

**Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale**

|                                    |                                                    |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bilagsnr.:</b>                  | <b>1579</b>                                        |
| Land:                              | Irak                                               |
| Kilde:                             | BAMF - Federal Office for Migration and Refugees   |
| Titel:                             | Briefing Notes Summary; Iraq – July -december 2024 |
| Udgivet:                           | 31. december 2024                                  |
| Optaget på<br>baggrundsmaterialet: | 7. februar 2025                                    |
|                                    |                                                    |



# Briefing Notes Summary

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

Iraq – July to December 2024

31 December 2024

**01 July 2024**

## **Closure of internally displaced persons camps in Kurdistan**

The implementation of the government's decision to close the IDP camps still in operation in the Kurdistan Region is progressing with the return of several thousand IDPs to Shingal.

There is widespread reluctance to return to Shingal among the predominantly Yazidi inhabitants of the remaining camps, as reconstruction is still stalling and the security situation is difficult. Basic services have still not been restored in many of the villages that were destroyed during the IS war. The Iraqi government has promised initial aid of IQD 4 million (approx. EUR 2,800, as at 01.07.24) for voluntary return before 30.07.24 and intends to stop all aid for internally displaced persons in the Kurdistan Region after this date.<sup>1</sup>

## **President signs law on the criminalisation of LGBTIQ people**

On 27.06.24, Iraqi President Rashid signed the law passed by parliament in April 2024, which significantly expands the 1988 anti-prostitution law. Once the law comes into force, consensual homosexual acts will be punishable by a minimum of ten and a maximum of 15 years in prison. Gender reassignment surgery is punishable by up to three years in prison for both the performer and the person undergoing the surgery. The "propagation" of homosexuality can be punished with up to seven years in prison.<sup>2</sup>

**08 July 2024**

## **Violence against women**

According to the local police, a woman in Dohuk was first severely beaten and then set on fire on 25.06.24. She succumbed to her injuries on 30.06.24. The suspected perpetrator is her brother, who is in police custody.

Domestic violence and so-called "honour crimes" are widespread throughout Iraq, including in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). In a report on gender-based violence published on 03.07.24, Amnesty International (AI) stated that despite the improved legal framework in the KR-I, the protection of women from violence remains difficult in practice. AI cites the bias of law enforcement authorities in favour of perpetrators as one of the reasons, meaning that victim protection is in fact not a priority. In addition to inadequate training, the Iraqi administration also lacks financial resources, e.g. for sufficient women's shelters, according to AI.<sup>3</sup>

## **Arrest after comment on social media**

On 25.06.24, a man was arrested in Halabja after he criticised the local authorities on Facebook. According to the authorities, he was arrested for his "defamatory" and "disrespectful" comments.

Freedom of the press and freedom of expression are being increasingly restricted throughout Iraq, including in the KR-I. This was recently noted including by the US government in its report on the human rights situation in Iraq of 22.04.24.<sup>4</sup>

### **Situation of Yazidis**

As part of the camp closures in the KR-I announced by the central government for the end of July 2024, around 1,000 internally displaced persons from Sinjar/Shingal (Nineva province) returned to their homes at the end of June 2024. Nevertheless, comparatively few people are still willing to leave the camps for Sinjar/Shingal, despite the support offered by the central government in the amount of IQD 4 million (approx. EUR 2,821; as of 08.07.24). This is due to the persistently poor security situation, the faltering reconstruction and a lack of basic public services on the ground.

There are still around 26,000 families living in the remaining 23 Kurdish camps, most of whom are of Yazidi faith. At least as many are living outside the camps in the KR-I. Meanwhile, Masrour Barzani, Prime Minister of the KR-I, has announced his intention to provide financial aid for around 3,000 Yazidi IS survivors. In addition, new job opportunities are to be created for Yazidi people in the KR-I and their access to educational and health facilities is to be improved.<sup>5</sup>

### **Deportation of Syrian nationals**

According to a report by HRW of 27.06.24, several Syrian individuals have been deported to Damascus and the north-eastern areas of Syria under Kurdish control, despite a ruling by the Iraqi Supreme Court in August 2023 prohibiting the deportation of Syrian nationals and despite the fact that the individuals concerned were in possession of valid residence documents or registered as asylum seekers with the UNHCR.

In March 2024, Iraq launched a campaign to expel foreign nationals without valid residence permits. In April 2024, the issuing of visas for Syrian nationals in the KR-I was suspended to limit the influx of foreign labour.

Around 280,000 Syrians are still living in Iraq, most of them in the KR-I.<sup>6</sup>

## **15 July 2024**

### **State counter-terrorism action**

According to the local police, two fishermen were killed by suspected IS fighters in Tuz Khurmatu (Salah al-Din province) on 08.07.24. No information was given about the whereabouts of the suspects.

