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KRG-US August 2025 Newsletter

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To: farakrg@gmail.com

Kurdistan Regional Government Representation in the United States

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Welcoming the New U.S. Consul General in Erbil

This month, Representative Aziz welcomed Gwendolyn "Wendy" Green, the newly appointed U.S. Consul General in Erbil, congratulating her on the new role and wishing her success as she begins her tenure.

Consul General Green, a career diplomat with nearly 25 years of experience, assumed her position in August 2025. She previously served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Ethiopia, overseeing humanitarian and development projects totaling more than $1.6 billion, and has held key postings in Malta, Dubai, Afghanistan, Suriname, the Netherlands, and South Africa. Her Washington assignments included roles in political-military affairs, reconstruction and stabilization, and consular affairs.

In her first message to the Kurdistan Region, Consul General Green emphasized the enduring U.S.–Kurdistan partnership and described the nearly completed new U.S. Consulate compound in Erbil as "***a powerful symbol of the strength of our relationship***." She underscored her commitment to deepening security, economic, educational, and cultural ties with the KRG and expressed her eagerness to travel throughout the Region to better understand its history and culture.

The arrival of Consul General Green highlights the long-standing U.S.–Kurdistan partnership, which began with *Operation Provide Comfort* in 1991, deepened during the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in 2003, and solidified during the fight against ISIS. The near completion of the U.S. consulate in Erbil further demonstrates Washington's investment in a robust, long-term presence in the Region.

➡ Read Consul General Green's official biography

Women's Empowerment at the Forefront

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The KRG Representation in the United States reaffirmed its commitment to women's empowerment and the protection of women's rights as central to building a more just and resilient society. Representative Treefa Aziz participated in a panel discussion hosted by the US Representative of the Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF), Ms. Khunav Amin. The event highlighted both the challenges and the essential role of women in strengthening communities.

The BCF is one of the leading humanitarian and relief organizations in the Kurdistan Region and Iraq. Founded in 2005, BCF provides support to vulnerable communities, including displaced people, refugees, and families in need. Its work covers emergency relief, healthcare, education, and long-term development initiatives, and it has built strong partnerships with UN agencies, international NGOs, and local institutions.

Through its vocational training centers and educational programs, BCF is also expanding opportunities for women and children, strengthening social protections, and promoting awareness to prevent gender-based violence.
BCF honored the philanthropic contributions of Mrs. Shahin Mafi, founder of the Azar Foundation for Children of the World. Her long-standing dedication to women's and children's welfare worldwide, including generous support for orphans in Rojava and children with autism in Iraqi Kurdistan, continues to serve as an inspiring model of global advocacy.

Ms. Tara Azizi, a human rights lawyer, examined the legal framework surrounding women's rights in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region. She underscored both the progress that has been achieved and the gaps that remain, particularly in ensuring equal protection under the law and expanding women's participation in decision-making. Her remarks emphasized the importance of legal reform, stronger enforcement mechanisms, and public awareness as key tools for advancing women's empowerment.

By working together across government, civil society, and philanthropy, the KRG and its partners are advancing a vision of empowerment, equality, and opportunity for women throughout Kurdistan and beyond.

➡ Read more in the latest issue of the BCF magazine

Restoring Oil Exports and Fair Revenue-Sharing Key to Stability

The Kurdistan Region continues to face mounting economic and humanitarian pressure as the Iraq–Turkey Pipeline (ITP) remains closed, and Baghdad has suspended budget transfers to Erbil. Since March 2023, the pipeline shutdown has blocked nearly 450,000 barrels of oil per day, resulting in a revenue loss of more than $25 billion.

Despite multiple negotiations and agreements aimed at reopening the ITP, the pipeline remains closed. KRG officials emphasize that restoring oil exports and securing a fair, constitutional revenue-sharing arrangement with Baghdad are critical to stabilizing the economy and safeguarding livelihoods across the Kurdistan Region.

Furthermore, nearly 100 days without salaries for KRG civil servants has created severe hardship for families across the Region and strained public services. Officials warn that the prolonged financial strain not only undermines livelihoods but also poses risks to security and stability, highlighting the urgent need for a fair, constitutional resolution to the budget and revenue-sharing dispute.

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KRG officials stress that restoring oil exports and securing fair revenue-sharing are essential to stabilizing the economy, protecting livelihoods, and safeguarding peace in the region.

➡ See the latest updates on this at gov.krd

Other KRG News:

- **Toward 24-Hour Electricity; Runaki Program Ahead of Schedule**
  Nearly 4 million people and 115,000 businesses now have 24-hour electricity through the KRG's Runaki program, with Halabja the first province in Iraq to switch entirely. By the end of 2026, every home and business in the Kurdistan Region will have round-the-clock power.
  ➡ Learn more about the project
- **KRG Launches 564 New Projects Worth $24 Billion**
  The KRG's Ninth Cabinet marked its ongoing commitment to development by initiating 564 investment projects valued at over $24 billion, spanning sectors from industry and tourism to education and foreign investment.
  ➡ Read the full story
- **Preserving Heritage: Erbil Citadel & Choli Minaret Under Restoration**
  Historic treasures receive renewed attention as the KRG launches major restoration work at the Erbil Citadel and prepares to begin preservation efforts at the Choli Minaret, ensuring these cultural icons continue to inspire future generations.
  ➡ Read the full update

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KRG - US NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025

THE KURDISTAN REPORT

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE KRG REPRESENTATION IN THE US

THIS MONTH IN KURDISTAN

United States Opens World's Largest Consulate in Erbil, Marking a New Era in U.S.–Kurdistan Relations

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On December 3, the United States inaugurated its largest consulate in the world in Erbil, a historic milestone underscoring Washington's long-term commitment to the Kurdistan Region's security, stability, and economic future. The opening ceremony was led by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Michael Rigas, alongside Kurdistan Region leadership and senior Iraqi officials.



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The new consulate stands as the most visible symbol to date of the deepening U.S.–Kurdistan partnership, reinforcing cooperation across security, investment, energy, and people-to-people ties. U.S. officials emphasized the Kurdistan Region's role as a trusted security partner and a key gateway for American economic engagement in Iraq.

Read the full article here

Khor Mor Attack Highlights the Importance of Sustained Security and Partnership



The November 26 drone attack on the Khor Mor gas field reinforced the ongoing security threats facing the Kurdistan Region and the urgent need to protect critical energy infrastructure. As a cornerstone of electricity generation and economic stability, Khor Mor is essential to daily life for millions of residents.

In response, the Kurdistan Regional Government Representation in the United States intensified engagement across the U.S. government, Congress, and policy community to ensure sustained attention to the attack and its broader implications. U.S. officials publicly condemned the strike and reaffirmed their commitment to a secure and stable Kurdistan Region, while Kurdish leaders reiterated calls for stronger protective measures to safeguard civilian infrastructure and preserve hard-won energy gains.

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Read the full article here

FROM THE REPRESENTATION

KRG-US Hosts Holiday Reception in Washington



The Kurdistan Regional Government Representation in the United States hosted a Holiday Reception in Washington, bringing together senior representatives from across the U.S. government, Congress, think tanks, and the diplomatic, business, and Kurdish communities. Attendees included officials from the White House National Security Council, the Department of State, and the Department of War, alongside partners from leading policy institutions and economic organizations.





