

Monthly report from Kurdistan region of Iraq for October 2015

Political

Kurdistan parliament speaker: The concerned parties must not delay the Kurdish presidency issue

Kurd Sat news

(1st of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: Kurdistan Region's Parliament speaker, Yusuf Mohammed emphasized the importance and the need to expedite the resolution of the issue of the presidency of the Kurdish region. Mohammed said in a speech during the first conference for the definition of Anfal crime, which held in Kalar city within Garmiyan area that "23 years of experience in the region were not successful," He also said that "different parties must not continue more than that in delaying the issue of the presidency of Kurdistan region.

Iraqi Kurdish MP warn about the intention of dozens of Peshmerga to leave their missions

Yazidi press

(1st of October, 2015)

Iraqi MP of Kurdistan Alliance, Vain Dakhil calls on Minister of Peshmerga in Kurdistan Regional Government to speed up paying the employees' salaries of the Ministry of Peshmerga from Sinjar people. Dakhil said that about 5,000 Kurdish Yazidi volunteers in Sinjar forces command who belong to the Ministry of Peshmerga did not receive any salary for about 5 months, noting that the families of the absolute majority of them live in displacement camps or rent apartments or structures, and they highly in need for their salaries to support their families. Dakhil warned and said that dozens of them think to leave tier work as Peshmerga because of the delay in receiving their salaries, as many of them have lost their patience because of their poor conditions. According to Dakhil, all of these elements have completed their training under the supervision of the Ministry of Peshmerga, and they're willing to participate in the liberalization of the rest of Sinjar.

Islamic State publishes a video of the execution of Kurdish Peshmerga prisoners

KNNC TV

(1st of October, 2015)

Islamic State group (IS) published a new video no less heinous and murderous form the previous one, showing the execution of a number of Kurdish prisoners of Peshmerga forces a few hours after IS lost

control on 13 villages in Kirkuk following a joint offensive of Kurdish forces supported by American fighter jets. The video, published by IS showed seven members of Peshmerga, who were captivated by IS in previous clashes, dressed in orange suits and ranged in age between twenty and fifty years old, while a masked spokesman appeared speaking in Kurdish vowing the Regional President and Peshmerga forces.

Kurdish security force (Asayish) released Gorran Movement activist in Duhok

Xendan.org

(1st of October, 2015)

Duhok: Kurdish security (Asayish) released Gorran party's activist Sardar Muhammad from Semeli district in Duhok province. Muhammad has been arrested on Tuesday for wearing a T-shirt with a photo of empty chair with a text "He will fall" and posting his photo on Facebook. The meaning of the sign has been interpreted as a sine to the issue and the problem of presidency in Kurdistan as the presidency term has expired in August.

Gorran Party says if the main parties failed to reach agreement on 8th of October; it will be the last meeting

NRT TV

(2nd of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: Change party's official Salih Zhazheleyi told the media that if the main five Kurdish parties' meeting on 8th October didn't reach an agreement on Iraqi Kurdistan presidency crisis it will be the last one between his party and KDP, and they will go for other choices.

PUK calls for early elections to resolve the political problems in Kurdistan

PUK media

(2nd of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: The Central Council of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) called earlier this week for early elections to resolve the problems and the outstanding issues between the political parties in Kurdistan Region, especially with regard to the presidential crisis. The Central Council said in a statement to the public opinion that the early elections before the table of negotiations, is one of the appropriate options to resolve the outstanding problems among the political parties in particularly the issue of the presidency of the Region.

Hundreds of teachers demonstrate in Sulaimani against delay in receiving salaries and blocked one of the main streets in the city

Share press

(3rd of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: Hundreds of teachers in Sulaimani city in Iraq's Kurdistan region demonstrated on Saturday, in protest for not being paid their wages and blocked one of the most important main streets in the city. One of the demonstration organizers said, that the political parties mixed the people's subsistence with the political conflicts, pointing out that not paying the salaries of the people is unfair. He added that many schools lack for school supplies, pointing that the teachers feel that children in the region live in bad psychological conditions. He stressed that the teachers are waving to take more severe positions if no one responded to their demands to speed up the distribution of salaries and improved conditions of education, pointing that the late payment of salaries caused a livelihood crisis for this important group of the Kurdish community.

Sulaimani Court employees stroked against the delay in Salary payments

Hawler news paper

(4th of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: Employees in Sulaimani Court in Iraqi Kurdistan region stroked due to the delay in the distribution of their salaries by Kurdistan Regional Government KRG. The delay in the distribution of employee's salaries in the Kurdish region led to many government departments in Sulaimani province resume their strike during the past few days. Teachers renew strikes in Halabja, Sulaimani, Garmiyan and Raparin. It is further to mention that since December 2013, Baghdad has suspended salary payments towards to Kurdistan due to the ongoing disagreement between Iraq's federal government and Kurdistan government on the issue of oil exportation.