On 11.07.24, Iraqi security forces arrested nine terror suspects in towns near Baghdad. According to the authorities, all nine detainees were on wanted lists.

On 12.07.24, Iraqi security forces killed two suspected IS fighters in Diyala province after one of them allegedly threatened to detonate an explosive belt he was wearing.

On 13.07.24, Iraqi security forces and suspected IS fighters clashed in the province of Diyala. Two soldiers, three police officers and an undisclosed number of suspected IS fighters were killed.

At least one Asayish member was killed in clashes between Kurdish security forces and suspected IS fighters on 14.07.24 in the district of Qarahanjir (Kirkuk province), one IS fighter was also killed.

Parts of the provinces of Salah al-Din, Diyala and Kirkuk are among the so-called disputed territories claimed by both the Kurdish and the central Iraqi side. This unresolved balance of power has led to a security vacuum that is being exploited by IS fighters.<sup>7</sup>

### **Death sentences against IS members**

On 09.07.24, a court sentenced an IS fighter in Salah al-Din to death. The convict was found guilty of killing civilians, attacking Iraqi security forces and providing logistical support to IS.

Also, the widow of former IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was sentenced to death on 10.07.24. The court considered it proven that the woman had been actively involved in the enslavement of Yazidi women and girls.

Both court rulings are based on Art. 4 of the 2005 Anti-Terrorism Act, and both the UN and various NGOs have repeatedly described proceedings under Art. 4 as non-compliant with the rule of law.<sup>8</sup>

### **Türkiye-PKK conflict**

According to the US NGO Community Peacemakers Teams (CPT) which focusses on conflict monitoring, a total of 182 families in Dohuk were displaced from their home villages by the latest Turkish military operation from 15.06. to 12.07.24. During the same period, CPT recorded 285 air strikes in the Kurdistan Region (KR-I), most of them in Dohuk.

Türkiye intensified its ongoing military operation in mid-June and deployed hundreds of additional troops and vehicles to several areas of Iraq.

Civilian casualties are relatively rare in the conflict, but the air strikes often trigger fires that scorch agricultural land, thus destroying the livelihoods of the rural population.<sup>9</sup>

### **Closure of refugee camps in KR-I**

On 11.07.24, the Federal Minister for Migration and Displacement announced that the last camp for internally displaced persons in Sulaymaniyah had been closed down. Around 1,800 of the 2,500 families in the now closed camp had returned to their hometowns, while the remaining 700 were still in Sulaymaniyah.

At the end of 2023, the government in Baghdad had announced its intention to close all remaining camps in the KR-I by 30.07.24. As an incentive to return to their homes, start-up aid of four million IQD (approx. EUR 2,800; as of 15.07.24) was offered. At the same time, the Iraqi government announced that the return was voluntary and that the people concerned were free to settle outside the camps in the KR-I.

There are still more than a dozen camps in Erbil and especially in Dohuk.

Many of the internally displaced persons are Yazidis from Sinjar (Nineva province), where the security and supply situation remains problematic. However, the majority of the Yazidi population in the KR-I lives outside the refugee camps. According to the law, their access to the labour and housing market as well as to educational and health facilities is at least theoretically guaranteed, however, reportedly, persistent social prejudice and everyday discrimination often make such access quite difficult.<sup>10</sup>

## **22 July 2024**

### **Attack on Kurdish politician**

According to media reports, the local politician of the Kurdish KDP, Akram Salih, was attacked on 15.07.24.

A charge of explosives attached to his car detonated, lightly injuring Salih's driver and his assistant. Salih himself escaped unharmed. The incident took place in the city of Kalar (Sulaymaniyah province).

The Kurdish Security Council blamed the PKK for the attack, but the PKK denies the accusation.<sup>11</sup>

### **Türkiye-PKK conflict**

A civilian has been killed in suspected Turkish air strikes on Shildaze district (Dohuk province).

Türkiye is fighting the PKK in the Iraqi-Turkish border region and has expanded its military presence in northern Iraq, intensifying its attacks over the past month. According to the U.S. NGO Community Peacemakers Teams (CPT), nine civilians have been killed since the beginning of the year.<sup>12</sup>

### **Family feud in Basra**

According to media reports, a fatal domestic dispute occurred in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on 16.07.24. The trigger is said to have been a woman fleeing to her parents' house seeking protection from her husband. He is said to have then stormed his in-laws' house with other relatives, resulting in a total of four deaths. Several people have since been arrested by the police.

