

For Six Month Period Ending 6/30/2010
(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant
TS Navigations LLC
- (b) Registration No.
5943
- (c) Business Address(es) of Registrant
5205 Cathedral Ave NW
Washington DC 20016

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

- (a) If an individual:
- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Residence address(es) | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Citizenship | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Occupation | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- (b) If an organization:
- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Name | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Ownership or control | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Branch offices | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- (c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in items (a) and (b) above.

2010 JUN 24 PM 2:43
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4 AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.
- Yes No
- If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes No
- If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date connection ended
------	----------	-----------------------

(b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence address	Citizenship	Position	Date assumed
------	-------------------	-------------	----------	--------------

5. (a) Has any person named in item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal? Yes No

If yes, identify each such person and describe his service.
N.A.

(b) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or connection	Date terminated
------	------------------------	-----------------

(c) During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence address	Citizenship	Position	Date assumed
------	-------------------	-------------	----------	--------------

6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(c) of the supplemental statement? Yes No

If no, list names of persons, who have not filed the required statement.

N.A.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal

Date of termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal² during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and address of foreign principal

Date acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principals² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Kurdistan Regional Government

10. EXHIBITS A AND B

(a) Have you filed for each of the newly acquired foreign principals in Item 8 the following:

Exhibit A³ Yes No
Exhibit B⁴ Yes No

N.A.

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

(b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during the 6 month period? Yes No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in Section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a)(9).) A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3 (Formerly CRM-157), sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4 (Formerly CRM-155), sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

Kurdistan Regional Government: speech writing, media relations, research, memo writing, media training, press interview creation, content creation for written materials and web sites, media strategy

12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates and places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits any or all of your foreign principals? Yes No

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activities" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to the political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS -MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes [x] No []

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies⁶.

Table with 4 columns: Date, From whom, Purpose, Amount. Includes a total row at the bottom right showing \$48,000.00.

(b) RECEIPTS - FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fund raising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes [] No [x]

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D⁸ to your registration? Yes [] No []

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____

(c) RECEIPTS - THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal? Yes [] No [x]

If yes, furnish the following information:

Table with 4 columns: Name of foreign principal, Date received, Description of thing of value, Purpose.

6, 7 A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fund raising campaign. (See Rule 201(e).) 8 An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fund raising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal. 9 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) **DISBURSEMENTS – MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes No

(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes No

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To whom	Purpose	Amount
------	---------	---------	--------

Total

(b) DISBURSEMENTS – THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date disposed	Name of person to whom given	On behalf of what foreign principal	Description of thing of value	Purpose
---------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------	---------

(c) DISBURSEMENTS – POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or thing of value	Name of political organization	Name of candidate
------	--------------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------

^{10, 11} Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials¹²?

Yes No

IF YES, RESPOND TO THE REMAINING ITEMS IN SECTION V.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

Kurdistan Regional Government

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- Radio or TV broadcasts, Magazine or newspaper articles, Motion picture films, Letters or telegrams, Advertising campaigns, Press releases, Pamphlets or other publications, Lectures or speeches, Internet, Other (specify)

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- Public officials, Newspapers, Libraries, Legislators, Editors, Educational institutions, Government agencies, Civic groups or associations, Nationality groups, Other (specify)

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- English, Other (specify)

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act?

Yes No

12 The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise.

VI – EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. §1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to the truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Type or print name under each signature¹³)

June 21, 2010

Tom Squitieri

Tom Squitieri

2010 JUN 24 PM 2: 44
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FARA REGISTRATION UNIT
NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

NOTICE

Please answer the following questions and return this sheet in triplicate with your Supplemental Statement:

1. Is your answer to Item 16 of Section V (Informational Materials – page 8 of Form NSD-2, formerly Form CRM-154 Supplemental Statement):

YES X or NO _____

(If your answer to question 1 is “yes” do not answer question 2 of this form.)

2. Do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration:

YES _____ or NO _____

(If your answer to question 2 is “yes” please forward for our review copies of all material, including: films, film catalogs, posters, brochures, press releases, etc. which you have disseminated during the past six months.)

CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT
2010 JUN 24 44

Tom Guter
Signature

6/21/2010
Date

Tom Spitzer
Please type or print name of
Signatory on the line above

Principal
Title



U.S. Department of Justice
National Security Division

Washington, DC 20530

THIS FORM IS TO BE AN OFFICIAL ATTACHMENT TO YOUR CURRENT SUPPLEMENTAL
STATEMENT - PLEASE EXECUTE IN TRIPLICATE

SHORT-FORM REGISTRATION INFORMATION SHEET

SECTION A

The Department records list active short-form registration statements for the following persons of your organization filed on the date indicated by each name. If a person is not still functioning in the same capacity directly on behalf of the foreign principal, please show the date of termination.