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In her remarks, KRG Representative Treefa Aziz reflected on the enduring U.S.–Kurdistan partnership and highlighted recent milestones, including the opening of the world's largest U.S. consulate in Erbil. She also underscored the Kurdistan Regional Government's reform progress under the 9th Cabinet, spanning electricity access, economic opportunity, infrastructure, education, and public service modernization, and reaffirmed the Representation's commitment to strengthening ties in the year ahead.

Read the full article here

KURDISH CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Zakho SC Fans Win FIFA Best Fan Award, Bringing Global Recognition to Kurdistan



Zakho Sport Club supporters were awarded the FIFA Best Fan Award 2025, marking a historic first for the Kurdistan Region and placing Kurdish football fans on the global stage. The honor followed an internationally recognized show of solidarity, when Zakho SC supporters threw thousands of teddy bears onto the pitch to support children battling cancer and serious illnesses.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino praised the initiative as a powerful expression of empathy that transcends sport. Kurdish leaders, including President Nechirvan Barzani and Prime Minister Masrour Barzani, congratulated the fans, describing the award as a message of unity, compassion, and pride. Beyond football, the recognition highlights how Kurdish society continues to gain global visibility through culture, community action, and shared values.

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NEWS AND MORE

- **Kurdistan Flag Day Marked Across the Region**
  On December 17, the Kurdistan Region marked Flag Day, with officials and citizens honoring the Kurdish flag as a symbol of identity, unity, and resilience. Leaders highlighted the flag's significance in representing coexistence, sacrifice, and the shared aspirations of the Kurdish people.
  Read more here

- **Flooding Causes Damage Across Parts of the Kurdistan Region**
  Severe rainfall and flash flooding impacted several areas of the Kurdistan Region, prompting emergency response and recovery efforts. Authorities reported infrastructure damage and ongoing assessments, with coordination underway to support affected communities and restore services.
  Read more here

- **Full Electricity Supply Restored After Khor Mor Attack**
  The Kurdistan Region has restored full electricity supply following the recent drone attack on the Khor Mor gas field. Gas flows to power stations have resumed, stabilizing generation and allowing the Runaki 24-hour electricity program to return to normal operations across the Region.
  Read more here

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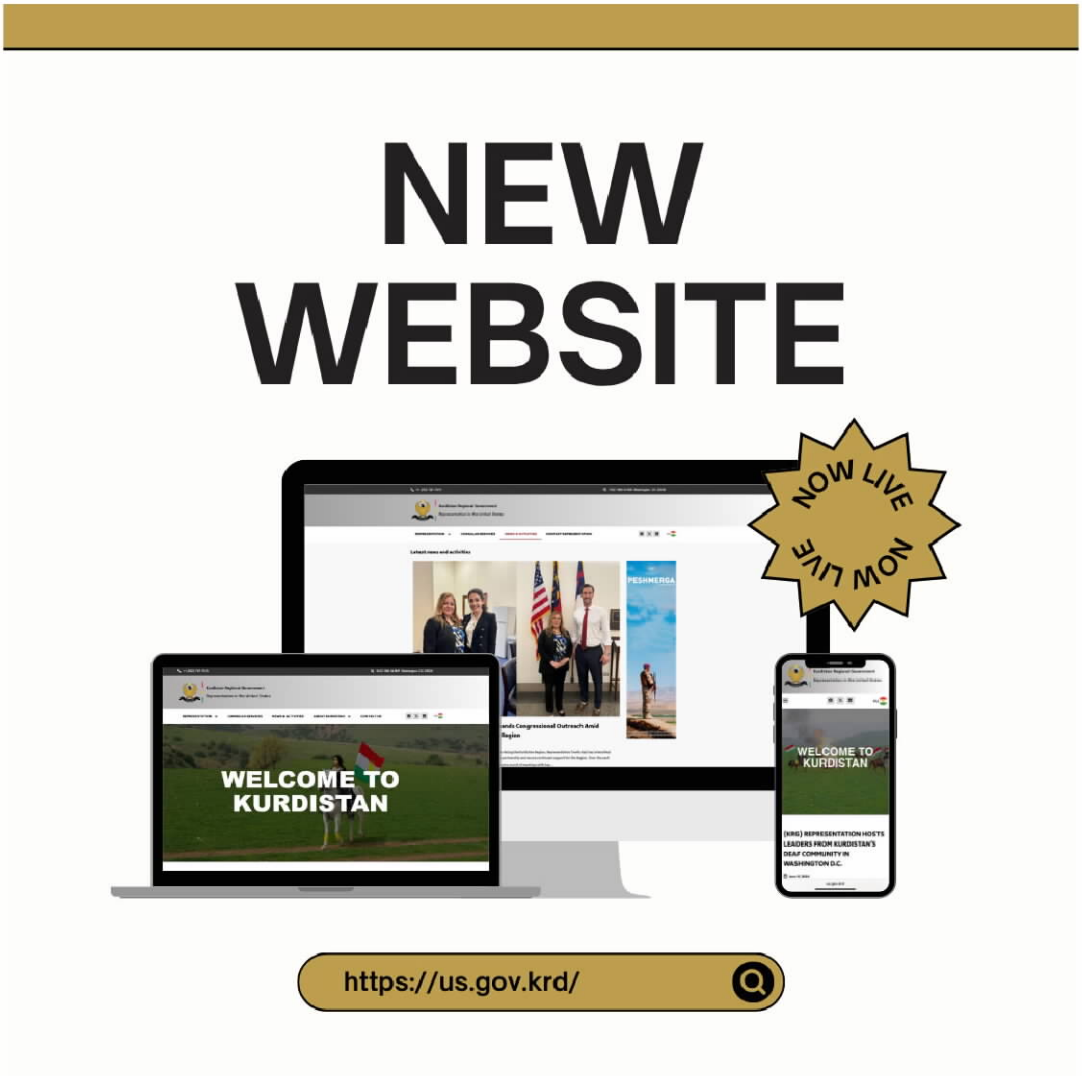
Regional Government Representation in the United States

JULY NEWSLETTER

Introducing Our New Website

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The Kurdistan Regional Government Representation in the United States is pleased to announce the launch of its newly updated website: us.gov.krd.

The refreshed platform offers a cleaner layout, updated content, and an improved user experience. Visitors can now access the latest news, policy priorities, and insights into the U.S.–Kurdistan partnership more easily than ever before.

A key feature of the updated site is the introduction of online fillable forms for consular services, making it easier for members of the Kurdish community to submit requests and access support.

We invite you to explore the new site and stay connected with our work in Washington, D.C.

Advancing U.S.–Kurdistan Strategic Dialogue in Washington

In a critical moment for the Kurdistan Region, a senior delegation from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) visited Washington, D.C. last week to reinforce strategic cooperation with the United States. Led by Minister Safeen Dizayee, Head of the Department of Foreign Relations and accompanied by Ms. Bayan Rahman, Senior Advisor to Prime Minister Masrour Barzani, the delegation focused on expanding ties in energy, security, investment, and diplomacy.

The visit builds on the momentum of Prime Minister Masrour Barzani's official trip in May and comes amid ongoing challenges related to financial pressures and regional stability.

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Deepening Political and Policy Dialogue

The delegation had robust engagements on Capitol Hill, including meetings with Senator Chris Van Hollen, Congressman Abe Hamadeh, and Congressman Jim Baird to discuss shared priorities such as regional security, constitutional protections, economic development, and counterterrorism cooperation.

