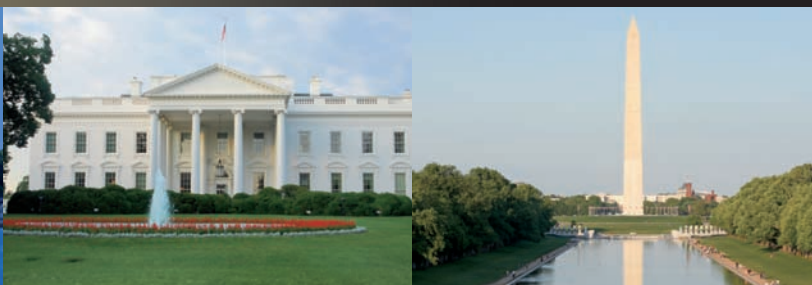


KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT



Representation in the United States





Qubad Talabani
KRG representative to the U.S.

We look forward to being of service

The Kurdistan Regional Government eagerly welcomes friends and visitors to its U.S. liaison office.

As part of the KRG's commitment to maintain and deepen its relationship with the United States, the KRG liaison office provides the most comprehensive perspective of the region, its people and its position within Iraq.

Since opening, the liaison office has worked closely with the U.S. administration, Congress, businessmen and women, students, academic experts, the media, think-tank scholars, and many more, to provide updates on the latest developments in Iraqi Kurdistan. The service also offers guidance for those planning to visit or work in the area and information on relations with the region.

Furthermore, the liaison office promotes Kurdish culture in the United States and is an essential first stop for the hundreds

of thousands of Iraqi Kurdistan-born citizens who now reside in the United States, and for those with Kurdish roots. Our cultural outreach program ensures that home villages and provinces are remembered and traditions celebrated. The program also gives our American friends a taste of Iraqi Kurdistan's multi-ethnic and varied heritage, through cuisine, traditional costumes, music, dance and so much more.

Our headquarters, built in 1910, is situated in the historic center of Washington, D.C., just blocks north of the White House. Our determination to build deep, positive and lasting mutual ties between the peoples of Iraqi Kurdistan and the United States is testimony to the profound respect the KRG has for its friends in the United States.





Kurds in the Seattle area honor U.S. military in July 4 festivities

OVERVIEW OF DUTIES



Vice President Biden greets Prime Minister Barzani, and Falah Bakir, Head of the KRG's Department of Foreign Relations

We have set forth a number of strategic and educational initiatives and programs to address the most pressing needs facing Iraqi Kurdistan. Here are just a few examples of our work, our goals and our priorities:

- As part of ongoing initiatives to encourage direct foreign investment to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq we have launched an annual publication, *The Kurdistan Region: Invest in the Future*. This book is an essential guide to the many investment possibilities in the region.
- We are continuing to develop a strong and important relationship with the Congressional Kurdish-American Caucus, which seeks to promote knowledge and understanding of the Kurdish people, and to give voice to the 55,000 Kurds currently residing in the United States. Launching the Caucus was central to the mission of the KRG liaison office, and the service will ensure that timely and ac-

curate news, data and facts are delivered to the lawmakers who determine U.S. involvement in the Middle East, Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan.

- Each year the KRG-U.S. Representation organizes Kurdish delegation visits to the United States. We also facilitate American delegation visits to the Kurdistan Region, as well as academic, religious and other groups, to further strengthen relations.



KRG-U.S. liaison staff at weekly strategy meeting

- Cultivating educational links is another key part of the mission, and includes developing and helping to launch courses in Kurdish studies in U.S. colleges and universities, and by creating exchange programs for students and teachers between U.S. and Kurdish facilities.
- For those from Iraqi Kurdistan now living in the United States, we provide guidance with legal queries and help in pursuing educational opportunities. We also evaluate school diplomas for students, including Fulbright scholars wishing to continue their studies in the United States.

While much of our work is forward-looking, we also ensure that we do not forget our heritage and history. Each year, we honor those slain in the Anfal campaign, with a ceremony in Washington and coordinated ceremonies throughout the United States.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

There are a multitude of paths to investment and prosperity in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. We are dedicated to advancing the commercial opportunities and interests of the broader U.S. business community in our region. The possibilities of investment in Iraqi Kurdistan are endless.

