

## **The monthly report from Kurdistan region of Iraq for November 2015**

### **Political**

#### **Ammar al-Hakim visited in Sulaimani**

##### **Sulaimani news**

**(2<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2015)**

Sulaimani: Iraqi cleric and politician who leads the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq arrived in Sulaimani city in Kurdistan region , Al – Hakim met in Sulemaina with Kosrat Rasoul the senior member of PUK .

#### **Former Iraqi Yazidi MP elected as mayor of Sinjar**

**(2<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2015)**

Dahouk - Sinjar: Sinjar council's members elected former Iraqi MP, Mahma Khalil, as new mayor of the Yazidi district of Sinjar (Shingal in Kurdish) in northwest Iraq.

#### **Swedish defense and foreign ministers arrived in Erbil**

##### **Rudaw media net work**

**(3<sup>rd</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Swedish defense and foreign ministers arrived in the Kurdistan region capital Erbil for talks on the fight against Islamic State (IS) and Swedish support for Peshmerga forces. Both ministers met Massoud Barzani the president of Kurdistan region and Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani. The Swedish delegation was received by Falah Mustafa, the head of the Kurdistan Regional Government's foreign relations department, and Karim Shingali, the Kurdistan region's interior minister.

#### **Turkish FM arrived in Kurdistan and hold a meeting with Barzani**

##### **Hawler news paper**

**(4<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Turkish Foreign Minister Feridun Sinirlioglu arrived in Erbil. Sinirlioglu met with met president of Kurdistan region Massoud Barzani and (KRG) s Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani. The Turkish FM also participated in one of the session arranged by Middle East Research Institute (MERI) in Erbil.

#### **Iraqi parliament speaker visited Sulaimani**

## **Puk media**

**(5<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Sulaimani: Iraqi parliament speaker Salim Al Jibouri arrived in Sulaimani city on and he visited former Iraqi president Jalal Talabani. Later on Al Jibouri met officials from Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Change (Gorran). Al Jibouri participated also in the 2015 MERI conference in Kurdistan capital city of Erbil.

**KRG PMs “Erbil won’t give Baghdad control over Kurdistan’s oil again”**

## **Kurdistan 24**

**(5<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Speaking at the 2015 Middle East Research Institute (MERI) Forum in Erbil KRGs PM Nechirvan Barzani said “Kurdistan will not give up control over oil exports to Iraq’s central government in Baghdad”. Barzani said authorities in Baghdad underestimated KRG’s ability to find buyers for Kurdish oil exports. And he said also “I want to reaffirm that we will not give the control [of exports] to Baghdad again,” and he added. “Baghdad thought we had no other way. I believe Baghdad has now understood that we have other ways.”

**Nechirvan Barzani: Relations between Iraqi Kurdistan and Turkey are strategic**

## **Xendan.org**

**(5<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Iraqi Kurdistan PM Nechirvan Barzani took the stage with Turkish Foreign Minister Feridun Sinirlioglu on Wednesday in an unscheduled appearance before a packed house that touched on relations with Ankara, the war with IS and economic ties between the two neighbors. Barzani joined Sinirlioglu to form the final panel of the second day of the annual Middle East Research Institute (MERI) Forum 2015, telling the audience that Erbil’s relationship with Turkey would not be jeopardized by any party including the Iraqi government. Barzani said “Turkey opened its doors during Anfal to Kurdish refugees and that will not be forgotten,”. He also called the current relations between the Kurdistan region and Turkey a strategic relationship that would benefit all parties in Kurdistan and Iraq.

**Swedish forces to remain in Kurdistan region till 2016**

## **Bas news**

**(5<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Sweden stated that its forces in Iraq’s Kurdistan Region will continue training the Kurdish forces of Peshmerga till 2016. There are 35 Swedish trainers in Kurdish region and they train Peshmerga in fight against the militants of the Islamic State (IS). Swedish Defense Minister, Peter Hultqvist, who visited the Kurdish region

days ago, told the media that the mission of the Swedish forces was extended till 2016, adding that opposition parties should give their green light to the decision too. She stated also that her country is proud of its actions against the IS.

