

HOME  
LOCAL  
WORLD  
BUSINESS  
SPORT  
WHAT'S ON  
COMMENT  
LETTERS  
CARTOONS  
HOROSCOPE  
CLASSIFIEDS  
ADVERTISE  
ARCHIVES

## Envoys' parking ticket toll

By **GEOFFREY BEW**

BAHRAIN's diplomats are among the worst offenders for illegal parking in a study of foreign envoys to the United Nations (UN) in New York, US. But they always pay their fines, eventually, say researchers at the US-based Berkeley and Columbia Universities.

Bahrain was ranked as the 21st worst offending country out of 146 participants in the study, which covered all regions of the world including North and South America, Europe, Asia, Oceania, Africa and the Middle East.

The offences covered an eight-year period from 1997 to last year and included indiscretions such as vehicles parked in front of fire hydrants or found at expired metres.

Seven Bahraini diplomats worked during this period and committed an average of 37.7 violations each.

In order to appear in the database, the violation had to go unpaid for at least 100 days.

The study found that the 10 worst parking violators were Kuwait, Egypt, Chad, Sudan, Bulgaria, Mozambique, Albania, Angola, Senegal and Pakistan.

Meanwhile, countries with zero violations included the Scandinavian nations, the UK and Canada.

Saudi Arabia was ranked as the 27th






Leisure • Lifestyle •  
Entertainment



worst offending country, while Iran was placed at 44, Jordan at 101 and Lebanon at 115.

The study's authors, Ray Fisman and Edward Miguel, focused on New York because diplomats to the UN, which is headquartered there, were not penalised for parking violations before November 2002.

The aim was to study their decision-making with a view to better understanding cultural aspects of corruption.

Diplomats from low-corruption countries, such as Norway, behaved "remarkably well even in situations where they can get away with violations", according to the study.

But those from high-corruption countries, such as Nigeria, committed many violations, "suggesting that they bring the social norms or corruption culture of their home country with them to New York City", it added.

"This setting is one in which diplomats can indulge their personal tastes for rule-breaking without punishment," continued the report.

"It appears that diplomats from countries where the US is unpopular derive positive utility from breaking US rules or suffer less disutility than other diplomats from doing so."

Following a furore over unpaid diplomatic parking tickets, New York acquired legal powers in late 2002 to prosecute diplomatic vehicles - including revoking their official UN parking permits, towing them away and having 110 per cent of the total fine deducted from US government aid to the diplomats' countries of origin. It was found parking violations fell substantially afterwards, although cross-



#### In this issue:

##### Beat Street

Top of the Pops is finally over and an era has come to an end, we get some ToTP ...



##### Ideas

"Today the Power Mac is going to fade into history," said ...

**and more ...**

country patterns remained similar.

 [Forward this article to a Colleague, Associate or](#)

[Friend](#)



[Printable version](#)

---

More today in : **LOCAL**

- **Teenagers die in car crash**
- **New rules 'will sink boat tours'**
- **42 sacked over 'Illegal' strike**
- **Maid fights for unpaid wages**
- **Major safety drive launched**
- **Political groups seek more aid**
- **Horror as dog set ablaze**
- **Plea to free protesters is rejected**
- **Activists call for repeal of terror law**
- **Google Earth back online**
- **New BCCI timings**
- **Lock gates arrive for floating city**
- **Hoisting flag of patriotism**
- **Workers defiant after talks fail**
- **Helping hand for those in distress**
- **Free medical checkup for Indian workers**
- **Clumsy mobile thief caught**
- **Smoking banned in all Health Ministry offices**
- **Double honour for office supervisor**
- **270 animals are destroyed**
- **Labour camp inspections from next week**
- **New website on Bahrain's modern history**
- **Lebanese flock home to rebuild**
- **25,000 Filipinos stay on as war ends**
- **Online petition to try Israel**

- for war crimes urged**
- **New move to control traffic violations**
- **Joy of dancing for enthusiasts**
- **Roll back the time with golden oldies**
- **Opera treat for music lovers...**
- **True spirit of Bandra**
- **Ricardo M for top concert**
- **Onam extravaganza...**
- **Play May Games for a noble cause**
- **Depth to set the tone**
- **Sonu star of music nite**
- **Bands battle for ultimate glory**

**[Home](#) / [Local](#) / [World](#) / [Business](#) / [Sport](#)  
[Contact Us](#) / [Advertise with Us](#)**

Copyright © 2004, Gulf Daily News - Disclaimer  
Development by TradeArabia Web Services