In addition to congressional meetings, the delegation met with senior officials at the U.S. Department of State to address urgent regional developments and reaffirm the importance of the U.S.–Kurdistan partnership. Meetings at the National Security Council and Department of Defense focused on the evolving security situation in Iraq and the region, ongoing Peshmerga reform efforts, and the need for continued cooperation in the fight against ISIS.

At the Middle East Institute, Minister Dizayee participated in a policy roundtable, engaging with think tank experts and former officials on the Kurdistan Region's strategic goals and diplomatic outlook. He later addressed the Gold Institute for International Strategy, offering a forward-looking perspective on the Region's role in fostering stability and international cooperation.



Energy and Investment in Focus

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Throughout the week, the delegation engaged with key U.S. stakeholders, including high-level meetings with the U.S. Department of Energy and the White House's National Energy Dominance Council. Discussions emphasized the Kurdistan Region's growing role in advancing energy security—not only within Iraq but across the region.

The KRG also met with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the U.S.–Kurdistan Business Council to discuss reopening the Iraq–Turkey Pipeline (ITP) and preparing for expanded American business engagement in the Region. Minister Dizayee reaffirmed the KRG's commitment to a pro-investment environment and thanked U.S. partners for their continued confidence.



Engagement Beyond Government

The delegation's visit also highlighted the importance of diaspora and intercommunal ties. Minister Dizayee welcomed members of the Assyrian American community to the Representation and joined the Assyrian Martyrs Day commemoration at the U.S. Capitol, affirming the KRG's enduring support for ethnic and religious minorities.

A Shared Vision for Stability and Prosperity

The KRG delegation's visit underscored a clear message: the Kurdistan Region remains a reliable, capable, and forward-looking partner for the United States. In the face of regional uncertainty, U.S.–Kurdistan cooperation remains a strategic anchor—grounded in mutual respect, shared values, and a common vision for long-term stability in Iraq and the Middle East.

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A Major Step Toward Water Security in Erbil



With growing demand and an aging water infrastructure, the need for a sustainable water solution in Erbil had become urgent. Less than a year after it was launched, the $480 million Erbil Water Supply Emergency Project has been completed ahead of schedule—delivering on a promise to meet the city's needs for the next 30 years.

This achievement reflects the Kurdistan Regional Government's commitment to long-term infrastructure planning, public service delivery, and sustainable development.

Erbil's Water Crisis: A Strategic Challenge

Erbil, one of the fastest-growing cities in Iraq, has struggled for years with seasonal water shortages and over-reliance on groundwater wells. More than 1,000 active wells have strained local water tables and increased environmental risks.

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The Emergency Water Project was designed to change that trajectory. Once fully operational, the system will deliver 20,000 cubic meters of clean water per hour to households across the city. This marks the first time many neighborhoods will have round-the-clock access to water—a major shift in quality of life for residents.

What the Project Delivers

The scale of the project is unprecedented for the city. It includes:

- 500 kilometers of new pipeline across Erbil
- A modern water distribution network connecting local neighborhoods
- Closure of 1,000 groundwater wells to protect natural resources
- 25,000 direct and indirect job opportunities generated during construction

With Phase One already operational as of July 20, many Erbil neighborhoods are already seeing improved access to reliable water. In a public statement, KRG officials described the project as "delivering on a promise"—and one that is expected to shape the city's future for decades.

Toward a More Sustainable Future

More than just a public works project, the Erbil Water Supply Emergency Project signals a larger shift in how the KRG is planning for urban growth, climate adaptation, and infrastructure resilience.

By reducing reliance on groundwater and investing in modern distribution systems, the Region is taking practical steps toward environmental sustainability and resource security. Looking ahead, continued investments in water infrastructure—paired with good governance and smart urban planning—will be critical to ensuring that cities like Erbil are not only livable, but thriving hubs for future generations.

Other KRG News:

- **42 Years Since the Anfal Genocide Against the Barzanis**
  More than 8,000 Barzani men and boys were forcibly disappeared in 1983 by the Ba'ath regime. This month, we remember the victims and reaffirm the call for justice.
  ➡ Read the full story
- **Drone Strikes Target Oil Fields in Duhok Province**
  Multiple drone attacks hit oil infrastructure in Zakho and Sheikhan, temporarily suspending operations and raising security concerns. No injuries were reported.
  ➡ Read more from AP
- **Erbil's Greening Initiative Reaches 900,000 Plantings**
  Erbil continues its push for sustainable urban growth, planting nearly 900,000 trees and flowers to raise green space to 20%—and climbing.
  ➡ Learn more about the project
- **2.72 Million Citizens Now Have 24/7 Electricity**
  Over 2.7 million citizens—about 40% of the Kurdistan Region's population—now enjoy uninterrupted power under the Runaki programme. This marks a rapid expansion from earlier in July, when the total stood at 2 million.
  ➡ Read the full update
- **800,000+ Enrolled in KRG's MyAccount Program**
  Over 800,000 public sector beneficiaries are now registered for MyAccount, the Kurdistan Region's digital salary and banking system—marking a major step toward transparency and financial reform.
  ➡ See the announcement

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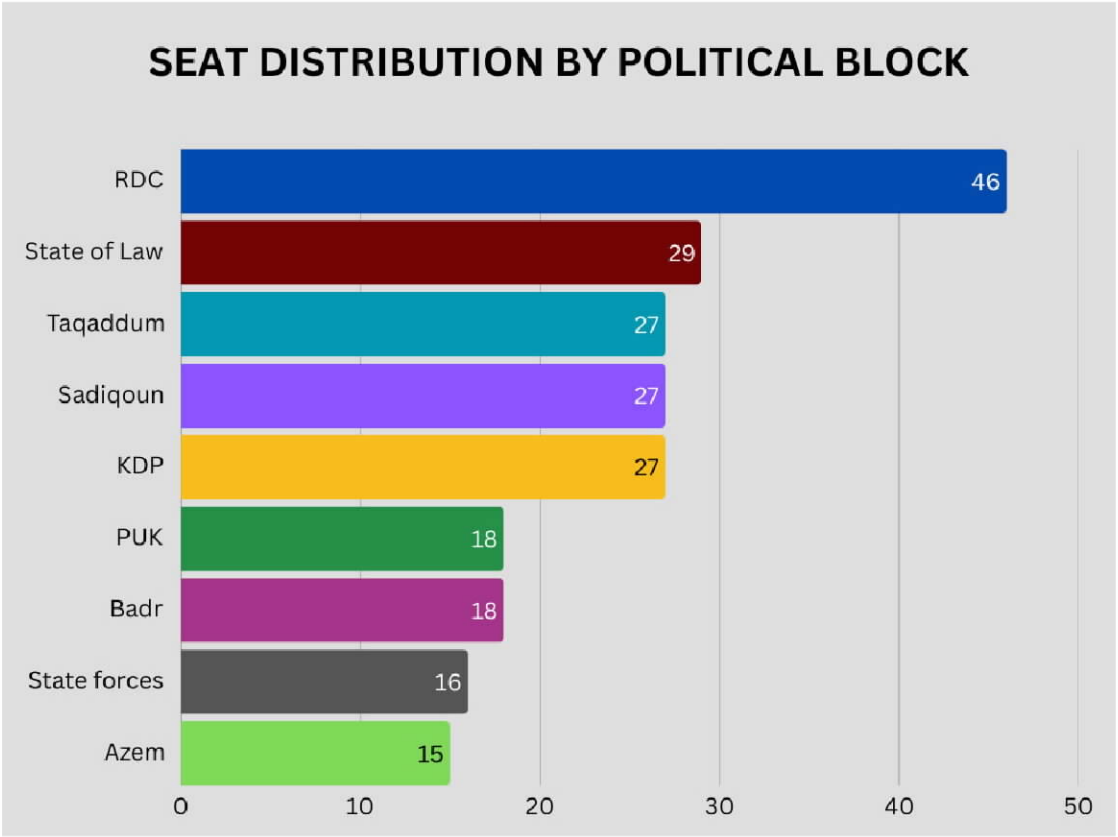
Iraq's 2025 Parliamentary Elections: Strong Kurdish Turnout and Regional Leadership

