors to provide DNA to the government's database will go into effect later this summer [of 2016], [according to Kuwaiti officials](#), making the small Gulf nation the first country in the world to legislate mandatory DNA collection.

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Such indiscriminate collection violates the international standards for privacy established by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Kuwait ratified.

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[G]enetic experts, researchers and civil rights advocates fear that the government might expand the uses of the database...to reveal sensitive information about health or paternity[.]

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"Totalitarian regimes have often tried to build databases on all citizens to develop targets that they'd like to discriminate against," [said Helen Wallace, the director of GeneWatch].

Wafa Ben Hassine, a legal analyst[,] said the information revealed by DNA could further be "used to discriminate against people who are non-citizens."

Read full, original post: One Country's Disturbing Project to Build a Complete DNA Databank of Every Citizen and Foreign Visitor Is Already Underway