Central Iraq has no law protecting against domestic violence. A law proposed in 2019 to criminalise domestic violence has not yet been passed. Feuds between tribes or different branches within a family are commonplace in Iraq and often end fatally.<sup>13</sup>

### **Allegations of torture against police**

A woman from Baghdad raised allegations of torture against the local police on 18.07.24. According to her, she wanted to report a burglary of her house in July 2024, she was then accused of insulting the Minister of the Interior

and the local police chief. She was beaten several times and transferred to a women's prison from where she was released six days later. The police authority has not yet commented on the allegations. The U.S. government's latest human rights report lists serious human rights violations by the security authorities in Iraq, including torture, inhumane treatment and arbitrary arrests.<sup>14</sup>

## **29 July 2024**

### **Closure of internally displaced persons camps in Kurdistan suspended for the time being**

The decision to close the remaining operational IDP camps in the Kurdistan Region (KR-I) will not be fully implemented for the time being, according to government information. The government decided to continue aid for the IDP camps including after the deadline of 30.07.24. Currently around 26,500 families are still living in the remaining IDP camps in Kurdistan.<sup>15</sup>

### **Around 500 people on KR-I death row**

According to new data published by the Ministry of Interior on 24.07.24, 466 people in the Kurdistan Region have been sentenced to death without having their sentences commuted to life imprisonment. Although there is a moratorium on the execution of the death penalty, it continues to be imposed. In such a case, the further course of action remains uncertain and the convicts are imprisoned indefinitely.<sup>16</sup>

## **05 August 2024**

### **Discussions about amnesty and personal status laws**

Several controversial legislative proposals are currently dominating the political debate in Iraq. One of these proposals intends to narrow the definition of the crime of supporting a terrorist organisation within the scope of extending the general amnesty law. This would benefit many Sunni Iraqis suspected of having supported IS. There is considerable opposition, especially from female members of parliament and citizens, to an amendment to the 1959 Personal Status Law. The proposed amendments would generally allow Iraqis to regulate marriage matters according to Shiite religious law. Depending on interpretation and context, this would mean that marriage is possible from the age of 15 for boys and in some cases even from the age of nine for girls. Critics speak of a step backwards in terms of women's rights in Iraq.<sup>17</sup>

### **Turkish airstrikes on PKK in the KR-I**

On 03.08.24, the Turkish military announced that eight PKK fighters had been killed in air strikes the previous day. The strikes were heavily criticised by Baghdad.<sup>18</sup>

## **19 August 2024**

### **Death sentences imposed for drug offences**

On 06.08.24, the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior announced that a total of 140 death sentences had been imposed for drug-related offences since the beginning of 2023.

According to Iraqi law, the import, export, cultivation and production of drugs can be punished with death. The death penalty applies to a number of other offences, including terrorism and murder.

According to Amnesty International, the death penalty had been executed in Iraq 17 times in 2021 and 11 times in 2022.<sup>19</sup>

### **Five arrests after missile attack on US base in Ain al-Assad**

According to Iraqi security authorities, five suspects were arrested on 08.08.24 in connection with the missile attack on a US army airbase in Al-Anbar province on 05.08.24.

According to unconfirmed reports, five American military personnel and two external employees were injured in the missile attack.<sup>20</sup>

### **Turkish attack on PKK in Iraq**

According to the Turkish Ministry of Defence, the Turkish military has attacked PKK positions in northern Iraq killing twelve suspected PKK members.<sup>21</sup>

## **26 August 2024**

### **One death after suspected tribal conflict**

On 21.08.24, one person was killed and several were injured in a suspected tribal conflict in the city of Najaf (Najaf province). A total of 70 people were arrested and numerous weapons and ammunition were confiscated. The reason for the escalation of violence is still unclear.

Tribal conflicts are frequent in Iraq, they regularly cause fatalities.<sup>22</sup>

### **Security incident between Iraqi army and Shiite militia**

On 22.08.24, a security incident occurred between the Iraqi army and members of the Shiite militia "Jund al-Imam" in the city of Karbala (Karbala province) in the run-up to the Shiite pilgrimage Arbaeen. The militia reportedly pushed for access to a cordoned-off area without first consulting the Iraqi army, which was responsible for security checks. Both sides then fired warning shots. No injuries were reported.

Jund al-Imam is part of the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) (Arabic: Hashd al-Shaabi). These formally belong to the Iraqi armed forces, but in fact pursue their own agenda and are hardly controlled by the Iraqi government.<sup>23</sup>

### **PKK-Türkiye conflict**

Armed clashes between the PKK and the Turkish military in the province of Dohuk caused a wildfire on 25.08.24. Initially, it was impossible to control the fire which is endangering several neighbouring villages.

Türkiye has been conducting an air and ground offensive against PKK positions in northern Iraq for years, regularly causing fires and occasionally civilian casualties.<sup>24</sup>

## **02 September 2024**

### **Fight against IS**

According to the US Central Command, 15 IS fighters were killed, arms and logistical equipment were seized during a joint operation with the Iraqi military in Anbar province on 29.08.24.