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Iraq held its sixth parliamentary elections on November 11, marking an important step in strengthening democratic institutions and public confidence. Voter participation exceeded 56% nationwide, with the Kurdistan Region recording the highest turnout in the country, nearly 72% in Erbil and 78% in Duhok. Women played a particularly significant role, accounting for 47.3% of voters in Duhok and contributing to more than 5.1 million votes cast by women across Iraq.



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The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) surpassed 1 million votes nationwide, the highest of any single party. With Kurdish parties securing key seats across Erbil, Duhok, Sulaimani, Kirkuk, and Nineveh, the Kurdistan Region will continue to play a pivotal role in coalition negotiations and in shaping Iraq's next federal government.

Read the full article here

MEPS Forum 2025 in Duhok, Bringing Post-Election Dialogue to the Region



The 2025 Middle East Peace and Security (MEPS) Forum opened in Duhok on November 17–19, bringing together senior Iraqi, Kurdish, regional, and international leaders just days after Iraq's parliamentary elections.

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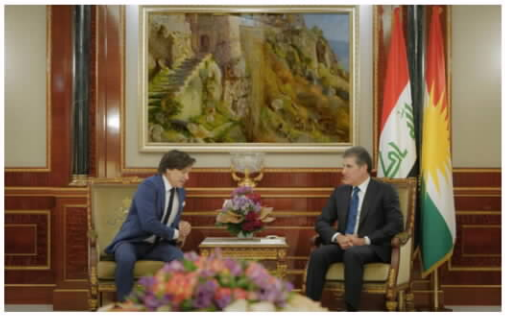


Discussions focused on post-election coalition dynamics, regional security, economic resilience, and shifting geopolitical trends. Prime Minister Masrour Barzani emphasized unity and the need for collaborative solutions to the Middle East's ongoing challenges. This year's Forum also highlighted the Kurdistan Region's growing role as a neutral hub for dialogue and cooperation, with participants underscoring the importance of continued engagement as Iraq forms its next government.

Read the full article here

FROM THE REPRESENTATION

U.S.–Kurdistan Business Council (USKBC) Deepens Engagement in Erbil and Duhok





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A USKBC delegation visited the Kurdistan Region in November for commercial meetings and participation in the MEPS Forum, joined by leading U.S.-affiliated energy companies including HKN Energy, Hunt Oil, Western Zagros, Dana Gas, and Crescent Petroleum. President Nechirvan Barzani and Prime Minister Masrour Barzani reaffirmed the KRG's commitment to deepening U.S. economic ties, highlighting progress in reforms, transparency, and major energy and natural gas projects.

Senior KRG officials also underscored opportunities in manufacturing, petrochemicals, agriculture, and infrastructure. The Kurdistan Region's investor-friendly legal framework, allowing full foreign ownership, long-term land use rights, tax exemptions, profit repatriation, and international arbitration, continues to attract U.S. and diaspora investors, reinforcing the Region's position as one of Iraq's most secure and business-friendly destinations.

Read the full article here

Kirkuk Folklore Musical Group Performs in Washington, D.C.

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The KRG-US Representation was honored to welcome the Aslat Kirkuk folkloric ensemble to Washington, D.C., where the group showcased the rich musical traditions of Kirkuk, including Kurdish, Turkmen, and Arabic heritage. Their visit highlighted the importance of cultural diplomacy and the preservation of Mesopotamia's diverse artistic traditions.

Read the full article here

NEWS AND MORE

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- **First Kurdish Oil Exports Loaded at Türkiye's Ceyhan Port**
  On November 17, 2025, oil companies loaded the first cargoes of Kurdistan-origin crude at the Ceyhan port, signaling a major step in resuming exports.
  Read more here

- **PKK Pulls Back from Kurdistan Region Border Areas**
  The PKK has pulled forces back from key border zones in what officials describe as a significant move toward de-escalation with Türkiye.
  Read more here

- **KRG's Runaki project brings 24-hour electricity to 4.5 million citizens**
  The Runaki project, launched by the Kurdistan Regional Government in October 2024, now delivers 24-hour electricity to around 4.5 million people (≈70% of the region's population) and has already shut down about 3,700 diesel generators.
  Read more here

KURDISH CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Halabja Pomegranate & Autumn Festival Draws More Than 400,000 Visitors



Halabja welcomed over 419,000 visitors to its annual Pomegranate and Autumn Festival—one of the largest cultural gatherings in the province's history. With more than 250 farmers, 300 artisans, and 1.7 billion IQD in economic activity, the festival showcased Halabja's agricultural strength, cultural heritage, and growing role as a tourism hub.

Visitors enjoyed world-renowned Halabja pomegranates, handicrafts, and heritage displays, while local businesses saw record demand. The festival continues to be one of Kurdistan's most important cultural and economic events.

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Promise Made, Promise Delivered: Building a Sustainable and Prosperous Kurdistan

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The Kurdistan Regional Government continues to deliver on its reform agenda—strengthening financial systems, improving public services, and investing in sustainability and heritage.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Masrour Barzani, new pipeline were built to deliver gas to power plants, doubling gas production, and brought 24-hour electricity to more than 4 million people–a win for citizens, investors and the economy.

The Kurdistan Region is witnessing continued development across other key sectors, from the Megal Livestock Project strengthening food security, to Erbil's recycling initiative promoting sustainability, and the restoration of Amedi's historic Stone Hotel supporting cultural heritage and tourism. Together, these efforts are building a stronger and more self-reliant Kurdistan.

Read the full article here

KRG Inaugurates Strategic Gomaspan–Smaqoli Road Linking Erbil and Sulaimani

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The KRG inaugurated the Gomaspan–Smaqoli Road, a 22-kilometer, $160 million modern highway connecting Erbil, Sulaimani, and the Raparin Independent Administration. Completed in just one year, the project underscores the government's efficiency and determination to deliver despite economic challenges.

Built to international standards, the route features bridges, underpasses, and advanced safety measures—enhancing regional trade, tourism, and connectivity. The project supports the KRG's broader vision of economic diversification and infrastructure-driven growth, complementing new energy and development agreements that signal growing investor confidence in Kurdistan.

Read the full article here

KRG Lays Cornerstone for Science Park, Advancing Innovation and Knowledge-Based Growth

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Prime Minister Masrour Barzani laid the foundation for the Kurdistan Innovation Institute's new Science Park in Erbil—an ambitious project designed to make the Region a hub for research, technology, and entrepreneurship.

The 200,000-square-meter campus will house laboratories, offices, and living spaces for researchers, integrating renewable energy and sustainable design in partnership with Swedish firm Wingardh Arkitektkontor. By connecting innovators, universities, and investors, the park will drive economic diversification and position Kurdistan as a leader in digital and scientific advancement.