Our liaison office is an indispensable first stop for those wanting to learn about investment laws and opportunities. We connect interested businesses with the appropriate agencies within Iraqi Kurdistan and provide guidance and assistance in nurturing these new relationships. *The Kurdistan Region: Invest in the Future* is an annual publication that provides a quick and clear understanding on the best ways to invest in the Kurdistan Region, how to submit business plans and who to contact.

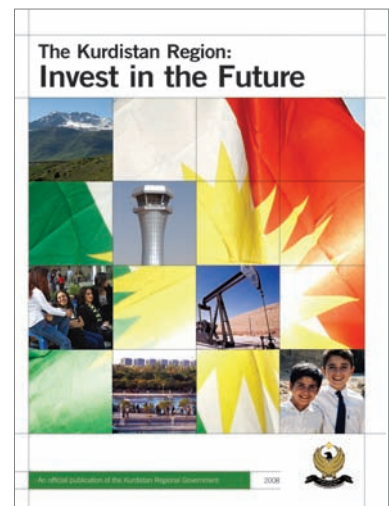
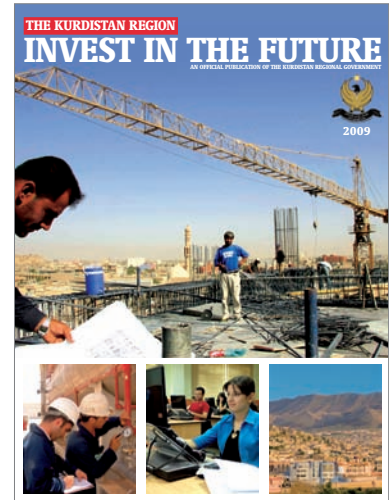
We also actively seek out and meet potential investors or those looking to expand ongoing operations. We work closely with leading organizations, such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which sponsor trade missions to Iraqi Kurdistan

and created a Kurdistan Region of Iraq Investment Taskforce.

We also have strong ties with the U.S. Department of Commerce, which sent a delegation to Iraqi Kurdistan as part of the first official U.S. government trade mission to Iraq in 20 years, and the first official mission to the Kurdistan Region.

Iraqi Kurdistan is poised to be the key international trade link between the United States and Europe and Iraq. It provides excellent investment opportunities, which have been exemplified by the many companies that have already learned how profitable it is to do business in Iraq's Kurdistan Region.

From tourism and manufacturing, to agriculture and transportation, Iraqi Kurdistan is ready to welcome investors to play a bigger role in its economic future, which, in turn, will help to buoy economic foundation and stability throughout Iraq. It is the perfect location for companies to set up a regional base from which to generate profitable work, develop infrastructure or launch new businesses outright.



Prime Minister Barzani and Minister Bakir meet with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Kurdistan Region of Iraq Investment Taskforce



From left: President Barzani greets well-wishers at a reception in Washington, D.C.; with Defense Secretary Robert Gates; with former U.S. President George W. Bush

POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS

The KRG liaison office provides testimony, education and guidance on a wide range of issues, opportunities and challenges, while working to meet the KRG's goals and priorities as part of Iraq. One of the office's key priorities is to promote ongoing, multi-level consultations on all aspects of relations between the Kurdistan Region and U.S. government entities. Long-term relationships are being nurtured with government and non-governmental organizations, as well as with Washington, D.C., and New York-based representatives of other governments. The KRG liaison office also focuses on targeted issues, such as efforts to revise the State Department travel advisory for Iraq, to reflect the accurate situation on the ground in Iraq's Kurdistan Region.

One of its most crucial activities is to arrange for delegations from Iraqi Kurdistan to visit the United States and meet with their counterparts. In a complementary effort, the Washington office launched and continues to coordinate "Leader-to-Leader" visits to and from Iraqi Kurdistan. These visits offer peers the chance to exchange legislative and executive experiences, foster closer ties between regions sharing agricultural, cultural and business activities, and to provide opportunities to enhance democratic traditions.