Seven US soldiers were injured in the operation, but no civilians were harmed. Such joint operations of Iraqi security forces and international combat units are a regular feature of the fight against IS, they contributed to containing IS capabilities in Iraq considerably, however, IS has not yet been completely eliminated. At a meeting with American representatives on 01.09.24 Iraqi Prime Minister Muhammad Shia al-Sudani stated that IS no longer posed a threat to Iraq's security.

Relations between the Iraqi government and US troops in the country have deteriorated in recent months, because the troops have repeatedly attacked Iraqi positions in response to drone attacks by Shiite militias. The Iraqi government subsequently declared its intention to end the presence of US troops in the country in the near future.<sup>25</sup>

## **09 September 2024**

### **Turkish air strikes**

According to the Turkish Ministry of Defence on 02.09.24, the Turkish military destroyed 20 PKK positions by air strikes. An NGO working in the field of conflict monitoring confirmed that a total of 24 air strikes were flown in all three Kurdish provinces on 02.09.24. No damage to property or personal injury was reported.

According to media reports, a civilian was killed in a suspected Turkish air strike in the Sidakan district (Erbil province) on 03.09.24. The man was in a pasture when the attack occurred. In the past, Türkiye has frequently carried out air strikes on Sidakan to combat PKK positions. No Turkish officials have yet commented on the latest incident.

According to media reports, two drone attacks hit Sulaymaniyah province on 04.09. and 05.09.24 that set fire to a vehicle in each case. The attack on 04.09.24 took place in the Kahlakan sub-district, killing three people. Three people, including a child, also died in the attack on 05.09.24 that hit the sub-district of Chwarta. According to eyewitnesses, the people killed on 05.09.24 were wearing PKK uniforms. NGOs and the PKK itself are accusing Türkiye, which has not yet commented on the matter.<sup>26</sup>

### **Fight against IS**

On 06.09.24, the Iraqi military announced the killing of three suspected IS fighters in an air strike on an IS hideout in the Hamrin Mountains (Diyala province). This was the second major attack by Iraqi security forces within a few weeks in the Hamrin Mountains, where IS is said to have retreated into terrain that is difficult to access.

An Iraqi officer was killed and two other military personnel were injured when an explosive device attached to an Iraqi army vehicle detonated in Kirkuk province on 04.09.24.

IS remains active predominantly in rural areas, primarily in the so-called disputed territories, which are claimed by both Baghdad and Erbil. These include Kirkuk and parts of Diyala, as well as parts of Nineva and Salah al-Din.<sup>27</sup>

### **Arrest and deportation of a suspected KDPI member to Iran**

According to the Iraqi Asayish of 06.09.24, a 35-year-old Iranian national living in Sulaymaniyah (Sulaymaniyah province) was transferred to Iran. According to the Asayish, the man did not have valid residence papers, whereupon he expressed the wish to return to Iran voluntarily.

Hengaw, an Iranian-Kurdish human rights organisation, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI) contradict this account. Both organisations claim that the deportee possesses a UNHCR certificate as asylum seeker and is a member of the KDPI. According to Hengaw, he was initially detained and tortured in Iraq before being handed over to the Iranian authorities. He is said to be in the custody of security authorities in Sanandaj (Kordestan province). He is accused of publishing photos of KDPI leaders on social media. He is also said to have a mental disability. The information cannot be independently verified.

An agreement signed between Iran and Iraq in 2023 stipulates that the Iraqi side is obliged to disarm Kurdish-Iranian opposition groups and secure the border regions. Iran had threatened to take military action if the agreement was not honoured (cf. BN of 17.07.23).<sup>28</sup>

## **16 September 2024**

### **Makhmour: Drone attack of refugee camp**

According to media reports, a refugee camp in Makhmour (Nineveh governorate) was attacked by a drone on 10.09.24. According to the Peshmerga, one person died and three others were injured. A member of the Nineveh provincial administration called it a Turkish attack on PKK targets inside the camp. Turkey has not yet commented. The Makhmour refugee camp houses around 10,000 people of Turkish-Kurdish origin, most of whom fled to Iraq in the 1990s to escape Turkish military operations against the PKK in south-eastern Turkey. Turkey considers the camp to be a PKK stronghold and has attacked targets inside the camp several times in the past.<sup>29</sup>

### **Disputed territories: Security situation**

On 10.09.24, two armed individuals clashed with Iraqi security forces in Kirkuk (Kirkuk governorate). One of the armed men died in an exchange of fire, the other was arrested. According to a police spokesman, it is still unclear whether the men were associated with IS or general drug-related crimes.

According to the Iraqi Interior Ministry, there was another security incident in Kirkuk on 15.09.24 in which Iraqi security forces shot at suspected IS supporters, causing the explosive vests they were wearing to detonate.