Iraqi Kurds ask Germany from more weapons, Massoud Barzani to visit Berlin: Der Spiegel

Kurdistan TV

(5th of October, 2015)

Erbil: some Kurdish media sources quoted from German Der Spiegel newspaper that Iraqi Kurdistan appealed to Germany for weapons to help Kurdish fighters battling militants of the Islamic State. NRT reports. According to the source a member in Kurdistan Security Council told the outlet that Kurdistan in need for more weapons especially the German MILAN anti-tank rockets and ammunition. The same

source also revealed that Massoud Barzani, whose term as Kurdistan president has expired last August, will visit Berlin later this year to discuss the arm issue. Barzani earlier thanked the government and people of Germany for providing effective assistance to Kurdistan's Peshmerga forces in the fight against the Islamists.

Health and Social Ministry employees stroked in Erbil against the delay in salary payments

Kurdio.org

(5th of October, 2015)

Erbil: Employees of Health and Social Ministry in Iraqi Kurdistan capital city of Erbil went on a strike and protest for not being paid their wages by Kurdistan Regional Government KRG.

The four Kurdish parties met in Sulaimani

Sulaimani now

(5th of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: The Four main Kurdish parties hold a meeting in Sulaimani to discuss the Presidency of Kurdistan Region issue. The meeting comes after the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) announced that they will have a strong candidate for the presidency of Kurdistan region in the event of early elections. The main parties in the region held a series of meetings to discuss the crisis of the presidency of the region without reaching an agreement that satisfy all. A Kurdish source said that PUK, Gorran party and the Islamic parties had a meeting about the latest developments in the presidency of the region's file.

PUK calls for early election

Kurdistani new news paper

(6th of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Politburo head, Mala Bakhtiar, said that his party would support an early election if the political situation on the Kurdistan presidency remains without a solution.

Teachers protest in front of Kurdistan parliament in protest against unpaid wages

Rega TV

(7th of October, 2015)

Erbil: Dozens of teachers in Iraqi Kurdistan capital city gathered in front of the Kurdish parliament to protest against KRG for their unpaid wages. Further to mention that also elsewhere in the region the teachers are continuing their strike due to the delays in salary payments from Kurdistan Regional Government.

Defense Iraqi ministry investigates Islamic State use of chemical weapons against Kurdish Peshmerga forces

Lvinepress

(7th of October, 2015)

Erbil: Secretary General of the Ministry of Peshmerga in Iraqi Kurdistan, Jabber al-Yawar told the media that the Iraqi Ministry of Defense has sent a specialized team to near Mosul areas to get to know if Islamic State (IS) militants used chemicals in bombing of Peshmerga forces in those areas. Yawar said in a press statement, that since last week the Ministry of Defense has sent a team to those areas that Peshmerga forces have been exposed to attacks by chemical substances. He added that the team conducted an investigation and took samples from those areas to be examined, pointing out that the Ministry of Peshmerga is awaiting for the results of the investigation conducted by the team in order to identify the types of chemicals used by the organization.

Kurdistan government employees and teachers demonstrated in Halabja

NRT TV

(9th of October, 2015)

Halabja: Kurdistan Regional Government KRG employees and public school teachers demonstrated in the eastern Kurdish city of Halabja, the demonstrators called (KRG) to pay their salaries. Further to mentioned that KRG is facing difficulty in securing the budget to pay the salaries of its employee's since the last 12 months.

Gorran leader in Europe for medical checkup

Kurdistan TV

(9th of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: The leader of Change (Gorran) Movement Nawshirwan Mustafa is in London for treatment and for medical checkup, according to some media reports he will be back to the region after 3 months.

Kurdish police use tear gas against protesters in Sulaimani to prevent them from attacking KDPs 4th branch office.

Rudaw TV

(10th of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: Hundreds of protesters gathered in a mass demonstration against KRG and KDP party in Sulaimani to demand three months of unpaid salaries and an end to the current political stalemate that has left the KRG without an official president since August, hundreds of police from crowd control unit were stand and guard KDPs 4th branch office in Malawi Street to prevent the demonstrators to attack the building the police used tear gas against protesters in order to control the situation. In the meanwhile some protesters surrounded Rudaw TV's office in Sulaimani and broke windows with rocks.

Up to 21 injured in Said Sadiq protests

Bas news

(10th of October, 2015)

Sulemaina - Siad Sadiq district: At least 21 people injured in clashes between protesters and police in the town of Said Sadiq, east of Sulaimani. The anti KRG-KDP protests in the town turned violent as demonstrators threw rocks at police forces. The head of police in Said Sadiq and three other security forces were among the injured. The main road from Said Sadiq to the city of Halabja has been blocked as protests spread across eastern parts of the Kurdistan Region.