### **Shaways accuse Baghdad of non-fulfillment of obligations to Kurdistan region**

**Xendan.org**

**(6<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: The Kurdistan Democratic Party KDP leading member Roj Nuri Shaways accused the federal government of failing to fulfill its obligations to Kurdistan region. Shaways said in a speech addressed to the Middle East dialog forum held in Erbil, " Baghdad sent less than half the share of Kurdistan region of the financial budget," he also said " Baghdad government is always trying to reduce the powers of the Kurdistan regional government " .

### **Massoud Barzani imposed himself by force and his party is preparing to take the risk to democratic values for the Presidency chair: Gorran**

**KNNC TV**

**(10<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Sulaimani: A leader in Change Movement stressed that Massoud Barzani, whose term as President of the Kurdistan Region ended on August 20 but refused to step down, imposed himself by force and has no legal justification to stay in the presidency of the region. Information Officer for the Change Movement Abdul Razak said in a press statement that Barzani is deluding if he expected to succeed in isolating of the Change Movement from the equations and the political process in order to stay on the throne of the presidency.

### **Families of Anfal victims in Kurdistan organize a protest against calls to release Sultan Hashem**

**Xendan.org**

**(10<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Sulaimani: Dozens of Kurdish families of Anfal victims in infamous Anfal operations in Chamchamal district affiliated to Sulaimani province on Wednesday to protest the recent calls by some politicians for the release of Saddam's former Iraqi Defense minister Sultan Hashem. The representative of the families of the victims said in a statement, "We are families of the victims of Anfal operations, we express our strong concern over the ongoing attempts to release the offender, Sultan Hashem, Minister of Defense in the Baath era," stressing that "Hashem has had a prominent role in the notorious Anfal operations ". Anfal was an anti-Kurdish campaign led by the Iraqi former regime between 1986 and 1989 and involved a series of military campaigns against the Kurdish Peshmerga fighters as well as the mostly Kurdish civilian population of southern Kurdistan 'northern Iraq'. The campaign, in which chemical weapons were used, The Anfal operation crackdown that killed nearly 200,000 Kurdish civilians and guerrillas and some 3,000 Kurdish villages destroyed in a scorched-earth response to a Kurdish uprising.

## **Kurdish Islamist Group KIG calls to withdraw from Kurdistan government**

**Paym.net**

**(11<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Sulaimani: A leading figure in the Kurdistan Islamic Group KIG called his party to withdraw from the Kurdistan Regional Government. A member of the Political Bureau of the KIG, Dilshad Garmiani said in a press statement that the four major parties in the region do not have one position, public or hidden, about Massoud Barzani staying in office as head of the region or not." adding that the talks of the progress of the four parties in a single political line, is not true, because of the absence of a single vision, as some political parties differ among themselves and play the role of mediator at the same time.

## **EU consul-generals in Erbil meet with Kurdish parties**

**NRT TV**

**(14<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

The heads of six European consulates in Erbil met with three of Iraqi's Kurdistan political parties on Sunday in an effort to ease tensions in the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). The consul-generals of the UK, Netherlands, Romania, Italy, Hungary and Poland met with members of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Kurdistan Islamic Group (KIG) in Erbil. It is further to mention that this attempt is the first one from international community in order to help KRG to solve their internal problems.

## **Japan to open representation office in Iraqi Kurdistan in 2016**

**Hawler newspaper**

**(15<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Japanese Ambassador to Iraq, Mr. Fumio Iwai said on Monday that Tokyo will open a representation office in Iraqi Kurdistan capital city of Erbil, the Department of Foreign Relations in Kurdistan Regional Government KRG said in a statement. As part of his visit to the Kurdistan Region, the newly-appointed Japanese Ambassador visited the KRG Department of Foreign Relations. Minister Falah Mustafa Bakir congratulated Ambassador Iwai on his appointment, stressing that the Department of Foreign Relations is ready to fully support his mission in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region. During the meeting both sides reviewed ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation as well as recent military, humanitarian and political developments in Kurdistan and the wider region. The Ambassador stressed that the Government of Japan will open a representation office in the Kurdistan Region next year.