According to Iraqi authorities, an air strike targeted an IS position in the Palkana Mountains (Salah al-Din province) on 14.09.24, killing several IS fighters. The Palkana Mountains are considered a retreat for local IS cells.

IS has been considered territorially defeated in Iraq since 2017 but remains underground. This mainly affects the so-called disputed territories, which are claimed by both Baghdad and Erbil and therefore have a security vacuum. These include Kirkuk, Salah al-Din, Nineveh and Diyala.<sup>30</sup>

## **23 September 2024**

### **Fight against the IS**

The Iraqi military announced that it had flown air strikes against IS positions in Kirkuk on 19.09.24, killing six IS supporters. Furthermore, several IS hideouts in Kirkuk and Salah al-Din were destroyed by air strikes on 17.09.24. In addition, according to Iraqi security authorities, six suspected IS supporters were arrested in Baghdad on 16.09.24 and nine in Salah al-Din on 21.09.24.

With the exception of Baghdad, the above-mentioned provinces belong to the so-called disputed territories, which also include Nineva and Diyala and are claimed by both the central government in Baghdad and the Autonomous Regional Government in Kurdistan-Iraq (KR-I). This results in a security vacuum in the region and thus individual IS cells are still active there, even though IS has not controlled any areas in Iraq since 2017.<sup>31</sup>

### **Türkiye-PKK conflict**

According to media reports, one member of the PKK was killed and two others were injured in a drone attack on targets in the Makhmour refugee camp (Erbil and Nineva province) on 16.09.24. The Kurdish counter-terrorism authority accused Türkiye of being responsible for the attack. Türkiye considers the refugee camp in Makhmour, which mainly houses Kurdish-Turkish refugees from south-east Türkiye, to be a PKK stronghold and has already attacked it several times in the past (cf. BN of 16.09.24).

According to media reports, two more PKK members were killed in clashes with the Turkish army in a separate incident on 16.09.24 in the Gara Mountains (Dohuk province).

The Turkish Ministry of Defence informed that four more PKK fighters were "neutralised" on 18.09.24 in the Asos Mountains (Sulaymaniyah province). In Ankara's parlance, this can mean killing, wounding or capturing the enemy. The media reported that the attack involved air strikes which set forest and agricultural areas on fire.

For years, Türkiye has regularly attacked PKK positions in northern Iraq by air and ground operations. Direct damage to civilians is rare, but the resulting wildfires destroy the livelihoods of many inhabitants of the affected areas.<sup>32</sup>

## **30 September 2024**

### **Security situation**

On 28.09.24, supporters of the Shiite Popular Mobilisation Front (PMF), which is allied with Iran, attempted to infiltrate the Green Zone in Baghdad during a protest. In addition to government buildings, the zone also is the location of the US embassy where the protesters were heading. The protest was triggered by the killing of Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary General of the Iran-aligned Shiite Hezbollah, by an Israeli air strike in the south of the Lebanese capital Beirut on 27.09.24.<sup>33</sup>

## **07 October 2024**

### **Diyala: The struggle against IS**

Four members of the Iraqi security forces were killed by presumed IS fighters in an attack in Diyala on 03.10.24.

Two further members of the security forces died in another attack in the same province on the night of 06.10.24.

According to information from the Iraqi security forces, more than 100 IS fighters have been killed since the beginning of the year.<sup>34</sup>

## **14 October 2024**

### **The struggle against IS**

On 08.10.24 the Iraqi army announced that six suspected members of IS had been killed in an air strike in Salah al-Din province on 07.10.24. According to information from the Iraqi army, the leader of the regional IS cell for Salah al-Din was among those killed.

Salah al-Din is among the territories contested by Iraq's central government and the autonomous Kurdistan-Iraq region (KR-I). While territorially defeated since 2017, IS nevertheless remains active in some parts of the country, above all in the disputed regions.<sup>35</sup>

## **21 October 2024**

### **The struggle against IS**

By its own account, the Iraqi army carried out an air strike against IS members in Kirkuk province on 17.10.24. Four IS members were killed. According to information from the Iraqi army, four other suspected IS members died in an air strike in Salah al-Din province on 20.10.24. A leading IS figure was allegedly among those killed.

Although territorially defeated since 2017, IS remains active in provinces which are disputed between the central government in Baghdad and the Kurdistan Region. These provinces include Kirkuk, Salah al-Din and Diyala.<sup>36</sup>

### **Attack on office of MBC television station in Baghdad**

Supporters of pro-Iranian armed groups in Iraq protested outside the office building of Saudi Arabian TV station MBC on 19.10.24. The station's offices were attacked by some 400 to 500 protesters. According to reports in the media, part of the building was set on fire.

