Welcome to our February 2022 Newsletter

heads of the government, parliament and judiciary – who said the court ruling is unacceptable and emphasized that the Kurdistan Region will continue to exercise its constitutional rights.

Munich Security Conference

A few days after the federal court’s ruling, President Barzani and Prime Minister Masrour Barzani were at the Munich Security Conference, meeting with other leaders from across the Middle East, Europe and the United States, including several members of the US Congress, among them Senator Lindsey Graham and Representatives Adam Schiff, Elissa Slotkin and Darrell Issa. In the congressional meetings, both sides expressed their appreciation for the US-Kurdistan partnership and discussed recent developments in Iraq and the region.

Podcast guest Congressman Langevin

We are honored to have Congressman Jim Langevin as the guest of our monthly podcast, Kurdistan in America. Mr. Langevin, who sits on the House Armed Services Committee, not only overcame adversity but used it to motivate his public service in the US Congress. He discusses the US-Kurdistan relationship and how it has evolved from a humanitarian mission in 1991 to a partnership today.

That partnership includes business ties, and we are delighted that in March, two American trade delegations will be visiting
Party’s candidate for the presidency.

**Federal Court ruling on oil**

The Federal Court on February 15 issued another disquieting decision, which the Kurdistan Region’s leadership has described as ‘unacceptable’ and ‘a flagrant violation of the Kurdistan Region’s constitutional rights and powers.’

The Federal Court said that Kurdistan Region’s 2007 oil and gas law is unconstitutional and the KRG should hand over its oil to the federal government.

The timing of the court’s decision has raised questions about its motivation. President Nechirvan Barzani today, February 28, held a meeting with Kurdistan’s three other presidencies – the

KRG representative meets Russell Schiebel, Acting DAS for PRM

Representative Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman had a cordial meeting with Russell Schiebel, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Population...

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KRG Envoy meets Head of Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce

Representative Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman had a warm and cordial virtual meeting with Martin Manna, President of the Chaldean American Chamber...

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Kurdistan. In early March, the US Kurdistan Business Council will be taking a trade mission that includes companies that have already invested in Kurdistan and Iraq, as well as new businesses that are visiting the country for the first time.

Later in the month, the Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce, which is based in Michigan, will be taking executives that will look at potential investment in their ancestral land.

The KRG welcomes these visits and looks forward to expanding our economic and cultural ties with the United States.

Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman
Representative to the United States
Kurdistan Regional Government
The Kurdistan in America podcast is honored to have Congressman Jim Langevin as its guest this month.

Congressman Langevin has been Representing Rhode Island's 2nd Congressional District since 2001. He is a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee and the Committee on Homeland Security.

He shares his history of service in Congress and the potentially devastating experience that inspired him to run for office. He also expresses his views on the US-Kurdistan relationship as well as the security situation in Kurdistan, Iraq, and the wider region.
Readout of meeting of Kurdistan Region’s four presidencies

President Nechirvan Barzani chaired a joint meeting of the Kurdistan Region’s four presidencies, including the Kurdistan Region Presidency, the Kurdistan Regional Parliament, the Kurdistan Regional...

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Pres. Barzani announces general election date in Kurdistan

President Nechirvan Barzani signed a decree on Thursday which sets the date to hold the parliamentary elections in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The decree reads that in accordance with the 2005 Law Nr....

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President and PM meet with senior US Congressional Leaders

President Nechirvan Barzani and Prime Minister Masrour Barzani met with a high-level US Congressional Delegation, headed by Mr. Lindsey Graham in Germany today, on the sidelines of the Munich Security...

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President Barzani meets with NATO’s Deputy Secretary General

Continuing his meetings in Germany today on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference, President Nechirvan Barzani met with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s (NATO) Deputy Secretary General Mircea...

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President Barzani meets with President of ICRC

President Nechirvan Barzani met with the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Mr. Peter Maurer, today in Germany on the second day of the Munich Security Conference. The President...

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President and Prime Minister of Kurdistan meet Head of UN

On the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference in Germany today, President Nechirvan Barzani and Prime Minister Masrour Barzani met with Mr. Antonio Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations. At...