## **Kurdistan govt calls on international community to help rebuild liberated areas**

**Krg.org**

**(15<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) prime minister on Sunday called on the international community to help rebuild and restore services in Sinjar, after more than a year of fighting in the town has largely reduced it to rubble. PM Nechirvan Barzani met with a US delegation in Erbil, headed by Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Christine Warmouth, to discuss the Sinjar liberation and Erbil-Baghdad relations. The delegation pledged support and cooperation with the KRG to help areas liberated from Islamic State (IS) militants, particularly in the field of reconstruction. Barzani thanked the US and coalition forces for their military support in the operations and said he hoped the support would continue in future missions. "Those areas which were controlled from IS militants need services and reconstruction," he said. "I hope the international community's assist the KRG as the region is now in an economic problem.

**Iraqi flag flies in Sinjar following a request by PM Haider al-Abadi**

**Rudaw TV**

**(17<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Sinjar: The Iraqi flag was officially raised in the Kurdish Yazidi town of Sinjar (Shingal) – at the municipality building on Monday, following a request by Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi. Abadi claimed on Saturday that the Iraqi army also had participated in the Kurdish-led liberation of Sinjar, and that the Iraqi national flag should be raised above the city reclaimed from the Islamic State (IS) on Friday. "The Iraqi army through air raids and the cleaning of mines and improvised explosives planted in Sinjar did its part, therefore the Iraqi flag must be raised in Sinjar," Abadi wrote on his Facebook page Saturday night. His comments followed a victory speech by KDP leader Massoud Barzani in Sinjar on Friday, in which he vowed that aside from the Kurdish, "no other flag will rise in Sinjar.

**Peshmerga secretary general denies Iraqi army participated in Sinjar operation**

**Lvin press**

**(17<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: The Secretary General of the Kurdish Peshmerga forces denied claims that Iraq army participated in the Operation that led to the release of the Iraq Kurdish Yazidi city of Sinjar (Shingal) from the control of the IS militants on Friday. Jabber Yawar told the media that "we are surprised of some remarks that Peshmerga forces occupied Shingal (Kurdish name for Sinjar) but the Iraqi army participated in its liberation and the remarks are not at the status of a person who is well aware of the economic and political situation of Iraq." Stating that Iraqi army is 400 kilometers far from Sinjar and has not participated in the release operation of the city, he added Peshmerga forces liberated the city and they are ready for any operation to release other occupied parts of Iraq. It is worth mentioning that Iraq PM Haider al-Abadi told a meeting of civil activists that Iraqi army participated in the operation that led to the liberation of the city.

**Italy to send advisors to Iraqi Kurdistan to train Kurdish police: Ambassador**

## **Xebat news paper**

**(18<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Baghdad: Italian Ambassador to Iraq Marco Carnelos revealed that the president of Italian Senate Pietro Grasso will visit Baghdad and Erbil soon. He said that Italy wants to have an active role in re-establishing political stability in the Kurdistan Region, also he said that his country will advisors to Iraqi Kurdistan to train Kurdish police.

## **Nechirvan Barzani calls the Iraqi parliament to vote on the Japanese loan**

**K24**

**(19<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: The President of Kurdistan Regional Government, Nechirvan Barzani called on Thursday the Iraqi parliament to vote on the loan decision submitted by Japan for the purpose of rebuilding Sinjar district, which was recently liberated from the control of Islamic State group (IS). Barzani complained in a speech during the ceremony of laying the foundation stone for the electrical station in one of the areas of the region from the continuation of the federal government in Baghdad to give Kurdistan Region's share of the financial budget for 2015. Barzani said that the regional government has prepared a plan for the reconstruction of Sinjar, calling on the Iraqi parliament to approve the Japanese loan in order to contribute to the implementation of that plan.

## **Gorran bloc criticized Iraq's 2016 budget**

**KNN TV**

**(21<sup>st</sup> of November, 2015)**

Baghdad: Kurdish Change (Gorran) bloc in Iraqi parliament criticized the draft of 2016 federal budget law, stressing the need to find alternatives for revenue without relying on oil resource alone. The bloc said in a news conference attended by a number of its deputies "Change has many sockets on the budget, especially in what regards oil revenues and considering the price of a barrel of oil worth 45 dinars as a guess price, so estimates that consideration as exaggerated.