Read the full article here

New Erbil Green Belt Project Launched to Combat Climate Change and Boost Youth Employment

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As part of the KRG's Ninth Cabinet Environmental Plan, the Erbil Green Belt Project marks a major step toward building a cleaner, more resilient Kurdistan through reforestation and sustainable employment.

The 83-kilometer green zone will encircle Erbil, protecting farmland from urban sprawl and absorbing more than 200,000 tons of carbon dioxide annually. In its first phase, seven million olive and pistachio trees will be planted, supported by new irrigation wells and year-round maintenance programs.

Designed as both an environmental and economic investment, the project will train and employ hundreds of young people in agriculture and environmental management. It serves as a cornerstone of the KRG's Ninth Cabinet Environmental Plan — part of a wider vision to plant 100 million trees by 2030 and make Erbil a regional model for sustainable growth.

Read the full article here

FROM THE REPRESENTATION

KRG-US Welcomes Visiting Scholars from the University of Duhok

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The Kurdistan Regional Government Representation in the United States welcomed five scholars from the University of Duhok to Washington, D.C. for a six-week diplomacy and professional development program.

Part of the Joint Diplomacy Project between the Institute of World Politics (IWP) and the University of Duhok, the initiative combines classroom learning with placements at the KRG Representation, the Embassy of Iraq, and the Barzani Charity Foundation. The program enhances academic and diplomatic skills while fostering cross-cultural understanding.

Representative Treefa Aziz emphasized the importance of these exchanges in preparing the next generation of Kurdish professionals for international service and leadership.

Read the full article here

KRG-US Attends the Marshall Legacy Institute's "Clearing the Path" Gala

The KRG Representation in Washington was honored to attend the Marshall Legacy Institute's *Clearing the Path Gala*—an annual event recognizing global efforts to eliminate landmines, assist survivors, and promote peace.

The gala featured keynote remarks by Ambassador Joseph Keith Kellogg Jr. and honored deminers, survivors, and educators from around the world. The Representation joined diplomats, humanitarian leaders, and veterans in reaffirming support for mine action and survivor assistance programs.

For decades, the people of Kurdistan have lived with the devastating legacy of landmines. Through cooperation with partners like MLI, the KRG continues to advance demining and rehabilitation efforts that restore safety and opportunity to affected communities.

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Read the full article here

KRG-US Attends *Kî me Ez? – Who Am I?* Exhibition and Discussion



The KRG Representation in Washington attended *Kî me Ez? – Who Am I?*, an interdisciplinary discussion and art exhibition at Mason Exhibitions Arlington exploring Kurdish history, identity, and creativity in diaspora.

Moderated by Holly Mason Badra, the event featured Kurdish scholars and artists whose works reflected themes of resilience, memory, and belonging. Inspired by the poetry of Cegerxwîn, the exhibition invited audiences to reimagine Kurdish identity through art and scholarship.

The Representation commended Mason Exhibitions Arlington and the participating artists for advancing cultural diplomacy and fostering dialogue around Kurdish expression and identity.

Read the full article here

NEWS AND MORE

- **Kurdistan Region President H.E. Nechirvan Barzani Receives Letter of Thanks from U.S. President Donald Trump**
  The President of the Kurdistan Region received a letter from President Donald Trump, praising his support for U.S. peace initiatives and underscoring the need for resolving tensions and advancing stability in the Middle East.
  Learn more here
- **European Youth Leader Calls for Global Recognition of Kurdish Genocide**

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At a conference at University of Duhok, Javier Hurtado Mira, Chairman of the Democrat Youth Community of Europe, urged the international community to formally recognize the genocide against the Kurdish people, highlighting education and cooperation as the way forward and condemning salary cuts in the Region as "economic genocide."
Learn more here

KURDISH CULTURE AND SOCIETY

- **Halabja Pomegranate & Autumn Festival Welcomes Thousands**
  The 11th annual Halabja Pomegranate and Autumn Festival opened with more than 650 booths featuring local pomegranates, autumn produce, women's handicrafts, and Kurdish cuisine. Organizers expect over 300,000 visitors this year, highlighting Halabja's growing role as a center for agritourism and cultural celebration.
  Read more here

- **Archaeologists Uncover 6,000-Year-Old Site Near Erbil**
  An Italian–Kurdish archaeological team has discovered the Ali Mawlan mound south of Erbil, dating back more than six millennia. The site contains Chalcolithic structures, decorated pottery, and human remains—shedding new light on one of the earliest known settlements in the region.
  Read more here

- **Hama Hashim Showcases "Memories of Stone" in Erbil**
  Renowned Kurdish artist Hama Hashim opened his latest exhibition, *Memories of Stone*, at Erbil Media Hall. Using stone, concrete, and reclaimed materials, Hashim reflects on memory, endurance, and the labor that has shaped Kurdish society. The exhibition marks his 17th solo show and continues his legacy of art rooted in remembrance.
  Read more here

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THE KURDISTAN REPORT

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE KRG REPRESENTATION IN THE US

UPDATES FROM KURDISTAN

Landmark U.S. Business Delegation Certified by U.S. Government Visits Kurdistan

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The Kurdistan Region welcomed a large U.S. Chamber of Commerce delegation in September, featuring Google, IBM, Visa, PepsiCo, and Coca-Cola. For the first time, the American trade delegation to Erbil was certified by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Over two days, the delegation met Kurdistan's leadership, senior government officials, and the business community to discuss concrete opportunities in infrastructure, agriculture, energy, and digital transformation.



Prime Minister Barzani underscored the KRG's reform agenda and commitment to diversifying the economy, highlighting Kurdistan's young workforce and strategic location as key advantages for U.S. companies. In their meeting with the Office of the Presidency, discussions centered on long-term U.S.–Kurdistan cooperation and the shared interest in advancing trade and investment.

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The delegation also toured flagship projects — including the Erbil Rapid Water Emergency Project and the KRG's state-of-the-art data center at the Department of Information Technology— as well as engaging directly with Kurdistan's private sector. The visit included a tour of the Erbil Citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site dating back 6,000 years, reinforcing both the economic and cultural dimensions of U.S.–Kurdistan ties.

➡ Read the full article here

Resumption of Oil Exports Through the Iraq–Türkiye Pipeline

After more than two and a half years, crude oil from the Kurdistan Region is once again flowing to international markets via the Iraq–Türkiye Pipeline. Under a new framework between the KRG, the Government of Iraq, and international oil companies, 240,000 barrels per day are now being produced — with 190,000 exported through SOMO and 50,000 reserved for the Kurdistan Region's domestic use.

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani hailed the agreement as "a great achievement for all the people of Iraq, especially the people of the Kurdistan Region," and highlighted the role of U.S. support in securing the breakthrough. The resumption offers new momentum for Kurdistan's economy, ensuring revenues, boosting local companies, and reinforcing the Region's role as a reliable energy partner in global markets.

The State Department, in a statement from Secretary of State Marco Rubio, welcomed the reopening of the pipeline and commended Prime Minister Mohammed Shiaa al-Sudani, Prime Minister Barzani, and senior officials for making the agreement possible. The statement emphasized that the deal will strengthen U.S.–Iraq economic ties, enhance regional energy security, and reinforce Iraq's sovereignty.

➡ Find more information here.