Anti KRG-KDP protests continue in Iraqi Kurdistan cities

Kurd Sat TV

(10th of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: A new protest has been launched in the cities Iraq's Kurdistan region on Saturday and called on the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to pay employees' salaries and bring an end to the ongoing presidency and economic crises. The demonstrations were based in Sulaimani city, Said Sadiq, Kalar and Rania areas. Clashes with police left dozens as injured .Kurdistan Region is suffering from a financial crisis called for the delay in the delivery of salaries to employees, in addition to the continuation of the oil problems with Baghdad, which has reduced the budget for the staff of the region. The protest movement in Kurdistan turned violent on Friday, when unknown assailants attacked the headquarters of Kurdistan Democratic Party KDP in Qla Dize area in Sulaimani

province. These events led to the death of two people, wounding others and in burning of the headquarters of KDP.

Facebook blocked in Erbil and Duhok for several hours

Xendan.org

(11th of October, 2015)

Erbil: Access to Facebook network has been blocked in Erbil and Duhok. According to residents the Facebook website is inaccessible the two Kurdish cities. According to observers the Kurdish authorities may want to prevent protests spreading to the Kurdish capital and other KDP controlled areas. Later on Sunday the Facebook has returned to work after hours of being stopped in Erbil and Duhok.

Britain concerned about the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan

Hawler news paper

(11th of October, 2015)

Erbil: The British Consul in Erbil, Angus McKee expressed concerns about the current events in Kurdistan region. McKee said in his Twitter that the events that took place at the end of the week in Kurdistan region are a concern. We are sorry for the loss of life and the violence that happened like targeting the offices of political parties and the media. In his twitter McKee said” “The political parties have a collective duty to alleviate tension, resume dialogue and focus on addressing the challenges.”

PUK discusses Kurdistan’s developments in a meeting of its political bureau

PUK Media

(11th of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: The political bureau of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) held a meeting chaired by First Deputy Secretary General, Rasoul Ali in Sulaimani. According to the Press office of PUK, the meeting discussed the political situation in Kurdistan region and developments in the political arena in Iraq and the region.

Member of Sulaimani provincial council: Gorran urges protesters to throw stones on KDP headquarters

Lvinepress

(11th of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: The member of Sulaimani provincial Council, Mina Sami accused Change (Gorran) movement of helping and urging demonstrators to attack the headquarters of Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and threw stones on it in Sulaimani.

Kurdish PM removes four members of his cabinet from Change movement and starts talks over forming new Kurdistan cabinet

Bas news

(13th of October, 2015)

Erbil: prime minister of Iraq's Kurdistan region removed four members of his cabinet from the Gorran (Change) Movement. The ministers that have been removed are ministers of (Peshmerga, finance, trade and industry and religious affairs) at the same time an official said that KDP has decided dissolve the current cabinet as the Parliament Speaker and Gorran ministers failed to carry out their duties. And he also said that KDP will soon start talks with other political parties in order to form a new cabinet and appoint another parliament speaker within a new political agreement.

Massoud Barzani to U.S. delegation: Kurdistan's political crisis will be solved

KRP.org

(15th of October, 2015)

Erbil: Massoud Barzani the ongoing president of Kurdistan region told a visiting delegation of U.S. officials that the Iraqi Kurdistan Region's political crisis will be solved. According to the media Barzani, received U.S. Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell and a number of other U.S. officials during the meeting Barzani told the delegation that the current political crisis will not impact the region's stability and all the Kurdistan Region's parties will try to solve the political crisis together.

KDP sets two conditions for Gorran to return into Kurdistan government: Change Movement

KDP info

(15th of October, 2015)

Erbil: According to Change (Gorran) Movement, which four of its ministers been fired by Kurdistan, KDP has 2 conditions for them so their ministers can re-enter the government again. The first condition is that [Gorran] ministers must remain silent on the region's presidency and internal crisis, while the

second one is to replace the parliament speaker by another one from change movement. Till this moment Gorran party didn't answer these requests.

PKK ready to mediate between Kurdish parties in Iraqi Kurdistan

RojNews

(16th of October, 2015)

Erbil – Qandil Mountain: As the political crisis in Iraqi Kurdistan continues, a determined will for the solution of the problem has not emerged yet. Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK) Co-President Cemil Bayik has proposed mediation between the parties for the development of a solution; KCK is the political wing of the Kurdistan Workers' Party PKK. Bayik proposed mediation in an interview with RojNews saying; "The concerned parties must treat the problems of South (Iraqi) Kurdistan as the problems of their own and they must gather and discuss the ways for a solution jointly.

Sweden calls on Iraqi Kurdistan government to maintain stability, solve issues via talks

NRT TV

(17th of October, 2015)

Erbil: Sweden's ambassador to Iraq called the Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to work towards maintaining stability in the region and focus on the continuing fight against Islamic State (IS) militants. Swedish Ambassador to Iraq Annika Molin Hellgren met with KRG Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani in Erbil on Thursday, and urged leaders to solve issues inside the region through talks and dialogue.