## **Iraqi Kurdistan energy minister's debt over 10 billion dollars: Gorran deputy**

**Xendan.org**

**(22<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2015)**

Sulaimani: A lawmaker from Kurdistan Parliament from Change (Gorran) Movement stated that the ministry Energy of Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) owes more than 10 billion dollars. The deputy Ali Muhammad

Salih said, that the debt should be paid through oil incomes. He added that there are many buyers for the region's oil and is exported through borders. Salih further asked for the abolition of the oil and gas commission in the parliament as he says it is not a useful commission.

### **18 mass graves unearthed in Sinjar**

**Rudaw TV**

**(22<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2015)**

Sinjar: 18 mass graves have been founded and unearthed in the newly-released Kurdish Yazidi town of Sinjar (Shingal) in northwest Iraq. The city was liberated on Nov. 13, a year and three months after the militants of the Islamic State (IS) took control of the city, home to the largest number of Yazidis in the world. Hadi Dobani, the chief of Yazidi affairs in Dohuk, one of four provinces in Kurdistan Region, stated that the process to find more graves are being continued, adding that 21 more graves are expected to be found. He warned people not to approach to the graves as expert groups should unearth the graves to find documents about the massacres.

### **US Deputy Secretary arrived in Iraqi Kurdistan capital**

**NRT TV**

**(23<sup>rd</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Erbil on Monday to discuss security and political issues with Kurdish officials. Blinken, who met recently with officials in Ankara and Baghdad, He met in the region Massoud Barzani, Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani and other officials. War against the Islamic State (IS) and the refugee crisis in the Kurdistan region were the top issues discussed between him and the leaders in the region.

### **UN to participate in Sinjar reconstruction**

**Basnews**

**(24<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Sinjar: A United Nations delegation visited the recently liberated Kurdish Yazidi town of Sinjar (Shingal) to assess reconstruction needs. The Peshmerga Secretary-General's website said a senior UN delegation visited Sec.-Gen. Jabber Yawar to discuss preparations for reconstruction efforts in Sinjar. Sinjar has been largely devastated after more than a year of airstrikes and clashes between Kurdish forces and Islamic State (IS) militants. The UN's participation in reconstruction came after a request by Yawar last week when he met with the head of the UN in Erbil, Sokol Kondi. Yawar's request included reconstructing of schools and hospitals, as well as reestablishing public services such as water and electricity.

## **Iraqi defense minister in Kurdistan to discuss Mosul operation, meet with Massoud Barzani**

**KRP.ORG**

**(26<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: The Iraqi Defense Minister arrived in Kurdistan's capital city of Erbil and immediately met with senior security officials in the joint cooperation center in Erbil. Later on Al-Obadiah has been received by Massoud the president of Kurdistan region according to a statement from presidency of Kurdistan region the meeting was dedicated for the latest military developments and the preparations for controlling Mosul.

## **Massoud Barzani discusses several files with Bin Zayed**

**KRP.ORG**

**(30<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Dubai: Massoud Barzani president of Kurdistan region met deputy general commander of the armed forces of the United Arab Emirates, Mohammed bin Zayed and discussed and discussed the relations between the two parties. Barzani began on Saturday a tour to visit the Gulf countries.

## **Dozens of Islamic State militants surrendered to Peshmerga at Gwer-Makhmour front**

**Rudaw TV**

**(1<sup>st</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Multiple groups of Islamic State fighters surrendered to Peshmerga forces in Gwer-Makhmour front 60 km southwest of Erbil. Said Qadir, a senior Peshmerga officer on Gwer front, told the media that "in the last week at least 19 IS militants surrendered to Peshmerga forces. Qadir added that officials on Gwer front estimating that this year at least 100 IS militants will surrendered to Peshmerga forces. Also he said that "Those who have submitted themselves to the Peshmerga will be questioned and transferred to the Ministry of Peshmerga,".

