

Press Release

Raising of the Kurdish flag in Kerkuk province against the will of the Iraqi parliament



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The dominant Kurdish group in Kerkuk provincial council, disregarding both Turkmen and Arab groups, had voted in favor of raising of the flag of the Kurdish regional government over all governmental buildings in Kerkuk province.

The Kurds dominate the Kerkuk provincial council since 2005 when the Iraqi provincial election was carried out in completely insecure and instable chaotic environment. The Kurdish parties were upper-handed over both central and regional policy and controlling almost all the main arteries of life in Kirkuk province.

Since then the only militias of the Kurdish parties (Peshmerga) together with their intellectual individuals (Asayish) are ruling the whole province.

Over a half million of Kurds were brought and settled in Kirkuk province since fall of the Baathist regime in April 2003.

On April 4th this year, and on contrary to the will of both the Iraqi central government, and against the will of the Turkmen and Arab groups in the Kirkuk provincial council the Kurdish group voted to prepare for a referendum to stick the Kirkuk province to the Kurdish regional government. Such irresponsible and irritating actions had already created a real tension between the components of the province.

Except the Kurdish parties, all Iraqi parties and authorities had refused the de facto state, which Kurdish politicians create in Kirkuk province never mind the call of the Iraqi Parliament to the Kirkuk governorate to raise only the Iraqi flag.

The Kurds are the only armed group in Kirkuk province while both the Turkmen and Arab communities are armless; and a consequently, and up to this moment, they are already undergoing frequent ruthless assassinations, kidnappings and house break-in.

The central Iraqi government and the international community should intervene to halt the hegemony and suppression of the Kurdish authorities on the non-Kurdish components of Kerkuk province.