Prior to the incident, MBC had mentioned individuals such as Osama bin Laden and also organisations from the Iran-led so-called "axis of evil", such as Hamas, Hezbollah and armed Shiite militias in Iraq, in a report on terrorism in the Near East. On 20.10.24 the Iraqi Communications and Media Commission (CMC) stated that MBC's broadcasting licence had been withdrawn for showing the mentioned report. The commission further announced that it would be taking legal action to stop MBC operating in Iraq.<sup>37</sup>

## **28 October 2024**

### **Conflict between Türkiye and PKK**

The Turkish defence ministry stated on 24.10.24 and 25.10.24 that the Turkish air force had attacked targets relating to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq.

According to the ministry, the air strikes were a response to an attack on a Turkish state-owned armaments company in Ankara on 23.10.24 (see article on Türkiye). The PKK claimed responsibility for the attack on 25.10.24.<sup>38</sup>

### **The struggle against IS**

The Iraqi military stated on 24.10.24 that it had carried out an attack on members of IS in Al Anbar province with support from the international anti-IS coalition. 16 IS members were allegedly killed. On 26.10.24 the Iraqi military announced that four IS members had been killed in an air strike in Salah al-Din province.

Although territorially defeated since 2017, IS remains active in Iraq above all in the territories which are disputed between Iraq's central government and the Kurdish regional government. These territories cover Kirkuk, Salah al-Din, Diyala and Nineva provinces.<sup>39</sup>

## **04 November 2024**

### **Elections in the autonomous Kurdistan Region (KR-I)**

According to the final election result, the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) emerged as the winner of the election, taking 39 of the 100 seats in the Kurdish regional parliament. The other traditional major party in the region, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), won 23 seats. This means that the next government will probably consist once again of a coalition of these two forces, which to all intents and purposes have shared power in the region since 1992. The largest opposition party, "New Generation", claimed only 15 seats.<sup>40</sup>

## 18 November 2024

### **Türkiye attacks PKK**

The Turkish defence ministry announced on 14.11.24 that 48 PKK members had died in attacks by the Turkish military in northern Iraq and Syria. The Turkish military has been carrying out attacks on PKK positions in northern Iraq for some years.<sup>41</sup>

### **The struggle against IS**

According to information from the Iraqi police, three members of the Iraqi military travelling in an army vehicle died and two were seriously injured when an explosive device was detonated at the roadside near to the town of Tuz Khurmatu in Salah al-Din province on 17.11.24. IS has reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack. Also on 17.11.24, the Iraqi army announced that at least four suspected members of IS had died in an air strike in Kirkuk province. Although territorially defeated since 2017, IS remains active in Iraq above all in the territories which are disputed between Iraq's central government and the Kurdish regional government. These territories cover Kirkuk, Salah al-Din, Diyala and Nineva provinces.<sup>42</sup>

## 25 November 2024

### **Census**

Initial results of the census were announced on 25.11.24, according to which 45 million people now live in Iraq. The census has already come in for broad criticism, as it appears that it has consistently failed to cover Kurds in disputed territories.<sup>43</sup>

### **The struggle against IS**

A joint operation by various security services of the KR-I and Central Iraq against IS cells in Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah ended on 22.11.24. In the course of the operation, five armed insurgents were killed and 14 suspects were detained.<sup>44</sup>

## 02 December 2024

### **Conflict between Türkiye and PKK**

The Turkish defence ministry announced on 27.11.24 that the Turkish army had "neutralised" eight members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) during a military operation close to the Turkish border in northern Iraq. In this context, the term "neutralised" denotes that people have died or been taken prisoner.<sup>45</sup>

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration  
Briefing Notes  
**BN-Redaktion@bamf.bund.de**

- 
- 1 Rudaw: Nearly 1,000 IDPs repatriated ahead of Iraq's camp closure deadline, 27.06.24; Rudaw: Iraqi top court to rule on Kurdistan IDP camps closure: Ministry, 30.06.24.
  - 2 Rudaw: Iraqi president ratifies controversial anti-LGBTQ+ law, 27.06.24.
  - 3 Mother of three dies after being set ablaze by brother in Duhok, 30.06.24; Amnesty International: Daunting and Dire: Impunity, Unfunded Institutions Undermine Protection of Women and Girls From Domestic Violence in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, 03.07.24.
  - 4 Rudaw: Man allegedly detained for social media comment in Halabja, 30.06.24; USDOS: 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Iraq, 22.04.24.