## **Peshmerga killed four suicide bombers in Sinjar**

**Xendan.org**

**(2<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2015)**

Sinjar: A Kurdish military leader said that Peshmerga forces killed four suicide bombers of Islamic State (IS) group that tried to sneak into the ranks of Kurdish forces in the Yazidi district of Sinjar. The leader of Shingal protection force, Daoud Jundi said that Peshmerga killed four suicide bombers wearing explosive belts tried to sneak among Kurdish forces in order to hit one of the check points of Peshmerga. He said also that Peshmerga forces



killed the suicide bombers after violent clashes. Jundi said that that coalition's aircrafts bombed IS locations 15 after the attack.

### **5 Kurdish Peshmerga fighters killed in mortar shells fire by Islamic State targeting Mosul Dam's sector**

**NIN news**

**(3<sup>rd</sup> of November, 2015)**

Mosul: According to a source in the Ministry of Peshmerga five Kurdish Peshmerga fighters killed by mortar shells fired by Islamic State (IS) targeting Mosul Dam. The source told the National Iraqi News that "five members of the Peshmerga were killed while they were in a checkpoint in the Mosul Dam, which is located 45 km north of the city of Mosul.

### **Kurdish forces raise Kurdistan flag at the entrance of Sinjar**

**Kurdistan TV**

**(12<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Sinjar: A source in Peshmerga forces said that its forces raised Kurdistan flag in Um al-Shaba bet checkpoint at the entrance of Sinjar district from Mosul. The Kurdish forces took control of the entrance to Sinjar district, west of Mosul from the southern side, specifically Um al-Shaba bet checkpoint and raised Kurdistan's flag on the checkpoint, which is the entrance to Sinjar district for arrivals from Mosul or Tel Afar, west of Mosul. Fierce fighting is taking place between Peshmerga forces alongside with PKK and Yazidi forces and IS in the vicinity of Sinjar as dozens of bodies of IS elements were found in those areas.

### **Islamic State attacks Peshmerga in Gwer**

**NRT TV**

**(13<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Islamic State (IS) fighters launched an attack on Kurdish forces southwest of Kurdistan capital city of Erbil early Friday, as Peshmerga reported advances against the militants farther west in Sinjar. A Peshmerga commander, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to media, told NRT that the militants launched a "surprised" attack on Kurdish forces at the Gwer front at dawn. "Three Peshmerga were injured during the attack, and IS casualties are unclear," the commander said. Friday's attack came as Peshmerga and coalition forces entered the second day of Operation Free Sinjar.

### **Kurds say 100 Islamic State militants killed so far in Sinjar**

## **Rudaw media net work**

**(13<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Some 100 fighters of the Islamic State group (IS) have been killed in Thursday's assault in Sinjar (Shingal) by Kurdish forces backed by coalition air raids, a Kurdish commander said. Commander Zaim Ali also said that 16 suicide attacks by IS targeting the Kurdish forces in the Yazidi town of Shingal had been foiled. Since dawn Thursday, 16 car bombs rigged with explosives were detonated by the Kurdish forces and coalition warplanes, Ali told Rudaw. "They were to target the Peshmerga but all the attempts failed," he said. Suicide car bombs are one of the methods used by IS to repulse attacks. The militants resorted to car bombings in battles against Iraqi forces, and in Kurdish and Syrian forces in Syria. A statement from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) said Thursday that 7,500 Peshmerga were involved in three-pronged Shingal offensive. Some 5,000 Yazidi fighters have been mobilized under the command of the Kurdish Peshmerga to take the battle to IS.

## **Kurdish Peshmerga declares end of Sinjar operation: KRSC**

**K24**

**(14<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: The Kurdish Peshmerga announced the end of Operation Free Sinjar (Shingal) Friday afternoon with the liberation of the Yazidi town and two dozen villages, said the region's Security Council. The Kurdistan Region Security Council (KRSC) described the two-day operation as successful which "achieved its primary objectives: to cordon off Sinjar town, disrupt Highway 47 from East and West Sinjar, and create a buffer zone." Apart from taking full control of Shingal, the Kurdish Yazidi town that was occupied by the Islamic State (IS) for more than a year, the Kurdish forces also recaptured 28 villages in the area. "More than 300 terrorists were killed by Peshmerga forces and Coalition warplanes, and over 200 square kilometers were cleared and returned to the Kurdistan Region," read a statement from the KRSC. Multiple Kurdish forces include 5,000 Yazidi forces, YPG/YPJ and PKK fighters have participated in Sinjar liberation.

