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KRG-US March 2025 Newsletter

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Thu, Mar 27, 2025 at 11:17 AM

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Kurdistan Regional Government Representation in the United States

March Newsletter





KRG-US Commemorates Halabja Genocide at U.S. Capitol

On March 12, 2025, the Kurdistan Regional Government Representation in the United States (KRG-US), marked the 37th anniversary of the Halabja Genocide with a commemoration held at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. The event, which brought together lawmakers, diplomats, policy experts and members of the Kurdish-American community, served to honor the victims of one of the most tragic events in modern Kurdish history, the chemical attack on the town of Halabja by the Iraqi regime under Saddam Hussein. The significance of remembering Halabja ensures that future generations understand the atrocities committed and the importance of preventing such tragedies from happening again.

KRG Representative to the United States, Ms. Treefa Aziz, delivered the opening remarks, recounting the tragic events of the Halabja genocide. She highlighted the wider scope of the Anfal Campaign, during which the Iraqi Ba'ath regime deliberately targeted Kurdish civilians, leading to the deaths of more than 180,000 people and causing immense suffering for thousands of others.

Dr. Yerevan Saeed, Barzani Scholar in Residence at the American University and a survivor of the Halabja genocide, shared his personal experiences during a discussion session with Representative Aziz. He recounted the loss of family members and friends during the attack and offered a touching and personal insight into the lasting pain and strength of the Kurdish people.

Congressman Abraham Hamadeh (AZ), the first Kurdish-American member of Congress endorsed by President Trump, made a special appearance and emphasized that Kurdistan remains America's strongest ally in the Middle East and a critical player in maintaining regional stability and preventing the resurgence of ISIS. Recalling his service as an intelligence officer in the Middle East, he praised the resilience and determination of the Kurdish people. He also commended the KRG for holding the event in the US Congress, an institution that represents democracy and freedom.

Mr. Aaron Nuutinen, Director of the Office of Iraq Affairs at the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, reiterated the United States' commitment to supporting the people of Kurdistan and emphasized the critical need for justice and accountability. He commended the KRG for respecting and protecting the rights of ethnic and religious minorities in the Kurdistan Region and affirmed the United State's commitment to eliminating the use of chemical weapons.

The event served as a powerful reminder of the tragedies of the past while reinforcing the importance of international solidarity, justice, and the enduring strength of the Kurdish people. The KRG will continue to call for greater recognition of the Halabja Genocide, not only to honor the victims and support survivors but also to ensure that such atrocities are never forgotten.



U.S - KRG Security Partnership Successfully Eliminates ISIS Threat

On March 15, President Donald Trump announced that U.S. military forces, in coordination with the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Iraqi government, had brought several fugitive ISIS leaders to justice. This successful operation will not only make the world a safer place for all, but it also demonstrates the powerful advantage of continued U.S.-KRG military cooperation in the region. The KRG is grateful for the bold leadership of President Trump and the U.S. military, the Peshmerga fighters, and our partners in Iraq.

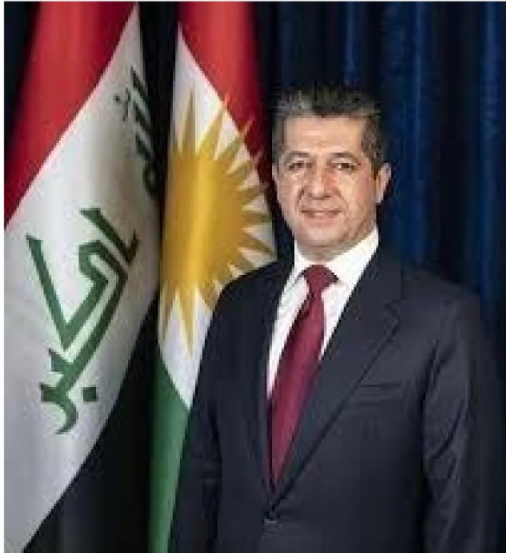
During President Trump's first term, Peshmerga and U.S. forces worked hand-in-hand to defeat ISIS as its extremist violence spread across the Middle East and threatened to upend decades of peacekeeping efforts in the region. However, due to the effective coordination with the coalition to defeat ISIS through mutual strategy planning, intelligence sharing, and joint operations, U.S. and Peshmerga forces ensured the decisive collapse of ISIS' territorial integrity – one of the most significant achievements in the fight against extremist terror in a generation.

Yet despite its territorial defeat, the threat of ISIS and other extremist groups remains persistent, as rogue cells continue to target innocent civilians and economic infrastructure. What has prevented these violent actors from gaining a greater foothold is

the ongoing presence of U.S. military forces in the region and the close partnership with Kurdish and Iraqi military forces. By working together to identify and eliminate extremist terrorists, we can save countless lives and promote economic progress and political partnerships.

The successful operation this month demonstrates clearly that the ongoing U.S. military presence in Iraq must continue. Additionally, it underscores why the U.S. should provide the KRG with air defenses promised in the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act. These efforts can serve as an efficient deterrence and greater peacekeeping partnerships in the region.

The KRG is deeply thankful for the administration's partnership and decisiveness in successfully eliminating ISIS targets. We look forward to continuing joint cooperation to combat extremism and build a more peaceful future for all.



Prime Minister Barzani and National Security Advisor Waltz Discuss U.S.-Kurdistan Relations and Iraq's Political Challenges

On Friday, March 21, 2025, Prime Minister Masrour Barzani spoke with U.S. National Security Advisor Michael Waltz on the phone. They discussed advancing U.S.-Kurdistan relations, addressing key political issues in Iraq, and the need to ensure regional stability.

One of the main topics was the urgency of forming a new KRG cabinet. Both leaders agreed that the formation of a new government is crucial for addressing internal challenges and maintaining stability within the Kurdistan Region.

Prime Minister Barzani also emphasized the importance of resuming oil exports from the Kurdistan Region as soon as possible. Oil revenue is essential to the region's economy, and both sides reaffirmed the need to resolve the issues surrounding oil exports and ensure financial stability for all of Iraq.

The conversation also touched on the broader security situation in the Middle East. Prime Minister Barzani and Mr. Waltz highlighted the importance of maintaining stability in the region amidst ongoing geopolitical challenges. Mr. Waltz commended the Kurdistan Region as a critical partner in ensuring regional security.

Both sides expressed confidence in the ongoing partnership between the U.S. and the Kurdistan Region and highlighted the importance of collaboration on security, economic matters, and resolving political issues between the KRG and the federal government of Iraq.

Other KRG News:

- **KRG Representation Office in the US observes National Clothing Day**
- **Representative Aziz attends International Women’s Day celebration at the Iraq Embassy in the US**
- **Deputy Minister of Culture and Youth, Aryan Assad, visits KRG Representation Office in the US**
- **Steve Bitner, US Consul General in Erbil delivers Newroz greetings in Kurdish**

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