

March 19, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We are writing to bring to your attention to the concerning fiscal situation facing the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and the Kurdistan Region's population, which is currently experiencing an existential crisis. The actions taken by Baghdad to undermine the KRG both politically and economically have reached a critical juncture. We urge your administration to address these matters before Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani's upcoming visit to Washington in April.

Despite repeated assurances to address these outstanding issues, the Iraqi government's recent measures to withhold payments to KRG civil servants, including the Peshmerga and security forces, have deeply concerned us. Moreover, the recent allocation authorized by the Iraqi government only covers a fraction of the public payroll, leaving a substantial deficit.

According to the Iraqi Federal Budget Law, the KRG was entitled to receive \$12.5 billion USD from the federal budget for fiscal year 2023. Regrettably, we have learned only a fraction of this amount has been disbursed, leaving the Kurdistan Region public facing an outstanding loss of nearly \$9 billion.

Furthermore, the prolonged suspension of oil exports from the Kurdistan Region over the past year has resulted in staggering losses exceeding \$10 billion. This has had severe repercussions on the economy of the Kurdistan Region, as well as on international oil companies operating in the region, of which some are U.S.-based companies.

This behavior only emboldens Iran and its proxies to destabilize the region further. It is imperative that decisive action is taken to address this escalating crisis.

As longstanding allies and partners of the Iraqis and Kurds, the United States and its coalition partners have worked towards a thriving Kurdistan Region, which is in the best interest of a federal, democratic, and pluralistic Iraq.

The economic suffocation of Kurdistan must cease immediately. It is evident that Iraqi institutions are being weaponized against Kurdish, Sunni, and minority communities, a situation that cannot be tolerated. We urge you to take swift action to address these pressing matters in advance of Prime Minister Sudani's upcoming visit to Washington in April.

***This material is distributed by ArentFox Schiff LLP on behalf of Kurdistan Regional Government. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.***

Sincerely,

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Member Name  
Member of Congress

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