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## ICYMI: KRG in the news

1 message

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### Kurdistan Regional Government Representation in the United States

## NEWS ALERT

Recently, the U.S. and Iraq announced a plan to transition U.S. military forces from Iraq by September 2025 and from the Kurdistan Region by 2026. Given the growing tensions across the Middle East and the continuing threat of extremist groups like ISIS, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) emphasizes the importance of maintaining robust security partnerships. The KRG continues to call for the implementation of the air defense systems allocated in the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, along with reassurances regarding long-term security support to safeguard stability and protect against external and internal threats. The KRG remains committed to working with the Government of Iraq and its American partners to combat terrorism and address other global challenges.

**In case you missed it** – below are a few recent media stories sharing the KRG perspective on the U.S.-Iraq troop withdrawal announcement.

#### ***The Hill: US downsizing in Iraq sparks fear from Kurdish minority***

In an interview with The Hill, Treefa Aziz, the Kurdistan government's representative in the U.S., said she is concerned the extremist group ISIS still poses a threat to Iraq.

"They continue to pose a threat to the region, and in fact, this year, they've increased their attacks inside the country. And so we believe that conditions on the ground are not conducive for a troop pullout," she said. "However, if there is a troop pullout, the KRG is needing some security guarantees."

***Fox News: Kurdish official warns US: 'now is not the time' to pull forces out of Iraq'***

The KRG is also asking the U.S. government to "honor its commitment" included in the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to "provide the KRG with a comprehensive air defense system."

The law required the Department of Defense to submit and implement a plan for providing the Iraqi security forces and Kurdistan Region with air defenses by July 2024.

"As a steadfast U.S. ally that is regularly targeted by extremist violence, the KRG requires assurances that it will be protected from all threats, both internal and external," said Aziz.

Gen. Michael Kurilla, the commander of U.S. Central Command, told the House Armed Services Committee in March that ISIS-K, which launched a horrific attack in Moscow earlier this year, "retains the capability and the will to attack U.S. and Western interests abroad in as little as six months with little to no warning."

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