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PM Masrour Barzani meets with US Congressional delegation
Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Saturday met with Elissa Slotkin and Adam Schiff as part of the US Congressional delegation at the Munich Security Conference. Latest developments in...

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PM Masrour Barzani meets with Qatari Emir

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Wednesday met with Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, in Doha. Both sides discussed the latest developments in Iraq, particularly...

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Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Saturday met with Naif al-Hajraf, the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Latest developments in Iraq, and the relationship...

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Statement regarding Kurdistan Region's election

In accordance with Decree No.33 of 25th February 2022, the Kurdistan Regional Government sets 1st October 2022 as the day of the sixth Kurdistan Region parliamentary elections.

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KRG deems Federal Supreme Court's ruling unconstitutional

Council of Ministers on Wednesday held its weekly meeting, led by Prime Minister Masrour Barzani to discuss the recent decision by Federal Supreme Court regarding KRG oil and gas sector.

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Speaker Dr. Rewaz Faiq on International Mother Language Day

On International Mother Language Day, I convey my best wishes to all Kurdish speakers wherever they are in the world. Language, as one of the easiest ways to recognize a nation, as the culture and identity of every nation, is...

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Speaker meets with Women in Leadership for Peace Group

Kurdistan Parliament Speaker Dr. Rewaz Faiq on 9 February 2022 met with members of the Women in Leadership for Peace Group, who proposed creating a legal minimum quota for women in government positions. They discussed the role ...

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Parliament, KRG meet to plan for Turkmen and Syriac Academy

Kurdistan Parliament Secretary Muna Kahveci on 7 February 2022 chaired a meeting with the KRG Minister for the Region for Minorities Affairs Aydin Maruf,
The Preparatory Committee for the Turkmen and Syriac Academy project and ...

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The Effect of US-Kurdish Relations on Regional Politics: Webinar

The Foreign Affairs Institute of Greece hosted a panel discussion on February 28 on the interactive nature of the Kurdish-US relationship, with a focus on the Kurdistan Region in Iraq.

Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman, KRG Representative to the United States, joined Dr. Marianna Charountaki, from the University of Lincoln in the UK, and Dr. Morgan Kaplan, Fellow at Carnegie Endowment, in the discussion.

Cambridge University Press - Academic

Cambridge University Press hosted an online discussion on a newly published volume: The Cambridge History of the Kurds, a comprehensive book exploring the social, political and economic features of the Kurds form the 15th to the 21st century.

Volume editors Hamit Bozarslan, Cengiz Gunes, and Veli Yadirgi, were joined in the debate by contributors Djene R Bajalan, Choman Hardi, and Isabel Käser.

US Senator, CENTCOM nominee hail Kurds, Peshmerga

U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, today questioned Lieutenant General Michael Kurilla, nominated to...