Activists, journalists blocked from entering Erbil

NRT TV

(17th of October, 2015)

Erbil: In the checkpoints entering the Kurdistan Region's capital city, Erbil security forces targeted journalists, activists and TV personalities from Sulaimani, Kirkuk and Halabja provinces, and denying them to access the city. Kurdish journalist Nwenar Fatih told NRT that security forces would not allow him enter the city and they did not give him a clear reason for that. He said that they told him "We don't have a personal problem with you, but that's how the situation is,"

A Group of teachers ended a strike in Sulaimani as protests decline

NRT TV

(19th of October, 2015)

Sulaimani A group of public school teachers in Sulaimani city in Iraqi Kurdistan region decided to end a three-week strike and return to their classrooms. While another group of teachers continued their peaceful demonstration outside the local Directorate of Education to demand the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) pay salaries, which have been delayed months. More than 80 school principals from Sulaimani governorate held a meeting on Sunday and decided to end the strike.

Gorran leader Nawshirwan Mustafa to stay in Europe for medical treatment

KNN TV

(19th of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: A senior official from (change movement) revealed that leader of the movement Nawshirwan Mustafa will spend few months abroad for treatment on his back. .

Government employees continue strike in Iraqi Kurdistan

NRT TV

(20th of October, 2015)

Halabja: Government employees and Teachers continued strike in Halabja, Sulaimani, Derbandikhan, Sharezoor, Kifri and Qla Dize calling on the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to pay salaries, NRT reports. Demonstrators have expressed their resentment of what they call as the government's ignorance for the implementation of their demands. Thousands of people demonstrated during the past weeks against KRG and KDP party in Sulaimani and Halabja provinces, demanding payment of their 3-month delayed salaries from KRG.

Massoud Barzani met with US Joint Chiefs chairman

KRP.org and NRT TV

(21st of October, 2015)

Erbil: Massoud Barzani, President of the Kurdistan Region met with US Marine General Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his accompanying delegation. The two leaders discussed the fight against Islamic State (IS) and the position of the Peshmerga on the frontlines, according to a statement released by Barzani's office. Dunford said his country sees Peshmerga as major force to defeat Islamic State (IS) in the region. Dunford was in the Kurdistan Region's capital, Erbil, on Tuesday and met with senior officials to discuss the ongoing war against IS, including upcoming operations against the militants. "The role of the Kurdistan

Region of Iraq is of immense importance to the United States in the war against the terrorists of the Islamic State," Dunford said.

Kurdistan to discuss new oil agreement with Baghdad

Xendan.org

(21st of October, 2015)

Erbil: Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government spokesperson Safin Dizayee said Tuesday that Kurdistan region Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani is scheduled to visit Baghdad for talks on oil and budget shares in the 2016 Iraqi budget. "Baghdad will not send the Kurdistan budget share unless the KRG hands over its oil to the Iraqi State Organization for Marketing Oil (SOMO)," Dizayee told the media. Erbil does not want to use all its trump cards with Baghdad, said Dizayee, who believes the previous Baghdad-Erbil agreements have become part of the past, and "this time both sides will focus on new agreements." According to the Erbil-Baghdad 2015 budget agreement, Baghdad must provide the KRG \$10 billion, but only \$2 billion dollars has been sent to Erbil so far this year, according to Dizayee. The Kurdistan region sells on average 600,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd), according to Dizayee.

For Gorran, Nechirvan Barzani is not Kurdistan Prime Minister anymore

KNNC TV

(22nd of October, 2015)

Baghdad: The head of Gorran Movement faction in Iraqi Parliament Hoshyar Abdullah said that for Gorran Nechirvan Barzani is not representing Kurdistan region and is not the head of Kurdistan Regional Government KRG anymore. This statement from the Abdullah came after some news on Barzani's preparations to visit Baghdad to discuss oil issue with Iraqi central government. Further to mention that Barzani removed four members of his cabinet from the Change (Gorran) Gorran Movement on Oct. 13, in an escalating political crisis that threatens to destabilize the relatively peaceful region. Iraqi Kurdistan Parliament's Speaker was also prevented from entering Erbil city.

So far 620 injured Peshmerga fighters receive treatment abroad

Bas news

(22nd of October, 2015)

Erbil: Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government has sent 620 wounded Kurdish Peshmerga fighters abroad to receive medical treatment, a Peshmerga official has revealed. Head of the Health Department of the Peshmerga

Ministry Mohsen Mohammed told the media that a total of 98 Peshmerga has been treated for free in Jordan, India, United Arab Emirates, Iran, Turkey and Germany. Mohammed said that 60 more Peshmerga are now waiting to be sent abroad. "Luxembourg, Czech Republic, France, Georgia and Hungary have shown willingness to provide medical treatment for the Peshmerga," "But we are waiting for their final decision." According to the source another 13 injured Peshmerga are scheduled to travel to India soon. The Indian government will cover the costs of their care. Since the start of the war against Islamic State in northern Iraq in mid-2014, up to 1,500 Kurdish Peshmerga have been killed with over 5,000 injured. It is unclear whether the Peshmergas sent abroad were KDP fighters or PUK fighters