- 
- 5 Rudaw: About 26 thousand IDP families remain in Kurdistan Region camps: Ministry, 04.07.24; Rudaw: PM Barzani announces financial aid for 3,000 Yazidis, 02.07.24; Rudaw: Shingal IDPs in Duhok reluctant to head home, 01.07.24; Rudaw: Nearly 1,000 IDPs repatriated ahead of Iraq's camp closure deadline, 27.06.24.
  - 6 HRW: Iraq: Unlawful Deportations of Syrians, 27.06.24.
  - 7 Rudaw: ISIS kills 2 fishermen in Salahaddin: Police, 08.07.24; Rudaw: Iraqi security forces arrest nine on terror charges in Baghdad, 11.07.24; Rudaw: Iraqi security forces kill two ISIS militants, 12.07.24; Rudaw: 5 Iraqi security forces killed in ISIS clash, 14.07.24; Rudaw: Two killed in ISIS, Asayish clashes in Kirkuk, 14.07.24.
  - 8 Rudaw: Iraqi court sentences widow of former ISIS leader al-Baghdadi to death, 10.07.24.
  - 9 Turkish operation displaces 182 families in Duhok: Monitor, 12.07.24; Rudaw: 'Another Anfal': Duhok villagers bear brunt of Turkey-PKK clashes, 14.07.24.
  - 10 Rudaw: Iraqi ministry shuts down last IDP camp in Sulaimani, 11.07.24.
  - 11 Rudaw: Explosion hits senior KDP official's car in Kalar, 15.07.24; Rudaw: Kurdish leaders condemn attack on KDP senior official, 16.07.24; Rudaw: Kurdistan security council blames PKK for attack on KDP official, 16.07.24.
  - 12 Rudaw: One killed in suspected Turkish bombing in Duhok, 18.07.24.
  - 13 Rudaw: Four killed in family feud in Basra, 16.07.24; see BAMF: Gender-based violence, May 2023; see BAMF: Tribal feuds / blood feuds, April 2023.
  - 14 Rudaw: Baghdad woman says she was arrested, beaten after reporting crime, 18.07.24; USDOS: 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Iraq, 22.04.24.
  - 15 Rudaw: Iraq to delay closure of IDP camps: Official, 25.07.24.
  - 16 Rudaw: Kurdistan has nearly 500 inmates on death row, 24.07.24
  - 17 Rudaw: Iraqi parliament holds first reading for general amnesty, personal status bills. 04.08.24; Rudaw: Iraqi women MPs unite to fight legislation that endangers women, girls, 04.08.24.
  - 18 Shafaq News: Turkish forces launch military operation against PKK in northern Iraq, 05.08.24; Ilkha.com: Turkish military kills 8 PKK/YPG members in northern Iraq and Syria, 04.08.24.
  - 19 Rudaw: Iraq issued 140 death sentences since 2023: Interior ministry, 06.08.24.
  - 20 Rudaw: Iraq arrests 5 in connection with attack on US-troops, 08.08.24; VOA: Five arrested over attack that wounded US troops in Iraq air base, statement says, 08.08.24.
  - 21 Reuters: Turkey says it killed 12 Kurdish militants in northern Iraq, 09.08.24.
  - 22 964 Media: Elderly man killed, several injured in Najaf tribal clash, 22.08.24; Rudaw: One killed, dozens detained after skirmishes in central Iraq, 22.08.24; BAMF: Stammesfehden / Blutrache, April 2023, pp. 4-8.
  - 23 Shafaq: Shooting between Iraqi army and Jund al-Imam fighters in Karbala: 6 arrested, 22.08.24; Rudaw: One killed, dozens detained after skirmishes in central Iraq, 22.08.24; BAMF: Volksmobilisierungseinheiten (Hashd al-Shaabi), Mai 2023, S. 1-3.
  - 24 Rudaw: Türkiye-PKK clashes spark wildfire in northern Duhok, 25.08.24.
  - 25 Reuters: US troops injured in Iraq raid, 15 Islamic State operatives dead, US officials say, 31.08.24; US Central Command: CENTCOM Forces and Iraqi Security Forces conduct partnered raid in Western Iraq, 30.08.24; Rudaw: 15 ISIS suspects killed in US-Iraq joint raid in western Iraq: CENTCOM, 31.08.24; Rudaw: ISIS no longer a threat: Iraqi PM tells coalition commander, 01.09.24.
  - 26 Rudaw: Türkiye strikes suspected PKK positions in Kurdistan Region, 03.09.24; Rudaw: Turkish strike kills a civilian in NE Erbil: CPT, 03.09.24; Rudaw: Unidentified drone strike kills three in Sulaimani province, 04.09.24; Rudaw: Drone strike kills three in Sulaimani, 05.09.24; Reuters: Turkish drone strike kills three in Iraqi Kurdistan, sources say, 05.09.24.
  - 27 Rudaw: Bomb blast kills Iraqi army officer in Kirkuk, 05.09.24; Rudaw: Iraqi warplanes kill three suspected ISIS militants in Diyala, 07.09.24.
  - 28 Rudaw: Sulaimani Asayish confirm they returned Kurd to Iran, 06.09.24; Rudaw: KDPI accuses Sulaimani Asayish of handing over member to Iran, 08.09.24; Hengaw: Disabled Kurdish Political Activist Arrested and Extraditioned to Iran by the Security Forces of the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government, 07.09.24.
  - 29 Rudaw: Drone hits Makhmour camp: Officials, 10.09.24.
  - 30 Rudaw: Iraqi warplanes kill suspected ISIS members in Salahaddin, 15.09.24.
  - 31 Rudaw: Iraqi warplanes kill six suspected ISIS members in Kirkuk, 19.09.24; Rudaw: Iraqi security forces arrest nine alleged ISIS members in Salahaddin, 22.09.24; Rudaw: Iraqi forces arrest six alleged ISIS members in Baghdad, 16.09.24; Rudaw: Iraqi airstrikes target suspected ISIS hideouts in Kirkuk, Salahaddin: State media, 18.09.24.
  - 32 Reuters: Turkish drone and clashes kill three PKK members in Iraq, sources say, 16.09.24; Rudaw: Drone strike kills one at Makhmour camp: Kurdistan CT, 16.09.24; Shafaq: CTG Kurdistan: Three PKK members killed and injured in Turkish airstrike on Makhmour Camp, 16.09.24; Shafaq: Turkish warplanes bomb Al-Sulaimaniyah, sparking devastating wildfires, 19.09.24.
  - 33 Rudaw: PMF supporters try to enter Baghdad's Green Zone, 29.09.24; Shafaq News: Anger over Nasrallah's assassination in Iraq: Hundreds attempt to storm US Embassy, 28.09.24.
  - 34 Rudaw: ISIS kills two members of Iraqi security forces in Diyala: Police, 06.10.24; Rudaw: ISIS ambush kills four Iraqi soldiers in Kirkuk: Army, 02.10.24; Rudaw: Iraqi army says killed over 100 ISIS members in 2024, 06.10.24.
  - 35 RUDAW: Iraqi airstrikes kill six suspected ISIS members in Salahaddin, 08.10.24; Shafaq News: Iraqi JOC announces death of ISIS leader in Saladin, 08.10.24.