Little attention given to Kurdish language in Iraq, Kurdistan Region

Kurdistan Region Prime Minister Masrour Barzani said on Monday that the Kurdish language has not received enough attention in Iraq and the Region despite
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Kurdistan Region to hold investment and industry conference</th>
<th>Iraqi Kurdistan hosts unique film festival against terrorism</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Kurdistan Region Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Board of Investment announced future projects in the...</td>
<td>On the feast of Eid Al-Adha, 18 years ago 117 people died and 133 were injured when two suicide bombers struck in the Iraqi Kurdish capital of Erbil...</td>
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<td>Read more</td>
<td>Read more</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Akre's famous traditional ice cream dates back to 1958</th>
<th>In Iraq's Sinjar, Yazidi returns crawl to a halt amid fears of Turkish airstrikes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The ancient city of Akre in the Kurdistan Region's Duhok province, otherwise known as the capital of Newroz (the Kurdish New Year), also has a...</td>
<td>The number of Yazidis returning from camps to their historic homeland of Sinjar in northern Iraq has dramatically decreased in recent months, as...</td>
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<td>Read more</td>
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<tr>
<th>Iraqi court bars Zebari from running for presidency</th>
<th>Heavy storms hit hard in Iraq, become harder for displaced and vulnerable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq's Supreme Federal Court has ruled that former foreign minister Hoshyar Zebari is not eligible to run for the presidency amid corruption allegations...</td>
<td>Unprecedented heavy rains and snow not witnessed in over 40 years fell in the KRI in the last few weeks, with extreme subzero temperatures reaching minus...</td>
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<td>Read more</td>
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<tr>
<th>How one family is hoping to preserve the art of traditional Kurdish music in Tennessee</th>
<th>Iraq's oil ministry to coordinate with KRG on energy portfolio: ministerial council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Kurdish music has been a part of one family's history for decades. Now, a father is teaching his son how to carry on the family tradition.</td>
<td>Iraq's National Security Council, headed by the prime minister, has decided to mandate the oil ministry in Baghdad to coordinate the energy portfolio with...</td>
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<td>Read more</td>
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<tr>
<th>Rare Persian leopard held in Kurdistan zoo faces uncertain future</th>
<th>Beizar Aradini Uncovers Her Kurdish Roots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Six weeks ago the male leopard was caught in a trap set by a villager who had recently lost dozens of goats in the mountainous Batifa area of northern...</td>
<td>When I visit Beizar Aradini’s studio, she’s working on a commission — stretched across the embroidery hoop on her desk is fabric stitched with a...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read more</td>
<td>Read more</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stung by prison battle, Kurds say they need help against IS</strong></td>
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<td>Weeks after the long, furious battle with militants from the Islamic State group over a prison in northeastern Syria, the mangled wreckage of a car used...</td>
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<td><strong>KRG should resist Iraqi court ruling on its oil and gas: Brendan O'Leary</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) should resist the Iraqi Federal Supreme Court's Feb. 15 ruling on its oil and gas sector since the court has...</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>A Kurdish Treat Becomes a Jerusalem Staple</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On a chilly winter afternoon in the mid-1980s, I found myself in a recently opened restaurant called Ima in downtown Jerusalem. It was lunchtime...</td>
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<td><strong>Kurdish forces hand over ISIS suspects to Nineveh court</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Kurdish forces on Sunday handed over two alleged members of the Islamic State (ISIS) to a Nineveh court, Kurdistan counter-terrorism said in a statement...</td>
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For inquiries, please contact Delovan Barwari, the Director of Public and Humanitarian Affairs, at: delovan.barwari@us.gov.krd

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Congressman Langevin has been Representing Rhode Island's 2nd Congressional District since 2001. He is a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee and the Committee on Homeland Security.
He shares his history of service in Congress and the potentially devastating experience that inspired him to run for office. He also expresses his views on the US-Kurdistan relationship as well as the security situation in Kurdistan, Iraq, and the wider region.
Subject: TIME CORRECTION - WEBINAR: Effect of US-Kurdish Relations on Regional Politics --
Monday, February 28 at 12:00 pm EST
From: Kurdistan Regional Government - USA <us@gov.krd>
To: farakrg@gmail.com
Date Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2022 8:37:31 PM GMT-05:00
Date Received: Sunday, February 27, 2022 8:37:34 PM GMT-05:00
LIVE WEBINAR

The Effect of US-Kurdish Relations on Regional Politics

📅 February 28, 2022
⏰ 12 pm EST - 5 pm UK - 7 pm Greece

MARIANNA CHAROUNTAKI
University of Lincoln
Moderator

BAYAN ABDUL RAHMAN
KRG Representative to the US

MORGAN KAPLAN
Fellow, Carnegie Endowment

DISCUSSION
This discussion evolves around American and Kurdish perspectives of the interactive nature of the Kurdish-US relationship with a particular focus on the KRI.

Please join the event using the link below


 Locke mcharountaki@lincoln.ac.uk

Watch via Zoom

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The Kurdistan in America podcast is honored to have Congressman Jim Langevin as its guest this month.

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Kurdistan Regional Government
Representation in the United States
Washington D.C.

Welcome to our January 2022 Newsletter

I also had the pleasure of meeting Gregory Galligan, Canada’s next ambassador to Iraq, and Yves Duval, the top Canadian diplomat in Erbil. The United States and Canada are important partners to the Kurdistan Region and Iraq, and we are always pleased to discuss news ways of widening our relations.

Political talks in Iraq

In Erbil, Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq, minds are focused on the government formation process after the elections last October to the Iraqi Parliament. Today, a high-level delegation consisting of Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani, Mohammed Halbousi, Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament, and Khamis Khanjar, Head of the Azm Coalition, arrived in Najaf to meet with Muqtada Sadr, the leader of the Sadrist Movement. They discussed the political situation in Iraq and the next steps in forming a new government. They noted the need to maintain peace and stability in the country and to deliver services and improvements to the public.