Masrour Barzani says Kurds still want independent state

NRT TV

(23rd of October, 2015)

Erbil: Chancellor of Iraq's Kurdistan Region Security Council (KRSC) Masrour Barzani said that attempts to keep Iraq unified failed and that the country's Kurds still want to establish an independent state through peaceful dialogue. Massoud Barzani's son met with the UK's ambassador to Iraq, Frank Baker, and said that all Iraqis have the right of self-determination. "Iraq's problems have historical roots, and there is no confidence among the different groups," Barzani said. "The issues come from Iraq's structure as a country," he said, adding that there have been many failed attempts at keeping the country unified. Barzani blamed the federal government for maintaining a failed system and said Kurdish authorities will continue to work towards independence.

Gorran Movement says ready to settle differences with KDP

Sharpres

(24th of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: The Change (Gorran) Movement has stated that it is ready to set at negotiation table to settle differences with the ruling Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) after protests in Sulaimani province in Iraq's Kurdistan region where some four protesters were killed early October. The movement's Spokesman, Abdurrahman Reza, said in a statement that a large number of Change deputies have returned Erbil, the capital of the Kurdish region, and have resumed their normal duties and the parliament's Speaker, Yusuf Muhammad, a member of Change Movement, continues his duties in an office in Sulaimani. Reza reiterated that his movement pays significant important to the concerns of the people in the region and has not closed negotiation doors. Reiterating that the Kurdish region needs peace at the present situation, Reza added that Gorran is ready for cooperating with the KDP and other political parties to solve tensions in the region.

Hundreds fleeing Islamic State areas near Kirkuk, waiting to enter Kurdistan

Rudaw.net

(24th of October, 2015)

Erbil: Hundreds fled territories west of Kirkuk that are controlled by the Islamic State group (IS) and are awaiting permits to enter the Kurdistan region, a Kurdish commander told Rudaw on Friday. "Over the last 10 days, 256 families and 173 people have surrendered to Peshmerga forces on Kirkuk's western borders," said Kemal Kirkuki, the Peshmerga commander of the western front. He added that they are being held at the borderline between Peshmerga and IS forces, and that they are undergoing a vetting process. "They have not been allowed to come into the cities of the Kurdistan region," he added. "Some members of IS were arrested among [the people] and it's suspected that there might be more IS among them," Kirkuki said. He added that the refugees are being helped by the Peshmerga, who are supplying them with food, and that this would continue until there is a change in the situation. Thousands of people have fled to Peshmerga-controlled areas from parts of Kirkuk and Salahaddin province, since a massive IS assault in Iraq more than a year ago.

Change Movement asks international coalition to prevent civil war in Iraq's Kurdistan Region

Rega TV

(25th of October, 2015)

Baghdad: A member from the Change (Gorran) Movement block in Iraqi parliament asked the international community to mediate in the political crisis in Kurdistan Region and prevent any civil war in the autonomous Kurdish region in Iraq's north. Tavga Ahmad told a press conference that both the international community and the Iraqi government should intervene in the "dangerous situation" in Kurdistan Region and prevent the repetition of 1994 civil war in the region when thousands of people were killed in clashes between two parties of the KDP and the PUK. Reiterating that her movement demands agreement between all political parties in the region, the deputy said the crisis in the region should be solved as soon as possible since only the Kurds in the region are well aware of the dangerous situation in Kurdistan region.

Parties trying to form new cabinet in Kurdistan Region: KDP deputy

KDP info

(25th of October, 2015)

Erbil: A deputy from Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) stated that political parties in Iraq's Kurdistan Region are putting all their efforts into forming a new cabinet in the region after the recent political crisis in the region.

PUK: Kurdistan govt positions needs a new redistribution if Barzani remains president

NRT TV

(26th of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: A member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) leadership said that a government shake-up will be necessary if the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) does not back down from its demand that Massoud Barzani remain in his position as president of the Kurdistan Region. Speaking to NRT on Sunday, Alla Talabani said the region's political parties need to hold meetings to renegotiate a political agreement on the distribution of senior KRG positions. "If the KDP wants Barzani to remain in his position for another two years, other government positions should be reviewed and the prime ministers' place should be given to someone else," Talabani said. Talabani, who is head of the PUK bloc in the Iraqi parliament, said ultimately the ongoing dispute over the presidency is a legal issue. "The presidency is totally a legal issue and there is no legal way to choose Barzani as president again," she said. "We have no problem with Barzani as a person, but this is a legal issue." "My views reflect those of the PUK politburo and the PUK leadership, as has been said many times publicly.