## **Iraqi Kurdistan Security Council uncovers plan to attack Erbil**

**K24**

**(14<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Iraq's Kurdistan Region Security Council (KRSC) revealed the arrest of a "terrorist" group, which was planning to carry out an attack in the Kurdistan Region capital Erbil. In a statement on Saturday, the KRSC released a video and photos, which purport to show how a terrorist cell was planning to carry out the attack. The KRSC said that they have also arrested another terrorist cell, which was behind last week's Dubz terrorist attack in Kirkuk Province that resulted in the deaths of a number of Kurdish security officers and the wounding of many more.

## **Kurds and Iraq's Shiite mobilization forces agree to calm situation in Khurmatu**

## **Bas news**

**(16<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Iraqi Kurdish security forces and Iraq's Shiite Hashd al-Shaabi or Popular Mobilization forces signed an agreement to defuse the situation in the mixed town of Tuz Khurmatu in southern Kirkuk province, northern Iraq. Muhammad Bayati, a Turkmen from the town, said on Sunday that they have agreed with a Kurdish delegation from Sulaimaniyah, to defuse tension in the town, which has been the scene of clashes between Kurdish security forces and the militias in recent days, Basnews reported. Bayati also said that they have agreed to stop attacks on Turkmen and Kurdish residents and properties in the town and form a joint security force to secure Khurmatu and arrest anyone who tries to create instability.

## **Kurdish Peshmerga repel Islamic State attack on Makhmour and Gwer front**

### **Hawler news paper**

**(17<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Islamic State group (IS) militants launched an offensive against Kurdish Peshmerga forces in Makhmour district which lies some 50 km southwest of the capital of the Kurdistan Region, Erbil. Peshmerga managed to counter the attack, killing and wounding a number of militants, media reported. Three Peshmerga fighters has have been wounded during the attack.

## **Islamic State launches twin attacks on Peshmerga near Mosul**

### **NRT TV**

**(18<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Islamic State (IS) fighters launched two attacks on Kurdish Peshmerga forces on Wednesday in the Baishiqa area, east of the militants' stronghold of Mosul. A Peshmerga commander, who spoke on strict condition of anonymity, told NRT that Peshmerga thwarted the attacks, one of which involved a suicide bomber. "Any time the weather changes the militants begin to attack," the source said. IS fighters have tried to take advantage of rainy, foggy weather as cover to attack Kurdish positions on previous occasions. According to the source IS militants attacked Kurdish forces on Monday, near the Mosul Dam. Peshmerga commanders there said, the militants intended to "retrieve the dead bodies of militants killed in the Sinjar operations." Since the start of Operation Free Sinjar, militants have increased attacks on Peshmerga forces near the Gwer-Makhmour front and outside of Mosul.

## **Gunman fires shots at Peshmerga ministry in Kurdistan capital**

### **Rudaw TV**

**(20<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Shots were fired at the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) Ministry of Peshmerga Affairs on Friday, raising alarm in the Kurdish region's capital city, Erbil. Peshmerga Secretary-General Jabber Yawar told the media that at 8:00 am local time, a gunman fired shots from a Nissan pickup truck on the head quarter of ministry of Peshmerga. Another man in the vehicle was identified as the driver. Security guards outside the ministry building shot back at the men, injuring the gunman, who then turned his weapon on himself, committing suicide. The driver was arrested by security forces. The man has been identified as a 22-year-old who worked at a bakery in Erbil. The spokesman of police in Erbil told the media that they will publish a statement after finishing the investigations.