The next significant date in the political process is February 7, which has been set as the date for parliament to elect the next Iraqi president.

Anniversary of 1992 elections

As we enter the new year, it’s worth noting that 2022 is the 30th anniversary of the first free and fair parliamentary election in the history of Iraq which were held in May 1992 in the Kurdistan Region.
in Kurdistan and Iraq. I had the pleasure of meeting with Zehra Bell of the US National Security Council, Jennifer Gavito and Matthew Steinhelfer of the State Department, Consul General in Erbil Robert Palladino, and John Godfrey, the Acting Special Envoy for the Global Coalition. Recently, ISIS terrorists have stepped up their ambushes on the peshmerga and Iraqi security forces, and earlier this month, ISIS launched an attack and prison riot aimed at freeing ISIS terrorists from a prison in Hasakah, Syria. All of us in the Coalition remain vigilant and are as determined as ever to see the enduring defeat of ISIS.

After decades of dictatorship, the people in Kurdistan were able to elect their representatives and set in motion steps that led to the formation of the Kurdistan parliament and Kurdistan Regional Government. The elections were possible thanks to the US-led no-fly-zone that protected Kurdistan. We look forward to marking the achievements of the past three decades.

Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman
Representative to the United States
Kurdistan Regional Government

KRG Representative and US Consul General discuss bilateral relations
Representative Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman met with Robert Palladino, the US Consul General in Erbil, during his recent visit to Washington DC...

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KRG Envoy and DAS Steinhelfer discuss security and stability
Representative Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman met with Matthew D. Steinhelfer, Department of States' Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Conflict...

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KRG envoy meets the next Canadian Ambassador to Iraq
Representative Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman met with Greg Galligan, incoming Canadian Ambassador to Iraq, and Yves Duval, the top Canadian diplomat in the...

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KRG Rep. meets with Acting Envoy for the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS
Representative Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman met John Godfrey, Department of States' Acting Special Envoy for the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS...

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KRG Envoy meets with Jennifer Gavito, DAS for Iran and Iraq

Representative Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman met with Jennifer Gavito, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Iran and Iraq at the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs at the... Read more

KRG Envoy meets Zehra Bell, Director for Iraq and Syria at the NSC

Representative Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman had a warm and cordial meeting with Ms. Zehra Bell, Director for Iraq and Syria at the National Security Council... Read more

The Kurdistan in America podcast is honored to have Mr. Sarhang Hamasaeed as our guest in the first episode of Season Three.

Mr. Hamasaeed is the director of Middle East Programs at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) in Washington, DC. He is also a regular lecturer at the Foreign...
Service Institute on ISIS and challenges to governance in Iraq.

The USIP is an American nonpartisan, independent institute founded by Congress and is tasked with promoting conflict resolution and prevention worldwide.

Mr. Hamasaeed shares his experience migrating from Kurdistan Region to the United States and sheds light on what he witnessed in his most recent visit to Kurdistan. He also provides an in-depth assessment of the political situation in the Kurdistan Region and the rest of Iraq, including the security situation in Nineveh Plains and the Sinjar region.
President Barzani receives women's weightlifting medallists

Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani received eight women athletes who won medals in the Arab Weightlifting Championship, in Erbil on Wednesday. All the medalists are from the Kurdistan Region,...

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Barzani congratulates Parliament Speaker and his deputies

I offer my congratulations to Mr. Mohamed al- Halbousi on his election as the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, and also congratulate Mr. Hakim al-Zamli and Mr. Shakhawan Abdulla on their...

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President Barzani meets Germany's Defense Minister

Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani received Ms. Christine Lambrecht, the Defense Minister of Germany, who was accompanied by the Head of the Defense Committee of the German Parliament and a...

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PM Masrour Barzani meets with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Tuesday met with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, in Abu Dhabi. Both sides discussed developments in the Region and Iraq, and...

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PM Barzani discusses security developments in Iraq and Syria

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Sunday discussed the recent security developments and the rising Islamic State (ISIS) threats in Iraq and Syria with the Minister of Peshmerga and...