PUK and Gorran, PUK and KDP hold a meeting on Kurdistan Presidency's issue

PUK media

(26th of October, 2015)

Erbil: After the meeting, which was held earlier Monday in Erbil city between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Change (Gorran) Movement, a delegation of the first party visited the second branch of Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) headquarters. The relations official in PUK, Sadi Ahmed said at a news conference after visiting the headquarters of the second branch that the two sides agree on the importance of unity of our people and our nation. He expressed his wishes that Kurdistan Regional Government's delegation to speeds up to go Baghdad to resolve the problem of the region's share of the federal budget.

Over 1,250 Kurdish Peshmerga fighters killed since start of IS fight, says official

Hawler newspaper

(27th of October, 2015)

Erbil: Over 1,250 Kurdish Peshmerga fighters been killed in fighting against the Islamic State (IS), a senior Kurdish official said Thursday, as fighting continues on Iraqi Kurdistan Region's borders. Speaking to the media Peshmerga Secretary Jabber Yawar said 1,258 Peshmerga have been killed and 7,301 others wounded in the fight against militants and a number of Peshmergas were also listed as missing which their number is up to 62 Peshmerga

Sirwan Barzani and Sheikh Jafar arrived in Belgium

K24

(27th of October, 2015)

Brussels: A Kurdish Peshmerga delegation from Iraqi Kurdistan headed by Kurdish commander for Gwer front Sirwan Barzani and former Peshmerga Minister Sheikh Jafar Mustafa arrived in the Belgium capital, Brussels, to participate in EU security meeting. The Kurdish delegation met Hungarian Ambassador in Belgium, and discussing Hungarian's assistance to the Ministry of Peshmerga. The source added that the Kurdish delegation met during the visit also a number of political and military figures in Belgium, and discussed the mechanism for providing Belgian aid for Peshmerga forces.

German defense minister arrived in Kurdistan capital city

Rudaw.net

(27th of October, 2015)

Erbil: German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen arrived at the Erbil International Airport on Monday evening after several meetings with Iraqi leaders in Baghdad the same day. Von der Leyen was received by senior Kurdish officials upon her arrival."Von der Leyen met a German training base in Erbil at first, and later she met Massoud Barzani, the president of the Kurdistan region, and Nechirvan Barzani, the prime minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government. 100 German advisers trained so far 1,000 Peshmerga. Germany handed over military aid worth \$77 million to the Kurdistan region, including 30 MILAN missile launchers with 500 missiles.

German Consul General concerned by ongoing issues in Iraqi Kurdistan

Rudaw TV

(27th of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: Germany's top diplomat in Iraq's Kurdistan Region expressed concern over ongoing political issues among the region's political parties and called for all sides to ease tensions on Monday. Consul General Marc Eichhorn met with Parliament Speaker Yousif Mohammed for nearly an hour in Sulaimani to discuss recent events in the region. Eichhorn told the media that he wished the meeting had been in Erbil, and that he hoped the next meeting would be. Speaker Mohammed has not been allowed into the region's capital city and seat of Parliament since checkpoint guards prevented him and an accompanying convoy from entering Erbil on Oct. 12. Eichhorn met with Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani on Sunday to discuss the fight against Islamic State (IS), the recent events in the region and KRG relations with Baghdad.

48 Kurdish Peshmerga forces participated in Hawija operation: deputy

Xendan.org

(28th of October, 2015)

Erbil: A parliament deputy from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) stated that 48 forces of Peshmerga participated in the recent operation in northern city of Hawija in cooperation with U.S. forces. Ardalan Nouredin told a press conference that 48 Peshmerga forces and 20 U.S. Special Forces attended in the operation against the Islamic State (IS) that led to the release of 69 hostages imprisoned by the group and were planned to be buried in mass graves. Nouredin went on to say that 30 (IS) militants were killed and 6 member of the group were arrested in the operation where a U.S. soldier was killed and three Peshmerga forces were wounded. He reiterated that all of the hostages were liberated in the operation.

Massoud Barzani met head of U.S. Central Command General Austin

KRP.ORG

(30th of October, 2015)

Erbil: Massoud Barzani president ended of Kurdistan region met with the commander of the United States Central Command General Lloyd Austin on Thursday in Erbil, KRP website reported. Barzani and the US general discussed the military campaign against the Islamic State (IS) militants and preparations for liberating the city of Mosul. They also discussed the requirements and needs for the Peshmerga forces. Both hailed the close cooperation between the US military and the Peshmerga forces, after the recent successful joint operation to free 69 hostages from the hands of IS in the town of Hawija.

PUK leader warns of the serious repercussions of the continuation of the current situation in Kurdistan

PUK media

(31st of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: The leading official of the General Body of the Political Bureau of Patriotic Union of Kurdistan PUK, Mala Bakhtiar warned of the serious repercussions of the continuation of the current political situation in Iraq's Kurdistan region. Bakhtiar said in a press statement, that his party is not part of the political crisis and conflict, but that the PUK was and still forms a big part in the settlement of the outstanding problems in the region. He stressed the need for the return of the contending political parties especially the Gorran and the Kurdistan Democratic Party KDP to the negotiating table and resorting to the constructive dialogue to solve the political differences, pointing out that the only way to resolve differences and political crises is to achieve the foundations of democracy. He warned of serious repercussions for the continuation of the current political situation in the Kurdish region in particular as the stage and got to disable the functions of Parliament.