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FROM THE REPRESENTATION

KRG-USA at the 80th United Nations General Assembly



The Kurdistan Regional Government Representation in the United States took part in the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. Representative Treefa Aziz joined the Iraqi delegation in bilateral meetings with Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, participated in a Middle East Institute forum on Syria and minority rights, and moderated the closing session of the High-Level International Conference on Repatriation, attended by 60 countries and 31 international organizations.

In media engagements, Representative Aziz emphasized the importance of resolving oil export disputes with Baghdad to ensure regular salaries in the Kurdistan Region. Her remarks coincided with a landmark tripartite agreement to resume exports through the Iraq-Türkiye Pipeline, restoring vital revenues and marking a critical step toward financial stability.

➡ Read the full article here

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KURDISH CULTURE AND SOCIETY

- **Kî me Ez? – Contemporary Kurdish Art in Diaspora**
  At Mason Exhibitions Arlington, Kurdish artists from the diaspora explore themes of resilience, memory, and identity in Kî me Ez?, an exhibition inspired by the poetry of Cegerxwin.
  ➡️ Learn more about the exhibition here

- **Lara Dizeyee at Milan Fashion Week**
  Renowned designer Lara Dizeyee unveiled her Milan Enchanted collection, blending Kurdish heritage with haute couture and earning international acclaim as she represented Kurdish culture on the global stage.
  ➡️ See the full collection here

- **Kurdish Soloists Shine in Brussels**
  Violinist Alan Arif and daf player Sherko Kaniwar performed with the Brussels Philharmonic, bringing Kurdish melodies to one of Europe's most prestigious classical stages.
  ➡️ Learn more about the performance here

NEWS AND MORE

- **Toyota Hub Opens in Duhok**
  Prime Minister Masrour Barzani inaugurated Toyota's new warehouse and pre-inspection center, marking Japan's confidence in Kurdistan and positioning Duhok as Iraq's hub for Japanese car imports.
  ➡️ Learn more about the opening here

- **Erbil Launches Major Recycling Push**
  The Kurdistan Foundation, in partnership with the Ministry of Municipality and Tourism, has installed 500 waste and plastic separation bins across Erbil and Duhok to promote recycling, protect the environment, and advance the KRG's green initiatives.
  ➡️ See the full initiative here

- **Iraqi Elections Campaigns Begin in Erbil**
  Campaigning for Iraq's parliamentary elections has officially launched in Erbil province, where 173 candidates are competing for 16 seats under stricter regulations and with a shift toward online outreach over street posters.

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➡️ Learn more here

Follow Us on Instagram

We've launched our official Instagram page to share Kurdistan's culture, partnerships, and community stories directly from Washington, D.C. Follow us at @krg_us to stay connected!

@KRG_US

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Now on View: “Kî me Ez? — Who Am I?” at Mason Exhibitions Arlington

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KRG-USA | Community Notice

Kî me Ez? — Who Am I?

Contemporary Kurdish Art in Diaspora
On view: September 5 – October 25, 2025 · Mason Exhibitions Arlington



The Kurdistan Regional Government Representation in the United States (KRG-USA) is proud to support Kî me Ez? — Who Am I?, a groundbreaking

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exhibition showcasing contemporary Kurdish artists whose work explores identity, memory, displacement, and resilience across the diaspora.
RSVP / Exhibition Info »

Special Program: Oct 17 Interdisciplinary Talk

Friday, October 17 | 6:00–8:00 PM · Mason Exhibitions Arlington

Join an interdisciplinary discussion connecting Kurdish scholarship with the artworks on view. Hear from three Kurdish PhD scholars as they discuss history, culture, and lived experience across disciplines.

- Moderator: Holly Mason Badra
- Panelists: Arash Saleh, Golzar Salih, Omer Pacal

Save Your Seat for Oct 17 »

Location: Mason Exhibitions Arlington

Address: 3601 Fairfax Dr, Arlington, VA 22201 (Clarendon–Virginia Square area)

Questions: amaru@gmu.edu

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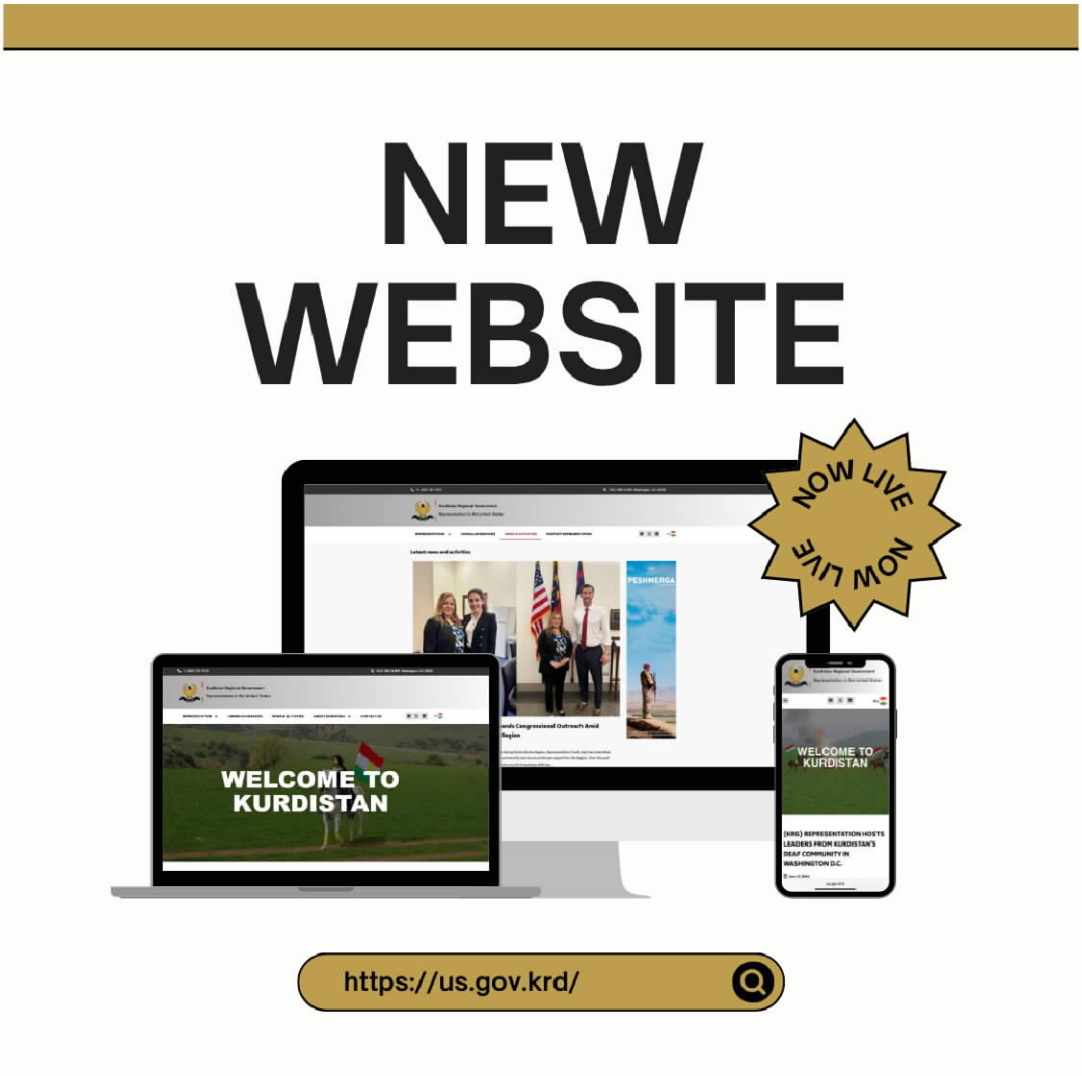
Regional Government Representation in the United States

JULY NEWSLETTER

Introducing Our New Website

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The Kurdistan Regional Government Representation in the United States is pleased to announce the launch of its newly updated website: us.gov.krd.