### **Peshmerga starts digging trenches around Sinjar**

**Millet press**

**(21<sup>st</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: A Peshmerga commander, Dilshad Mawlud, revealed that the Kurdish forces have been ordered by Massoud Barzani to dig trenches around the Kurdish Yazidi town of Sinjar (Shingal) in northwest Iraq to protect the town from Islamic State (IS) insurgents. Mawlud noted that the trenches been created to protect the town from the threat of IS attacks. "There is a possibility of digging trenches on all borders of the Kurdistan Region, especially those areas that are under the threat of IS attacks," concluded Mawlud. IS militants took control of the Yazidi town of Sinjar on August 8th 2014. Peshmerga forces completed the liberation of the town in a successful military operation in coordination with US coalition airstrikes November 13th. Yazidi Leader Mir Tahsin recently claimed that over 70 massacres have been committed against Yazidi Kurds.

### **7 Peshmerga fighters killed in an attack by Islamic State southeast of Mosul**

**NRT TV**

**(21<sup>st</sup> of November, 2015)**

Mosul: Seven Kurdish Peshmerga fighters were killed in an attack by Islamic State group (IS) targeted Makhmour district, southeast of Mosul, according to a source in the Ministry of Peshmerga.

### **Turkish jets resume bombing PKK in Iraqi Kurdistan, hit bases in Zakho**

**Lvinepress**

**(26<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Duhok: Turkish jets reportedly resumed fresh bombings against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) on Wednesday, hitting positions in Zakho near the Kurdistan region's border with Turkey. According to the media Turkish F16 warplanes bombed PKK bases in the area of Barwari Balla and Kesta village in the town of Zakho.

## **Economy**

### **Japan allocates \$7B for Iraq, Kurdistan Region reconstruction**

**Xebat newspaper**

**(15<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Tokyo's ambassador to Iraq said Monday that the Japan's government dedicated at least \$7 billion to reconstruct devastated areas inside Iraq, including in the Kurdistan Region this statement has been given by the ambassador while he was received by Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani.

### **Kurdistan govt calls on international community to help rebuild liberated areas**

**Krg.org**

**(15<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) prime minister on Sunday called on the international community to help rebuild and restore services in Sinjar, after more than a year of fighting in the town has largely reduced it to rubble. PM Nechirvan Barzani met with a US delegation in Erbil, headed by Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Christine Warmouth, to discuss the Sinjar liberation and Erbil-Baghdad relations. The delegation pledged support and cooperation with the KRG to help areas liberated from Islamic State (IS) militants, particularly in the field of reconstruction. Barzani thanked the US and coalition forces for their military support in the operations and said he hoped the support would continue in future missions. "Those areas which were controlled from IS militants need services and reconstruction," he said. "I hope the international community's assist the KRG as the region is now in an economic problem.

### **Iraqi Kurdistan eager for more Kuwaiti investments**

**Kurdsat TV**

**(20<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Iraq's Kurdistan is eager to increase the number of Kuwaiti investments in the region, said Kurdistan Board of Investment Friday. This statement came during a meeting between members of the board of investment and Kuwaiti General Consul to the region Dr. Omar Al-Kandari. Al-Kandari told the media that his meeting with the Board's Director General Dr. Mukhles Murad and members focused on means to boost investment cooperation between Kuwait and the Kurdistan region. The close proximity of Kuwait to Kurdistan made it paramount to

increase investments in the region, said Al-Kandari who indicated that there are already a number of Kuwaiti investors operating in Iraq's Kurdistan. The last statistics regarding Kuwaiti investments showed that the Gulf country had around one billion USD worth of investments in Kurdistan region.

### **Iraqi Kurdistan, Kuwait affirms need to promote tourism cooperation**

**Xebat newspaper**

**(21<sup>st</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: The Kuwaiti General Consul in Erbil, Dr. Omar Al-Kandari said that Kuwait and Kurdistan region agreed on the necessity of promoting common tourist activities between the two sides. Further to mention that Kurdistan's tourism authority has invited the tourism department of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Information to attend an international tourism conference in Erbil.