The U.S. office helped to organize and launch the congressional Kurdish-American Caucus, which seeks to promote knowledge and understanding of the Kurdish people, and to give a voice to

the many Kurds currently residing in the United States.

The KRG is united in its determination to build long-term relationships with all sectors of the U.S. government. We welcome visits to our region by members of Congress, state and local officials and military and civilian administrators. The KRG champions a free press, human rights, economic opportunity and democratic ideals. We are motivated in large part by the example that the U.S. government and Americans working in our region have shown through leadership, perseverance and vision. We work to be equal partners with our friends and allies.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

The melody of the Oud is becoming familiar to more Americans thanks to the cultural outreach program spearheaded by the KRG liaison office. It is just one of the many ways that dance, folklore and cuisine from Iraqi Kurdistan have been sampled and enjoyed at cultural festivals throughout the United States and Canada. Even Hollywood now consults with the KRG's Washington D.C. liaison office in its bid to find new and exciting locations for filming.

A highlight of Iraqi Kurdistan's cultural calendar is the annual festival of Nawroz, which celebrates the first days of spring and the start of our New Year. The Nawroz festival symbolizes the enduring hope and optimism of the people of Iraqi Kurdistan. In the United States, neighborhoods join in celebrations where traditional dress, food and music transport all back to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The festival is inclusive and all in the community are welcomed,

throughout neighborhoods, states and adopted nations.

The people of Iraqi Kurdistan possess a rich heritage that cannot be measured in monetary or political currency. It is a historic culture of universal appeal and traditional values. We are enthusiastic in sharing its magic with all.