The refreshed platform offers a cleaner layout, updated content, and an improved user experience. Visitors can now access the latest news, policy priorities, and insights into the U.S.–Kurdistan partnership more easily than ever before.

A key feature of the updated site is the introduction of online fillable forms for consular services, making it easier for members of the Kurdish community to submit requests and access support.

We invite you to explore the new site and stay connected with our work in Washington, D.C.

Advancing U.S.–Kurdistan Strategic Dialogue in Washington

In a critical moment for the Kurdistan Region, a senior delegation from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) visited Washington, D.C. last week to reinforce strategic cooperation with the United States. Led by Minister Safeen Dizayee, Head of the Department of Foreign Relations and accompanied by Ms. Bayan Rahman, Senior Advisor to Prime Minister Masrour Barzani, the delegation focused on expanding ties in energy, security, investment, and diplomacy.

The visit builds on the momentum of Prime Minister Masrour Barzani's official trip in May and comes amid ongoing challenges related to financial pressures and regional stability.

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Deepening Political and Policy Dialogue

The delegation had robust engagements on Capitol Hill, including meetings with Senator Chris Van Hollen, Congressman Abe Hamadeh, and Congressman Jim Baird to discuss shared priorities such as regional security, constitutional protections, economic development, and counterterrorism cooperation.

In addition to congressional meetings, the delegation met with senior officials at the U.S. Department of State to address urgent regional developments and reaffirm the importance of the U.S.–Kurdistan partnership. Meetings at the National Security Council and Department of Defense focused on the evolving security situation in Iraq and the region, ongoing Peshmerga reform efforts, and the need for continued cooperation in the fight against ISIS.

At the Middle East Institute, Minister Dizayee participated in a policy roundtable, engaging with think tank experts and former officials on the Kurdistan Region's strategic goals and diplomatic outlook. He later addressed the Gold Institute for International Strategy, offering a forward-looking perspective on the Region's role in fostering stability and international cooperation.



Energy and Investment in Focus

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Throughout the week, the delegation engaged with key U.S. stakeholders, including high-level meetings with the U.S. Department of Energy and the White House's National Energy Dominance Council. Discussions emphasized the Kurdistan Region's growing role in advancing energy security—not only within Iraq but across the region.

The KRG also met with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the U.S.–Kurdistan Business Council to discuss reopening the Iraq–Turkey Pipeline (ITP) and preparing for expanded American business engagement in the Region. Minister Dizayee reaffirmed the KRG's commitment to a pro-investment environment and thanked U.S. partners for their continued confidence.



Engagement Beyond Government

The delegation's visit also highlighted the importance of diaspora and intercommunal ties. Minister Dizayee welcomed members of the Assyrian American community to the Representation and joined the Assyrian Martyrs Day commemoration at the U.S. Capitol, affirming the KRG's enduring support for ethnic and religious minorities.

A Shared Vision for Stability and Prosperity

The KRG delegation's visit underscored a clear message: the Kurdistan Region remains a reliable, capable, and forward-looking partner for the United States. In the face of regional uncertainty, U.S.–Kurdistan cooperation remains a strategic anchor—grounded in mutual respect, shared values, and a common vision for long-term stability in Iraq and the Middle East.

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A Major Step Toward Water Security in Erbil



With growing demand and an aging water infrastructure, the need for a sustainable water solution in Erbil had become urgent. Less than a year after it was launched, the $480 million Erbil Water Supply Emergency Project has been completed ahead of schedule—delivering on a promise to meet the city's needs for the next 30 years.

This achievement reflects the Kurdistan Regional Government's commitment to long-term infrastructure planning, public service delivery, and sustainable development.

Erbil's Water Crisis: A Strategic Challenge

Erbil, one of the fastest-growing cities in Iraq, has struggled for years with seasonal water shortages and over-reliance on groundwater wells. More than 1,000 active wells have strained local water tables and increased environmental risks.

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The Emergency Water Project was designed to change that trajectory. Once fully operational, the system will deliver 20,000 cubic meters of clean water per hour to households across the city. This marks the first time many neighborhoods will have round-the-clock access to water—a major shift in quality of life for residents.

What the Project Delivers

The scale of the project is unprecedented for the city. It includes:

- 500 kilometers of new pipeline across Erbil
- A modern water distribution network connecting local neighborhoods
- Closure of 1,000 groundwater wells to protect natural resources
- 25,000 direct and indirect job opportunities generated during construction

With Phase One already operational as of July 20, many Erbil neighborhoods are already seeing improved access to reliable water. In a public statement, KRG officials described the project as "delivering on a promise"—and one that is expected to shape the city's future for decades.

Toward a More Sustainable Future

More than just a public works project, the Erbil Water Supply Emergency Project signals a larger shift in how the KRG is planning for urban growth, climate adaptation, and infrastructure resilience.

By reducing reliance on groundwater and investing in modern distribution systems, the Region is taking practical steps toward environmental sustainability and resource security. Looking ahead, continued investments in water infrastructure—paired with good governance and smart urban planning—will be critical to ensuring that cities like Erbil are not only livable, but thriving hubs for future generations.

Other KRG News:

- **42 Years Since the Anfal Genocide Against the Barzanis**
  More than 8,000 Barzani men and boys were forcibly disappeared in 1983 by the Ba'ath regime. This month, we remember the victims and reaffirm the call for justice.
  ➡ Read the full story
- **Drone Strikes Target Oil Fields in Duhok Province**
  Multiple drone attacks hit oil infrastructure in Zakho and Sheikhan, temporarily suspending operations and raising security concerns. No injuries were reported.
  ➡ Read more from AP
- **Erbil's Greening Initiative Reaches 900,000 Plantings**
  Erbil continues its push for sustainable urban growth, planting nearly 900,000 trees and flowers to raise green space to 20%—and climbing.
  ➡ Learn more about the project
- **2.72 Million Citizens Now Have 24/7 Electricity**
  Over 2.7 million citizens—about 40% of the Kurdistan Region's population—now enjoy uninterrupted power under the Runaki programme. This marks a rapid expansion from earlier in July, when the total stood at 2 million.
  ➡ Read the full update
- **800,000+ Enrolled in KRG's MyAccount Program**
  Over 800,000 public sector beneficiaries are now registered for MyAccount, the Kurdistan Region's digital salary and banking system—marking a major step toward transparency and financial reform.
  ➡ See the announcement