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PM Masrour Barzani meets with UNAMI chief

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Thursday met with UN Secretary General's special representative to Iraq, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, to discuss the latest political developments in...

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PM Barzani meets with Deputy Commander of Coalition Forces

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Tuesday met with Brigadier-General Carl Harris, the Deputy Commander General of the Coalition Forces in Iraq and Syria. Both sides discussed the...

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Council of Ministers discusses revenues and tax reforms

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani today chaired a cabinet meeting to discuss tax reforms and incentives better aligned with federal standards. Following a presentation by the Kurdistan Regional Government...

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Council of Ministers discusses better relations with Baghdad

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani today chaired a cabinet meeting to discuss budget and security proposals that seek greater coordination with Baghdad as well as domestic priorities.

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Deputy Prime Minister meets with UNAMI Chief

Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani today met with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, to discuss the latest political...

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KRG issues new COVID-19 regulations

The Kurdistan Region's High Committee for Combating COVID-19 met on Tuesday and issued the following directives as part of the Kurdistan Regional Government's efforts...

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Speaker Faiq meets with Kurdistan Genocide Writers Union

Kurdistan Parliament Speaker Dr. Rewaz Faiq on 10 January 2022 welcomed the Kurdistan Genocide Writers Union, led by their head Mr. Salar Mahmoud. Speaker Faiq and Mr. Mahmoud discussed how the union can coordinate with...

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MPs pay last respects to PM’s top adviser for Yazidi affairs

Several members of the Kurdistan Parliament, led by Deputy Speaker Dr. Hemin Hawrami, on 20 January 2022 at Erbil International Airport, paid their last respects to Sheikh Shamo Shekho Namo, who was a leading figure in the Yazidi...

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Deputy Speaker Hawrami welcomes Prince of Yazidis

Kurdistan Parliament Deputy Speaker Dr. Hemin Hawrami on 18 January 2022 welcomed Mir Hazim Mir Tahsin Beg, the Prince of the Yazidis in Kurdistan Region and throughout the world, together with his wife and his delegation.

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Parliament sends best wishes to Kakayis' Three Nights Feast

On the occasion of the Three Nights Feast (Qawltas), we convey our best wishes to our Kakayi brethren and wish them a happy feast day. Religious and ethnic diversity is one of the most beautiful aspects of the Kurdistan...
Kurdistan in the Media

Rudaw interview: Col. Myles Caggins, former spokesperson for Counter-ISIS Coalition

Colonel William Caggins tells Rudaw TV that the United States and Iraq have mutual interests in various sectors and their relations are not limited to the fight against ISIS. He says this is an enduring relationship that includes an economic partnership and cultural exchanges.

Colonel Caggins is currently a visiting military fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Why did Kurdistan Region’s Masrour Barzani visit the UAE?

The Kurdistan region played a key role in the war against ISIS and works closely with the US and other countries, highlighting the UAE's significance.

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Kurdistan Region condemns rocket attack on Baghdad airport

Kurdistan Region’s presidency and prime minister condemned the targeting of Baghdad International Airport with rockets on Friday.

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IS jailbreak, attacks in Syria, Iraq raise alarm; scores die

The Islamic State group unleashed its biggest attack in Syria since the fall of its "caliphate" three years ago. More than 100 militants assaulted the main...

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Europe says Iraq is no longer a high risk for money laundering

The European Union has removed Iraq from its list of countries deemed to be high risk for money laundering, six years after first identifying it as a...

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Barzani, Sadr emphasise coordination between political parties in a phone call

Masoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), spoke on the phone with Muqtada al-Sadr, leader of the Sadrist bloc, on Tuesday...