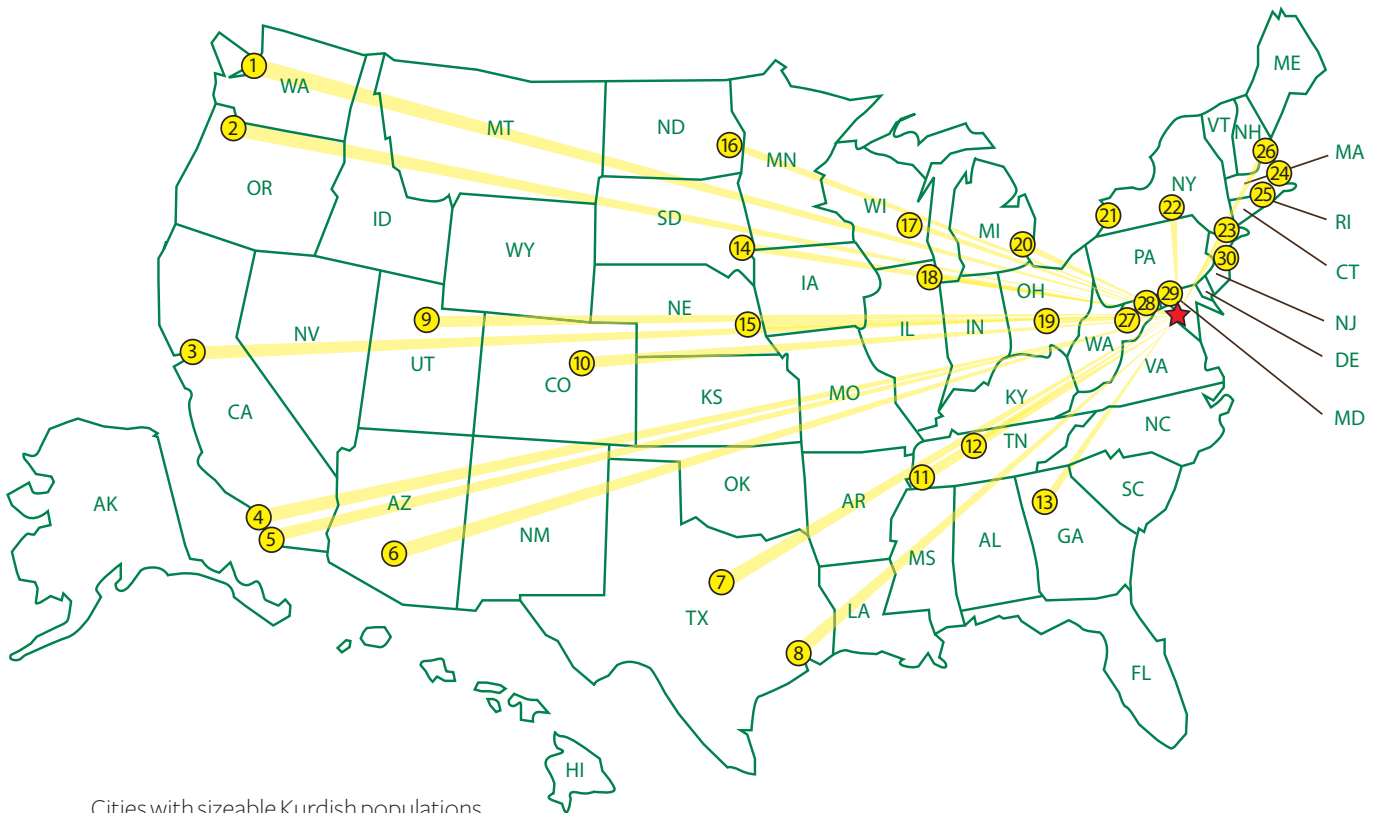


OUTREACH

Our Washington home also serves as a resource center for all those from Iraqi Kurdistan and their families who live across the United States. When issues and concerns are presented, we work with groups and individuals to ensure that their voices are heard, their thoughts considered and their requests acted upon.

From rallies to community focus groups in areas such as Nashville, San Diego and Dallas, our outreach and community efforts are a key element of our day-to-day work. We organize our communities through direct meetings and events, support cultural initiatives and language schools, and involve youth groups in a wide variety of activities.

Our outreach also aims to build good relationships with non-governmental organizations that, in turn, build closer contact between the peoples of Iraqi Kurdistan and America.



Cities with sizeable Kurdish populations

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1 SEATTLE | 11 MEMPHIS | 21 BUFFALO |
| 2 PORTLAND | 12 NASHVILLE | 22 BINGHAMTON |
| 3 SAN FRANCISCO | 13 ATLANTA | 23 NEW YORK CITY |
| 4 LOS ANGELES | 14 SIOUX FALLS | 24 BOSTON |
| 5 SAN DIEGO | 15 LINCOLN | 25 PROVIDENCE |
| 6 PHOENIX | 16 FARGO | 26 MANCHESTER |
| 7 DALLAS | 17 FOND DU LAC | 27 ARLINGTON |
| 8 HOUSTON | 18 CHICAGO | 28 WASHINGTON D.C. |
| 9 SALT LAKE CITY | 19 COLUMBUS | 29 BALTIMORE |
| 10 DENVER | 20 DETROIT | 30 NEW JERSEY |



President Barzani at a community meeting in Virginia

ABOUT IRAQI KURDISTAN



Population

Total population: 3,8 million

Erbil region: 1,385,227

Sulaimania: 1,538,402

Dohuk: 879,694

Area

80,000 square kilometers, 30,888 square miles (about the size of South Carolina)

Capital

Erbil/Arbil/Irbil (also known as Hawler)

International airports

Erbil and Sulaimania

Currency

Iraqi Dinar (IQD)

Official languages

Kurdish (Sorani and Kurmanji dialects) and Arabic, as well as Turkman and Assyrian in some areas

Government

Parliamentary democracy

Calling the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

International dialling code: +964

Time zone: UTC+3

(summer DTS – UST +4)

Attractions

Erbil Citadel and Minaret, Khanes Heritage, Shanidar cave, Bekhal waterfalls, an irrigation system from 700 B.C., the remains of Neanderthal man, Textile Museum, Lalish Temple, Chewar Stoon Cave, the Church of Ith Ilaha, the Grand Mosque, the Charsten sculpture, the Museum of Dohuk, the Cemetery of Amadiya Princes and the Amadiya Gate, Dokan lake and Red Security Museum.

Beautiful olive and brown mountains with golden grasses flecked with lilac flowers under cornflower-blue skies. Snowy peaks, gushing white water, with fresh white mulberries growing in abundance.



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