- 
- 36 Shafaq News: JOC: Iraqi airstrikes eliminate ISIS cell in Kirkuk, 17.10.24; Rudaw: Iraqi airstrike kills four suspected ISIS members in Salahaddin, 20.10.24.
- 37 The Times of Israel: Pro-Iran protesters storm Saudi TV channel in Iraq after report calls slain Hamas, Hezbollah leaders 'terrorists', 19.10.24; Iraqi News: Iraq revokes MBC Channel's license for describing Hamas as terrorist group, 20.10.24; VOA News: Pro-Iran protesters storm office linked to Saudi TV channel in Iraq, 19.10.24.
- 38 Al Jazeera: Turkey strikes Iraq, Syria after attack on defence company near Ankara, 24.10.24; Reuters: Turkey steps up strikes on PKK in Iraq, Syria after Ankara attack, 25.10.24, Tagesschau: PKK bekennt sich zu Anschlag in Ankara, 25.10.24.
- 39 Rudaw: 16 'terrorists' killed in joint Iraq-coalition operation, 24.10.24; Shafaq News: JOC: Iraqi airstrike kills 4 terrorists in Saladin, 26.10.24.
- 40 Reuters: KDP wins Iraqi Kurdish parliamentary election, commission says, 30.10.24.
- 41 Shafaq News: Turkiye announces killing of 40+ PKK members in Iraq and Syria within a week, 14.11.24.
- 42 Reuters: Roadside bomb kills three soldiers in northern Iraq, 17.11.24; Rudaw: Iraqi strike kills four suspected ISIS members in Kirkuk, 17.11.24.
- 43 Shafaq News: Iraqi PM announces population exceeds 45 million, 25.11.24; Rudaw: Kurds excluded from census in some disputed areas, 22.11.24; Kurdistan24: Iraq's supercentenarian is 137-year-old Yezidi woman from Sinjar, 22.11.24.
- 44 Rudaw: Sulaimani security forces dismantle 'dangerous' ISIS cell, 24.11.24.
- 45 Shafaq News: Turkiye neutralized eight PKK militants in northern Iraq operations, 27.11.24.

# Imprint

**Published by**

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge,  
90461 Nürnberg

**ISSN**

2943-1247

**Valid as of**

12/2024

**Printed by**

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge

**Design**

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge

**Reference source**

Publikationsstelle Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge  
[www.bamf.de/publikationen](http://www.bamf.de/publikationen)

You can also download this publication as an accessible PDF document.

This publication is issued by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees as part of its public relations work. The publication is distributed free of charge and is not intended for sale. It may not be used by political parties or by election campaigners or election workers during an election campaign for the purpose of election advertising. This applies to federal, state and local elections as well as to elections to the European Parliament.

[www.bamf.de](http://www.bamf.de)