Short Form List for Registrant: TS Navigations, LLC

Last Name	First Name and Other Names	Registration Date	Termination Date	Role
Squitieri	Tom	09/21/2009		

2010 JUN 24 PM 2:44
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT



U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

Washington, DC 20530

SECTION B

In addition to those persons listed in Section A, list below all current employees rendering services directly on behalf of the foreign principals(s) who have not filed short-form registration statements. (Do not list clerks, secretaries, typists or employees in a similar or related capacity). If there is some question as to whether an employee has an obligation to file a short-form, please address a letter to the Registration Unit describing the activities and connection with the foreign principal.

Name	Function	Date Hired

Signature: Terrence
Title: Principal

Date: Jun 21, 2010

2010 JUN 24 PM 2:44
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT



TS NAVIGATIONS LLC

2010 JUN 24 PM 2: 44
CRH/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

This **EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT CONTRACT EXTENSION** is made as of June 2010 between Qubad Talabani and the Kurdistan Regional Government (“Client”) and Tom Squitieri and TS Navigations LLC (“Contractor”).

SECTION ONE

Contractor will perform a variety of research, writing and editing, analysis and public relations/public diplomacy consulting and professional services. The list of duties may be amended upon mutual agreement of the parties.

SECTION TWO

Client will pay contractor the sum of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000.00) per month for the work to be performed under this contract, according to the following schedule, beginning the month of June 2010, and continuing for 12 consecutive months. Upon that date the contract shall run on a month-to-month basis under the same criteria.

Client shall pay the amounts agreed to herein upon receipt of invoices which shall be sent by Contractor, and Client shall pay the amount of such invoices to Contractor. The Contractor will be paid from a non-federal account and cannot be paid from monies secured from the federal government.

All normal and reasonable expenses incurred by the Contractor, such as but not limited to local and international telephone charges, travel, telecopy, and duplicating, will be passed on to the Client for approval and reimbursement. The Client will determine the manner and needs, such as receipts, required for such reimbursement. Expenses that exceed \$200 will require written pre-approval by the Client. These expenses will be paid separately from the monthly professional services retainer payment.

SECTION THREE

The parties intend that an independent contractor-employer relationship will be created by this contract. Client is interested only in the results to be achieved, and the conduct and control of the work will lie solely with Contractor. Contractor is not to be considered an agent or employee of Client for any purpose, and the employees of Contractor are not entitled to any of the benefits that Client may provide for Client’s employees. It is understood that Client does not agree to use Contractor exclusively. It is further understood that Contractor is free to contract for similar services to be performed

for others while under contract with Client. Neither parties perceives any conflict of interest between our working arrangement and representation of other entities, and are not aware of our representation of any other that is adverse to the Client or the KRG in an unrelated matter.

SECTION FOUR

The work to be performed under this contract will be performed entirely at Contractor's risk, and Contractor assumes all responsibility for the condition of tools and equipment used in the performance of this contract. Contractor agrees to indemnify the Client for any and all liability or loss arising in any way out of the performance of this contract.

SECTION FIVE

Each party hereto ("Such Party") shall hold in trust for the other party hereto ("Such Other Party"), and shall not disclose to any non-party to the Agreement, any confidential information of such Other Party. Confidential information is information which relates to Such Other Party's research, development, trade secrets or business affairs, but does not include information which is generally known or easily ascertainable by non-parties of ordinary skill in computer systems design and programming.

Contractor hereby acknowledges that during the performance of this contract, the Contractor may learn or receive confidential Client information and therefore Contractor hereby confirms that all such information relating to the Client's business will be kept confidential by the Contractor, except to the extent that such information is required to be divulged to the Contractor's clerical or support staff or associates in order to enable Contractor to perform Contractor's contract obligation. Contractor further acknowledges that confidential information must be kept confidential even after contract between Client and Contractor is properly terminated or expires.

SECTION SIX

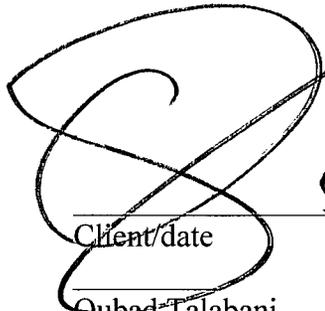
Either party may cancel this contract on 30 days' written notice; otherwise, the contract shall remain in extension and in force for a term of one year from June 15, 2010, unless amended by mutual agreement. Upon that date the contract shall run on a month-to-month basis under the same criteria.