Security

Turkey launches new overnight air raids against PKK in Iraqi Kurdistan

Bas news

(4th of October, 2015)

Erbil: Turkish warplanes attacked Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) targets in Iraqi Kurdistan and Kurdish part of Turkey. The Turkish army said that the Turkish F-16 fighters hit 17 PKK positions in Iraqi Kurdistan, destroying shelters used by the militant group. The strikes are the latest in an air campaign aimed at crippling the PKK, which has staged a string of attacks in Turkey since a two-year-old ceasefire fell apart in late July.

Kurdish Peshmerga killed by Islamic State attack in Gwer

Rega TV

(11th of October, 2015)

Erbil: Islamic State (IS) militants launched an attack on Kurdish Peshmerga forces south of Kurdistan capital city of Erbil on Saturday. Commander Jamal Murtika told the media that one Peshmerga was killed and another wounded by the attack in Gwer, located 50 km south of Erbil city. Kurdish forces have engaged in sporadic clashes with militants in the area since fighting began in August 2014.

Turkish jets shell PKK areas in Iraqi Kurdistan

Millet press

(11th of October, 2015)

Erbil – Metina Mountain: Turkish jets shelled Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) areas in Metina and Zap areas in Iraqi Kurdistan Region. The bombardment against PKK guerrilla areas has started late Saturday. Till now there are no reports on casualties.

UK issues travel warning for Iraq's Kurdistan region

Rudaw TV

(12th of October, 2015)

The United Kingdom has advised its citizens against all but essential travel to the Kurdistan region, citing protests in Sulaimani province that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) described as violent.

Seven Islamic State militants surrender to Peshmerga

Rudaw TV

(13th of October, 2015)

Erbil: Seven Islamic State (IS) militants—including three Kurds—surrendered to the Peshmerga since in Kirkuk and the township of Gwer, some 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Erbil, A Peshmerga official told the media that “At around 5:30 am on Sunday, three IS militants who were Kurdish nationals arrived at a Peshmerga front line in Kirkuk to surrender. Two of them were from the township of Said Sadiq in the Sulaimani province and one from Erbil,” the same office said also that “for more investigations we handed them over to the Asayish (security forces) to know whether they have taken part in any battle and crime against the Peshmerga or not”.

Islamic State freed second Kurdish TV journalist: employer

Rudaw TV

(14th of October, 2015)

Erbil: The Islamic State group released the Kurdish journalist Farhad Hamo three weeks after freeing his colleague with whom he was kidnapped in Syria. Hamo was detained in mid-December with Massoud Aqeel in northeastern Syria, where they were on assignment. Aqeel was freed last month after what Rudaw said was a prisoner exchange between Kurdish forces and IS.

Islamic State drone shot down in Kirkuk

NRT TV

(25th of October, 2015)

Kirkuk: A drone belonging to the Islamic State (IS) shot down near the village of Beshir in Iraq’s Kirkuk province on Friday. The drone, which was equipped with a camera, was shot down by members of a local Shiite-Turkmen militia who said they used a long-barreled missile. Peshmerga forces in September reported shooting down an IS drone over their positions north of the militant-stronghold of Mosul in northern Iraq. Brigadier Tariq Sulaiman told NRT that militants launched a camera-equipped drone to gather information on Peshmerga lines near the town of Tesqopa (Tel Eskof), 28 km north of Mosul. Sulaimani added that Peshmerga, backed by Kurdish security and intelligence officers (Asayish) had shot down the drone.

Turkish warplanes bomb PKK targets north of Dohuk

Duhok now

(25th of October, 2015)

Duhok: The Turkish warplanes launched an attack on PKK positions on Saturday in the border areas with Iraqi Kurdistan in areas near Amadia north of Dohuk. No reports on the casualties.

Peshmerga bombs Islamic State sites with rockets in Shingal, controls large parts of the Yazidi city

Xendan.org

(26th of October, 2015)

An official source from Sinjar announced on Sunday, that the Peshmerga forces attacked, using rockets, the headquarters of the IS inside (Sinjar) neighborhoods west of Mosul. Ghias Surji a senior member of Peshmerga said that the “Peshmerga forces launched, Sunday, a violent attack on the headquarters of the IS elements in the neighborhoods of Sinjar District” noting that “those rockets had reached their targets.

