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Date: Tuesday, Sep 17, 2024 at 12:22 PM
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Subject: QFR

Ross,

Per our conversation, wanted to follow up with this.

Thanks

JF

Certain nations and regional governments that we continue to support financially have had a history of corruption and fraud within their own governments. I assume that the State Department has investigated numerous instances of nefarious actors in positions of power attempting to divert US aid for personal gain. One

particularly timely example I would like to raise is the case of Sirwan Barzani. Mr. Barzani has a direct relationship with the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG), is a Major General in the Kurdish Peshmerga militia, and is the current chair of the Korek Telecom Company (Korek) - an Iraqi telecom company. His uncle is the head of the Iraqi Kurdistan-ruling Kurdistan Democratic Party, and his cousin, Nechervan Idris Barzani, is the president of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and Commander in Chief of the Peshmerga.

In his role as Chair of Korek, Mr. Barzani was found by an International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) arbitration tribunal to have engaged in "self-dealing diversions of corporate assets, sham loans, and other schemes." The tribunal further determined that the "dispute involved a hidden conspiracy to commit fraud on a massive scale." It is critical that the US ensure that individuals like Mr. Barzani have no ability misappropriate US tax dollars. What is the Department's plan to ensure that individuals like Sirwan Barzani and his associates are not accessing American funds provided to the KRG?

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