SEED Foundation and the UKH sign agreement on mental health awareness

SEED Foundation President and Executive Director, Sherri Kraham Talabany and UKH President, Bill Rammell have signed...
<table>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kurdistan Region-Rojava border crossing fully reopened: Official</td>
<td>The Kurdistan Region’s border crossing with Rojava (Syrian Kurdistan) has been fully reopened for travelers following a closure due to tensions in the region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dana Gas to increase gas production by 50% in three years</td>
<td>The Sharjah-based Dana Gas company said in a statement on Wednesday that natural gas production in their operations in the Kurdistan Region have jumped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As Shiite rivals jostle in Iraq, Sunni and Kurdish parties targeted</td>
<td>In recent days, unknown attackers have hurled grenades at Kurdish and Sunni targets including political party offices and a lawmaker’s home – groups that....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of State Press Statement on ISIS Attacks in Syria</td>
<td>The United States condemns Thursday’s ISIS attack on the Hasakah Provincial Internal Security Forces detention center in northeast Syria, which was....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNAMI statement on the recent attacks in Iraq</td>
<td>The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) is deeply concerned by the current wave of attacks targeting political party offices, residences....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq's climate conundrum: Oil reliance versus vanishing water</td>
<td>The country could suffer a 20 percent drop in water resources by 2050 with nearly one-third of irrigated land...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US, KRG hail ties; stress mutual benefits</td>
<td>The Representative of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in Washington, Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman, met with Robert Palladino, the US...</td>
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<td>German parliament approves motion to extend troops mission in Iraq</td>
<td>German parliament approved Friday a motion by the government to extend its troops mission in Iraq for nine months. Kurdistan Region’s top officials...</td>
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<td>Facebook Removes Kurdish Pages Linked to Misinformation on Belarus Migrant Crisis</td>
<td>Meta, the parent company of Facebook, has removed two popular Kurdish...</td>
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<td>Iraqi Kurds are learning Mandarin to take advantage of jobs from Chinese companies</td>
<td>In a classroom in northern Iraq, Zhiwei Hu presides over his students as a...</td>
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Welcome to our January 2022 Newsletter

The new year began with a meeting last week by Prime Minister Masrour Barzani with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi.

The Prime Minister and Crown Prince met in the emirate of Abu Dhabi to discuss regional economic and security issues. They emphasized the importance of strengthening relations between the Kurdistan Region and Abu Dhabi, and the United Arab Emirates and Iraq as a whole. The KRG and UAE have long had good relations and the visit was the latest iteration of that. We look forward to more exchanges between Kurdish and regional and international leaders in the coming year.

Outreach in Washington DC

In Washington DC, our team has been reaching out to American and Canadian officials to discuss economic, humanitarian and security developments. I also had the pleasure of meeting Gregory Galligan, Canada’s next ambassador to Iraq, and Yves Duval, the top Canadian diplomat in Erbil. The United States and Canada are important partners to the Kurdistan Region and Iraq, and we are always pleased to discuss new ways of widening our relations.

Political talks in Iraq

In Erbil, Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq, minds are focused on the government formation process after the elections last October to the Iraqi Parliament. Today, a high-level delegation consisting of Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani, Mohammed Halbousi, Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament, and Khamis Khanjar, Head of the Azm Coalition, arrived in Najaf to meet with Muqtada Sadr, the leader of the Sadrist Movement. They discussed the political situation in Iraq and the next steps in forming a new government. They noted the need to maintain peace and stability in the country and to deliver services and improvements to the public.

The next significant date in the political process is February 7, which has been set as the date for parliament to elect the next Iraqi president.

Anniversary of 1992 elections

As we enter the new year, it’s worth noting that 2022 is the 30th anniversary of the first free and fair parliamentary election in the history of Iraq which were held in May 1992 in the Kurdistan Region.
in Kurdistan and Iraq. I had the pleasure of meeting with Zehra Bell of the US National Security Council, Jennifer Gavito and Matthew Steinhelfer of the State Department, Consul General in Erbil Robert Palladino, and John Godfrey, the Acting Special Envoy for the Global Coalition. Recently, ISIS terrorists have stepped up their ambushes on the peshmerga and Iraqi security forces, and earlier this month, ISIS launched an attack and prison riot aimed at freeing ISIS terrorists from a prison in Hasakah, Syria. All of us in the Coalition remain vigilant and are as determined as ever to see the enduring defeat of ISIS.

After decades of dictatorship, the people in Kurdistan were able to elect their representatives and set in motion steps that led to the formation of the Kurdistan parliament and Kurdistan Regional Government. The elections were possible thanks to the US-led no-fly-zone that protected Kurdistan. We look forward to marking the achievements of the past three decades.

Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman
Representative to the United States Kurdistan Regional Government

KRG Representaive and US Consul General discuss bilateral relations

Representative Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman met with Robert Palladino, the US Consul General in Erbil, during his recent visit to Washington DC...

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KRG Envoy and DAS Steinhelfer discuss security and stability

Representative Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman met with Matthew D. Steinhelfer, Department of States' Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Conflict...

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KRG envoy meets the next Canadian Ambassador to Iraq

Representative Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman met with Greg Galligan, incoming Canadian Ambassador to Iraq, and Yves Duval, the top Canadian diplomat in the...

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KRG Rep. meets with Acting Envoy for the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS

Representative Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman met John Godfrey, Department of States' Acting Special Envoy for the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS...

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Representative Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman met with Jennifer Gavito, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Iran and Iraq at the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs at the NSC. Representative Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman had a warm and cordial meeting with Ms. Zehra Bell, Director for Iraq and Syria at the National Security Council.

The Kurdistan in America podcast is honored to have Mr. Sarhang Hamasaeed as our guest in the first episode of Season Three. Mr. Hamasaeed is the director of Middle East Programs at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) in Washington, DC. He is also a regular lecturer at the Foreign
Service Institute on ISIS and challenges to governance in Iraq.

The USIP is an American nonpartisan, independent institute founded by Congress and is tasked with promoting conflict resolution and prevention worldwide.

Mr. Hamasaeed shares his experience migrating from Kurdistan Region to the United States and sheds light on what he witnessed in his most recent visit to Kurdistan. He also provides an in-depth assessment of the political situation in the Kurdistan Region and the rest of Iraq, including the security situation in Nineveh Plains and the Sinjar region.

President Barzani meets UN Special Representative for UNAMI

President Nechirvan Barzani received the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), Ms. Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, in Erbil today. The...
President Barzani receives women's weightlifting medallists

Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani received eight women athletes who won medals in the Arab Weightlifting Championship, in Erbil on Wednesday. All the medalists are from the Kurdistan Region,...

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Barzani congratulates Parliament Speaker and his deputies

I offer my congratulations to Mr. Mohamed al-Halbousi on his election as the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, and also congratulate Mr. Hakim al-Zamli and Mr. Shakhawan Abdulla on their...

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President Barzani meets Germany’s Defense Minister

Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani received Ms. Christine Lambrecht, the Defense Minister of Germany, who was accompanied by the Head of the Defense Committee of the German Parliament and a...

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PM Masrour Barzani meets with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Tuesday met with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, in Abu Dhabi. Both sides discussed developments in the Region and Iraq, and ...

PM Barzani discusses security developments in Iraq and Syria

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Sunday discussed the recent security developments and the rising Islamic State (ISIS) threats in Iraq and Syria with the Minister of Peshmerga and...
PM Masrour Barzani meets with UNAMI chief

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Thursday met with UN Secretary General's special representative to Iraq, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, to discuss the latest political developments in...

PM Barzani meets with Deputy Commander of Coalition Forces

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Tuesday met with Brigadier-General Carl Harris, the Deputy Commander General of the Coalition Forces in Iraq and Syria. Both sides discussed the...
Council of Ministers discusses revenues and tax reforms

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani today chaired a cabinet meeting to discuss tax reforms and incentives better aligned with federal standards. Following a presentation by the Kurdistan Regional Government...

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Council of Ministers discusses better relations with Baghdad

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani today chaired a cabinet meeting to discuss budget and security proposals that seek greater coordination with Baghdad as well as domestic priorities.

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Deputy Prime Minister meets with UNAMI Chief

Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani today met with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, to discuss the latest political...

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KRG issues new COVID-19 regulations

The Kurdistan Region's High Committee for Combating COVID-19 met on Tuesday and issued the following directives as part of the Kurdistan Regional Government's efforts...

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Speaker Faiq meets with Kurdistan Genocide Writers Union

Kurdistan Parliament Speaker Dr. Rewaz Faiq on 10 January 2022 welcomed the Kurdistan Genocide Writers Union, led by their head Mr. Salar Mahmoud. Speaker Faiq and Mr. Mahmoud discussed how the union can coordinate with...

