

A photograph of Massouma al-Mubarak, a woman wearing a white lace hijab and glasses, smiling and giving a thumbs-up gesture. She is wearing a light-colored jacket and a garland of red and white flowers around her neck. The background is slightly blurred, showing an indoor setting.

Today in History

June 12, 2005

▲ **Massouma al-Mubarak was appointed as Kuwait's first ever woman cabinet minister, with portfolios for planning and administrative development**

1946: King Umberto II left Italy following the formal abolition of the monarchy

1998: Financial markets worldwide slumped as the Japanese economy was officially declared in recession

2003: The 5,000-year-old Warka Vase, looted from Iraq's National Museum was returned anonymously

2003: A mass grave from the 1930s was uncovered in Mongolia, where up to 30,000 died in Stalinist purges