### **Sinjar needs \$100 million before refugees return: official**

**Nineveh news**

**(24<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Sinjar: The head of the Nineveh provincial council said that the newly liberated city of Sinjar (Shingal) "desperately needs" \$100 million to provide basic services such as electricity and healthcare before the possible return of some 400,000 refugees—both Yazidis and Muslims—from the area. Basher Kiki told the media that he visited the city after it was recaptured from IS militants and saw "a devastated town" which "makes it impossible to secure a safe return for the refugees." "We have already asked all parties, including international aid agencies, to give us donations or help us to reconstruct the town," .Sinjar which is a predominantly Kurdish Yazidi town, still has a sizable Muslim community which includes both Muslim Kurds and Arabs.

### **Iraqi Kurdistan owes \$1 billion to Turkey: MP**

**NRT TV**

**(28<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Sulaimani: Kurdish MP and Kurdistan Parliament's Human Rights Committee chairman Soran Omar told NRT on Friday that the Kurdish region owes Turkey \$1 billion. Omar said that Kurdistan Regional Government KRG has taken two loans of \$500 million; he said details how the government will pay it back is unclear.

### **Humanitarian**

### **Kuwait plans to build 500 housing units for displaced people in Kurdistan Region**

## **Hawler news paper**

**(7<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: Kuwait Red Cross Society (KRCS) plans to build a camp with 500 housing units for displaced Iraqis in Kurdistan region. State of Kuwait has allocated \$ 200 million for the relief of displaced Iraqis within the relief to the Iraqi people under the campaign slogan.

## **Poland sends aid to Kurdish Yazidi refugees on Mount Shingal**

### **Hawler news paper**

**(10<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Shingal: The Polish Consular Agency in Erbil provided humanitarian aid by the “Polish Aid” to the Kurdish Yazidi refugees still living on Shingal (Sinjar) Mountains. According to statement from Polish Consular Agency in Kurdistan Region, this is another Polish project aimed at helping refugees and internally displaced people who have found shelter in Kurdistan Region. Islamic State group (IS) has extended its control on most parts of Shingal district, west of Mosul on August 3, 2014 which led thousands of Kurdish families to flee to Mount Sinjar, where they were trapped in it and suffered from significant lack of water and food, killing and abduction of thousands of Yazidis as well as rape and captivity of thousands of women.

## **Mass grave of 80 Kurdish Yazidi women discovered in Sinjar**

### **Rudaw TV**

**(14<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Sinjar: A mass grave believed to contain the remains of 80 Kurdish Yazidi women was discovered by Kurdish forces in Sinjar (Shingal) on Saturday a day after the town was retaken from the Islamic State (IS). “Killing these innocent people is one of the crimes IS perpetrated against the Yazidi Kurds,” Qasim Simo, head of Shingal security told Rudaw. The mass grave was found only meters away from the Shingal Technical Institute.

## **General**

### **Floods turned Kirkuk streets into rivers**

#### **NRT TV**

**(6<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Kirkuk: Heavy rains left parts of Kirkuk city under water on Friday, a week after severe flooding affected cities and towns across Iraq. The city's streets were turned into rivers, hitting areas with existing water and drainage issues the hardest, NRT reports. Similarly, Iraq's capital, Baghdad, saw some of the worst flooding after a ten-hour downpour prompted government authorities to declare a day off.

#### **Fire broke out in a popular market in Kurdistan capital**

**Rudaw TV**

**(9<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Erbil: A fire broke out on Monday morning in a popular market in Erbil, capital of Kurdistan region. A source in the civil defense told media that a fire broke out in Surchi popular market for sale of used furniture and home machines which is located near the ancient citadel area in the center of Erbil city. The source added that the fire engines rushed to the scene of the fire and extinguished it; the fire caused material damage only.

#### **More than 50 people saved from drowning in rain floods in Kurdistan**

**Kurdistani new news paper**

**(10<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015)**

Sulaimani: The emergency team from the municipality of Kalar district that was formed recently in Sulaimani province rescued more than 50 people and cars from the torrential rain that flooded streets and residential neighborhoods in the district. The team rushed to the most affected and drowned areas in the district and carried out operations to rescue more than 50 people who were stuck in their regions, in addition to two people and two families were stuck in water while 10 drowned cars were recovered.