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MPs pay last respects to PM’s top adviser for Yazidi affairs

Several members of the Kurdistan Parliament, led by Deputy Speaker Dr. Hemin Hawrami, on 20 January 2022 at Erbil International Airport, paid their last respects to Sheikh Shamo Shekho Namo, who was a leading figure in the Yazidi...

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Deputy Speaker Hawrami welcomes Prince of Yazidis

Kurdistan Parliament Deputy Speaker Dr. Hemin Hawrami on 18 January 2022 welcomed Mir Hazim Mir Tahsin Beg, the Prince of the Yazidis in Kurdistan Region and throughout the world, together with his wife and his delegation.

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Parliament sends best wishes to Kakayis' Three Nights Feast

On the occasion of the Three Nights Feast (Qawltas), we convey our best wishes to our Kakayi brethren and wish them a happy feast day. Religious and ethnic diversity is one of the most beautiful aspects of the Kurdistan...
Why did Kurdistan Region’s Masrour Barzani visit the UAE?

The Kurdistan region played a key role in the war against ISIS and works closely with the US and other countries, highlighting the UAE’s significance.

Isis jailbreak, attacks in Syria, Iraq raise alarm; scores die

The Islamic State group unleashed its biggest attack in Syria since the fall of its “caliphate” three years ago. More than 100 militants assaulted the main...

Barzani, Sadr emphasise coordination between political parties in a phone call

Masoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), spoke on the phone with Muqtada al-Sadr, leader of the Sadrist bloc, on Tuesday...

Kurdistan Region condemns rocket attack on Baghdad airport

Kurdistan Region’s presidency and prime minister condemned the targeting of Baghdad International Airport with rockets on Friday.

Europe says Iraq is no longer a high risk for money laundering

The European Union has removed Iraq from its list of countries deemed to be high risk for money laundering, six years after first identifying it as a...

SEED Foundation and the UKH sign agreement on mental health awareness

SEED Foundation President and Executive Director, Sherri Kraham Talabany and UKH President, Bill Rammell have signed...
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Kurdistan Region-Rojava border crossing fully reopened: Official</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Kurdistan Region’s border crossing with Rojava (Syrian Kurdistan) has been fully reopened for travelers following a closure due to tensions in the region.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Dana Gas to increase gas production by 50% in three years</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Sharjah-based Dana Gas company said in a statement on Wednesday that natural gas production in their operations in the Kurdistan Region have jumped.</td>
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<th>As Shiite rivals jostle in Iraq, Sunni and Kurdish parties targeted</th>
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<td>In recent days, unknown attackers have hurled grenades at Kurdish and Sunni targets including political party offices and a lawmaker’s home – groups that.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Department of State Press Statement on ISIS Attacks in Syria</th>
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<tr>
<td>The United States condemns Thursday’s ISIS attack on the Hasakah Provincial Internal Security Forces detention center in northeast Syria, which was.</td>
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<th>UNAMI statement on the recent attacks in Iraq</th>
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<tr>
<td>The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) is deeply concerned by the current wave of attacks targeting political party offices, residences.</td>
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<th>Iraq’s climate conundrum: Oil reliance versus vanishing water</th>
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<td>The country could suffer a 20 percent drop in water resources by 2050 with nearly one-third of irrigated land.</td>
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<th>US, KRG hail ties; stress mutual benefits</th>
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<td>The Representative of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in Washington, Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman, met with Robert Palladino, the US.</td>
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<tr>
<th>German parliament approves motion to extend troops mission in Iraq</th>
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<tr>
<td>German parliament approved Friday a motion by the government to extend its troops mission in Iraq for nine months. Kurdistan Region’s top officials.</td>
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<th>Facebook Removes Kurdish Pages Linked to Misinformation on Belarus Migrant Crisis</th>
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<td>Meta, the parent company of Facebook, has removed two popular Kurdish</td>
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<th>Iraqi Kurds are learning Mandarin to take advantage of jobs from Chinese companies</th>
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<td>In a classroom in northern Iraq, Zhiwei Hu presides over his students as a</td>
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Facebook pages accused of spreading misinformation that helped...

conductor would an orchestra. He cues with a question, and the response...

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For inquiries, please contact Delovan Barwari, the Director of Public and Humanitarian Affairs, at:
delovan.barwari@us.gov.krd

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