

From: Jasmine Zaki
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2026 4:09 PM
To: Jones, Stu [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Deputy PM Qubad Talabani in town week of May 18

Dear Ambassador Jones and Dr. Pollack,

I hope you are both well.

I am writing in hopes that you have time to meet with my client Deputy PM Qubad Talabani when he comes to town the week of May 18th. The PUK has long been one of the United States' most trusted partners in the region and will have much to discuss given the recent developments in the region. They have played a critical role in joint efforts against ISIS and al-Qaeda, in countering outside influences, and in supporting broader regional de-escalation efforts in coordination with senior officials in the U.S.. Their counterterrorism partnership with the U.S. remains among the most active and operationally effective; they have had the highest number of successful counterterrorism operations in partnership with the United States globally.

Politically, the PUK-backed candidate they advanced has recently been elected President of Iraq, underscoring their influence at the federal level in Iraq. From a security and leadership standpoint, the PUK is regarded as a trusted interlocutor in sensitive moments. They have been a direct point of contact for senior U.S. leadership, including President Trump, during periods of heightened regional tension, reflecting the level of trust and reliance placed with them.

We'd be delighted to come by and brief you on the latest developments and will work around your schedule.

Best regards,

Jasmine

Jasmine Zaki

BALLARD | PARTNERS

Partner

601 Thirteenth St, NW, Ste 250S

Washington, DC 20005

C: (202)297.9191

E: jzaki@ballardpartners.com

This material is distributed by Ballard Partners for the Kurdistan Development Association on behalf of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.