Islamic state reportedly to behead 4 Kurdish Peshmerga fighters at site of US-Kurdish raid

Rudaw.net

(30th of October, 2015)

Hawija: Islamic State militants beheaded four Kurdish Peshmerga fighters at the site of the US-Kurdish raid near Hawija in Kirkuk province on October 22, the pro-IS Aamaq news blog reported on Thursday. “Islamic State militants have killed four Peshmerga members by beheading at the site of the US Special Forces operation in cooperation with the Kurdistan government in Hawija one week ago,” Aamaq quoted an anonymous IS leader as saying. The anonymous IS source has reportedly told Aamaq that there are other Peshmerga in IS hands, but the news blog did not mention what IS wants to do with them. The news blog has not provided any pictures or videos to prove the claim. As many as 60 US Special Forces personnel and Peshmerga counterterrorism forces participated in a raid on an IS prison compound near Hawija on October 22.

Economy

Turkish airstrikes harm honey production in Iraqi Kurdistan

Rudaw media network

(3rd of October, 2015)

Erbil: Ahmed Pishdari, head of the Kurdistan Beekeepers Association said that the Iraqi Kurdistan’s honey products rapidly decreased due to Turkish airstrikes against the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) near Qandil Mountain in Iraq’s Kurdish Region, as well as high temperatures. “According to the bee and planet protection department in the town of Sangasar, on the Qandil outskirts, there are more than 20,000 hives. Last year more than 80 tons of honey was produced in the region. This year the portion

has decreased to around 20 to 40 tons.” And according to Mr. Pishdari due to airstrikes there is no longer nectar from flowers, which is the bee’s main food, and even beekeepers have lost an enormous number of bees from remaining airstrikes,” .

Fly Baghdad reinforces its fleet with six aircrafts, announces new cheap tickets to Kurdistan

Shafaq news

(4th of October, 2015)

Baghdad: Fly Baghdad Airways announced reinforcing its fleet with six modern aircrafts. A statement by the company said that it has expanded its fleet to six aircrafts of the type (Airbus CRJ) and also announced the prices of low cost to the ticket Erbil- Baghdad -Erbil by \$ 149 ticket price as the ticket price from Kurdistan capital city of Erbil to Baghdad will be \$49, and Sulaimani – Baghdad \$59. The Company explained that booking on this ticket begins from the first of current October to 15 of the same month, indicating that these travel tickets are valid from the first of current October to 15 of November of this year.

Kurdistan oil exports rise to an average of 600 thousand

NRT TV

(5th of October, 2015)

Erbil: Iraq’s Kurdistan Regional Government’s (KRG) Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) released its September report on Thursday, stating the region’s exports reached an average of 600,463 barrels per day (bpd). Total exports for the month were listed at 18,614,798 barrels of crude oil, of which 13,898,548 barrels came from fields operated by the KRG. The statement further said fields operated by the North Oil Company (NOC) supplied the remaining 4,715,794 barrels. “Due to circumstances beyond the KRG’s control, during September there were 2 days of downtime for the export pipeline, caused mainly by attempts at sabotage and theft,” the statement read.

11th International Trade Fair opens in Iraqi Kurdistan capital

Xendan.org

(6th of October, 2015)

Erbil: The 11th International Trade Fair has kicked off in Iraqi Kurdistan capital city of Erbil, the event will last for four days and 1400 companies are taking part in it, Turkish companies has as usual the lion shear in the fair, what is also notable the participation of the French companies which they are 18

companies, the head of the French delegation said that Peugeot company will open an office in Erbil, also he said that one of the institution decide to open a training institution for oil industry in Erbil in near future.

Humanitarian

Iraqi ministry distributes over 6,000 food aid packages in Kurdistan

PUK media

(20th of October, 2015)

Sulaimani: The Iraqi migration and displacement ministry said on Sunday that more than 6,000 food aid packages were distributed to IDPs in Sulaimani and Halabja governorates in Kurdistan region. It is further to mention KRG says that Kurdistan region is hosting close to million and half IDPS in the different cites of the region.

General

Kurdistan's Erbil province free of cholera

Xebat news paper

(4th of October, 2015)

Erbil: Erbil province of Iraqi Kurdistan announced that it is free of any cases of cholera and confirmed that it has taken all measures to prevent any injuries. The head of Erbil Provincial Council said in an interview with reporters, after a meeting with the Director of the Department of Health of Erbil, that Erbil has not recorded any cases of cholera so far. The meeting discussed ways of enhancing measures to tackle the disease, which has spread in a number of Iraqi governorates. The meeting also assured all citizens of Erbil that there are no fears of the presence of cholera in Erbil, stressing that all concerned parties have taken all appropriate measures to prevent the emergence of this disease.

2 Cholera cases reported in Duhok: official

Duhok now

(13th of October, 2015)

Duhok: A health official in Duhok, Sirwan Mohammed, told the media that two Cholera cases reported in Duhok city. Mohammed said that 21 more people suspected they have been infected with Cholera.

Kurdistan health minister Rekawt Hama Rashid visited Duhok city to discuss the issue with the local officials and to control the situation.