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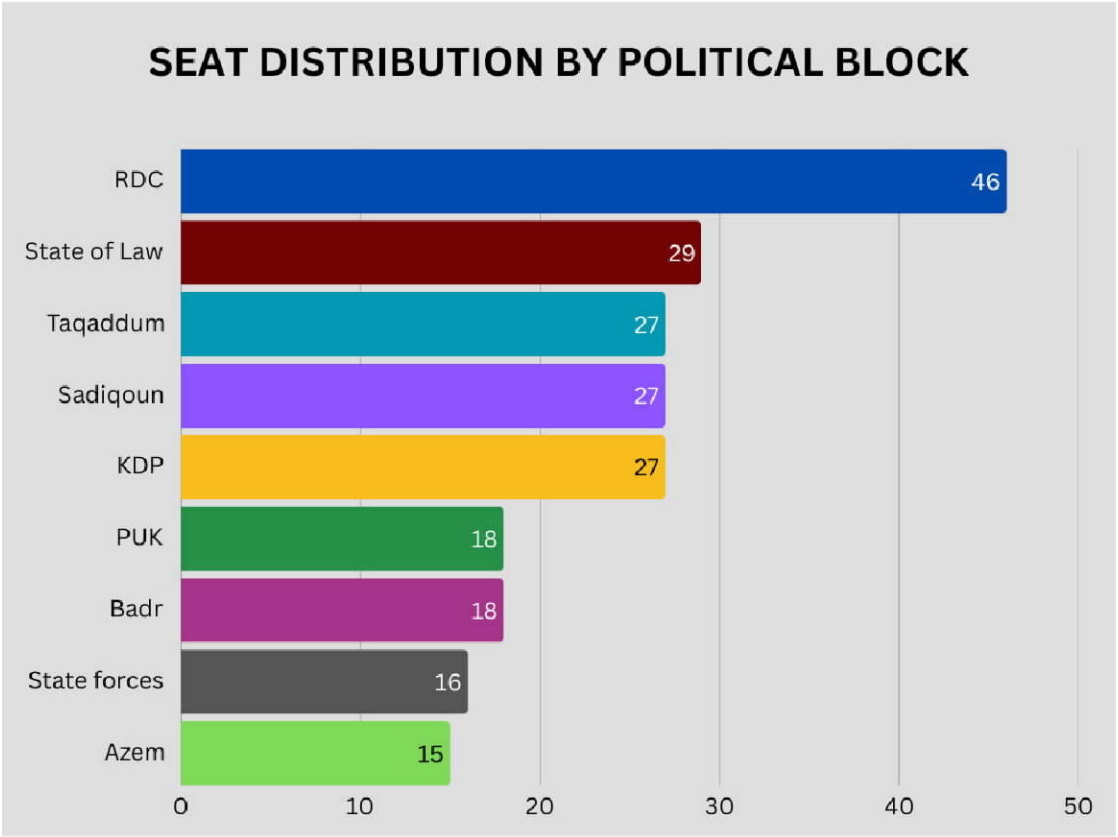
Iraq's 2025 Parliamentary Elections: Strong Kurdish Turnout and Regional Leadership

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Iraq held its sixth parliamentary elections on November 11, marking an important step in strengthening democratic institutions and public confidence. Voter participation exceeded 56% nationwide, with the Kurdistan Region recording the highest turnout in the country, nearly 72% in Erbil and 78% in Duhok. Women played a particularly significant role, accounting for 47.3% of voters in Duhok and contributing to more than 5.1 million votes cast by women across Iraq.



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The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) surpassed 1 million votes nationwide, the highest of any single party. With Kurdish parties securing key seats across Erbil, Duhok, Sulaimani, Kirkuk, and Nineveh, the Kurdistan Region will continue to play a pivotal role in coalition negotiations and in shaping Iraq's next federal government.

Read the full article here

MEPS Forum 2025 in Duhok, Bringing Post-Election Dialogue to the Region



The 2025 Middle East Peace and Security (MEPS) Forum opened in Duhok on November 17–19, bringing together senior Iraqi, Kurdish, regional, and international leaders just days after Iraq's parliamentary elections.

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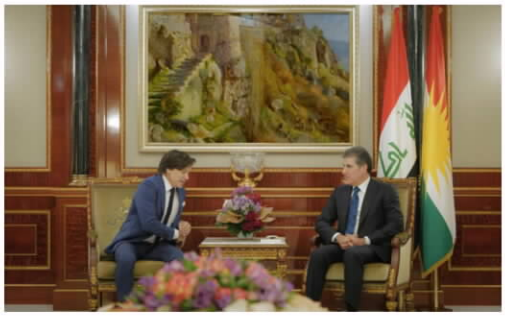


Discussions focused on post-election coalition dynamics, regional security, economic resilience, and shifting geopolitical trends. Prime Minister Masrour Barzani emphasized unity and the need for collaborative solutions to the Middle East's ongoing challenges. This year's Forum also highlighted the Kurdistan Region's growing role as a neutral hub for dialogue and cooperation, with participants underscoring the importance of continued engagement as Iraq forms its next government.

Read the full article here

FROM THE REPRESENTATION

U.S.–Kurdistan Business Council (USKBC) Deepens Engagement in Erbil and Duhok





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A USKBC delegation visited the Kurdistan Region in November for commercial meetings and participation in the MEPS Forum, joined by leading U.S.-affiliated energy companies including HKN Energy, Hunt Oil, Western Zagros, Dana Gas, and Crescent Petroleum. President Nechirvan Barzani and Prime Minister Masrour Barzani reaffirmed the KRG's commitment to deepening U.S. economic ties, highlighting progress in reforms, transparency, and major energy and natural gas projects.

Senior KRG officials also underscored opportunities in manufacturing, petrochemicals, agriculture, and infrastructure. The Kurdistan Region's investor-friendly legal framework, allowing full foreign ownership, long-term land use rights, tax exemptions, profit repatriation, and international arbitration, continues to attract U.S. and diaspora investors, reinforcing the Region's position as one of Iraq's most secure and business-friendly destinations.

Read the full article here

Kirkuk Folklore Musical Group Performs in Washington, D.C.

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The KRG-US Representation was honored to welcome the Aslat Kirkuk folkloric ensemble to Washington, D.C., where the group showcased the rich musical traditions of Kirkuk, including Kurdish, Turkmen, and Arabic heritage. Their visit highlighted the importance of cultural diplomacy and the preservation of Mesopotamia's diverse artistic traditions.

Read the full article here

NEWS AND MORE

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- **First Kurdish Oil Exports Loaded at Türkiye's Ceyhan Port**
  On November 17, 2025, oil companies loaded the first cargoes of Kurdistan-origin crude at the Ceyhan port, signaling a major step in resuming exports.
  Read more here

- **PKK Pulls Back from Kurdistan Region Border Areas**
  The PKK has pulled forces back from key border zones in what officials describe as a significant move toward de-escalation with Türkiye.
  Read more here

- **KRG's Runaki project brings 24-hour electricity to 4.5 million citizens**
  The Runaki project, launched by the Kurdistan Regional Government in October 2024, now delivers 24-hour electricity to around 4.5 million people (≈70% of the region's population) and has already shut down about 3,700 diesel generators.
  Read more here

KURDISH CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Halabja Pomegranate & Autumn Festival Draws More Than 400,000 Visitors



Halabja welcomed over 419,000 visitors to its annual Pomegranate and Autumn Festival—one of the largest cultural gatherings in the province's history. With more than 250 farmers, 300 artisans, and 1.7 billion IQD in economic activity, the festival showcased Halabja's agricultural strength, cultural heritage, and growing role as a tourism hub.

Visitors enjoyed world-renowned Halabja pomegranates, handicrafts, and heritage displays, while local businesses saw record demand. The festival continues to be one of Kurdistan's most important cultural and economic events.

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