Any disputes that arise between the parties with respect to the performance of this contract shall be submitted to binding arbitration by the American Arbitration Association, to be determined and resolved by said Association under its rules and procedures in effect at the time of submission and the parties hereby agree to share equally in the costs of said arbitration.

The final arbitration decision shall be enforceable through the courts of the District of Columbia. In the event that this arbitration provision is held unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, then this contract shall be as binding and enforceable as if this section 7 were not a part hereof.

This agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto with respect to the matters covered herein and supersedes any previous agreements. No other agreements, representations, warranties or other matters, oral or written, purportedly agreed to or represented by or on behalf of Contractor by any of its employees or agents, or contained in any sales materials or brochures, shall be deemed to bind the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof. Client acknowledges that it is entering into this Agreement solely on the basis of the representations contained herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have signed this Agreement as of the day and year first above written.



Client/date
5/20/2010
Qubad Talabani
Kurdistan Regional Government

Contractor/date
Tom Squitieri
TS Navigations LLC

2010 JUN 24 PM 2:44
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT



KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

U.S. LIAISON OFFICE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010

GREETINGS FROM QUBAD TALABANI

Happy Newroz. I am pleased to present the official newsletter of the Kurdistan Regional Government's Liaison Office to the United States (KRG- USA). This is our latest step to better link our Office with our friends and Community. They join such well-received publications as our annual investment guide, tourist brochures, our blogs and news releases in spreading the word about our homeland and all of its wonderful potential.

In the adjacent Close Up section we will spotlight places and relevant activities, whether in Kurdistan or where you live in the United States. I look forward to your ideas and thoughts.

We see 2010 as a year of progress for our Region and our relations with all of our friends in the United States. When you are in Washington, please stop by and visit your home in the nation's capital. Our Office is your active resource to stay informed and serve.

COMMUNITY

Kurdish Community groups across the United States are spearheading a U.S. Census assistance program through April, taking the lead in encouraging the Kurdish population to be counted in the 2010 census. "We believe strong participation is just a part of our civic duties and sign of patriotism," said Zaid Brifkani of the Salahadeen Center of Nashville. "That would help us in reaching out to the community from different backgrounds, not just necessarily the Kurdish population."

Communities in Nashville, Atlanta and Northern Virginia are leading efforts to educate Kurdish Americans on the importance of participating in the 2010 Census. Population figures determine federal government assistance, and drives economic development.

<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>

CLOSE UP

The newly expanded and modernized Erbil International Airport (EIA) is centrally located on the Silk Road of the Airways. A convenient and cutting edge facility, it is fully equipped to be a premier hub between East and West. EIA officially opened on July 7, 2005, and welcomed its first International Air Transport Association carrier on December 11 the following year. EIA is a world class airport by technical standards and in passenger comfort. <http://erbilairport.net/>



2010 JUN 24 PM 2: 44
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

CULTURE

In Washington, an exhibit hosted by the KRG-USA's Department for Art & Culture showcased Kurdish artists.

The exhibit - "My Kurdistan: Paintings of Kurdish Life" presenting art by Falah Shwan, Serdar Kestai, Hikmat Hindi and other prominent Kurdish artists - drew strong crowds at the DC based Foundry Gallery.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2Jt9yZQk_Y/

1532 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: +1.202.797.575
Fax: +1.202.821.1870
www.krg.org



LAPARAY DUAM/PAGE TWO

KURDS VOTE IN THE U.S.

Kurdish political parties won 57 seats of the 325 seats in the March national Iraqi elections. For the Iraqi Kurds in the United States, voting in the elections was a day of celebration and dancing. Many dressed in Kurdish clothes while carrying the Kurdistan flag. Those who traveled from far were treated hospitably by the local Kurdish community, who opened homes and offered lunch, tea and candy. One elder Kurd in Nashville remarked it reminded him of his youth seeing the Peshmerga go into battle, but this time, instead they were going to the ballot.

Dasko Shirwani the KRG-USA's Director of Community Outreach said "It was important to see Kurdish Americans come out and vote in large numbers, even though the Independent Iraqi Election Commission's regulations did not make it easy for out of country citizens to vote"

HALABJA GENOCIDE COMMEMORATED IN LOS ANGELES

An exhibit at the Museum of Tolerance recalls one of worst atrocities of the late 20th century, the gassing of 5,000 Kurdish men, women and children in Halabja by Saddam Hussein. The exhibit, a result of a partnership between the KRG- USA's Department of Art and Culture and the Simon Wiesenthal Center, opened on the March anniversary of the 1988 massacre. "If you do not speak up, even in a case here where our community is not involved, then the world becomes complicit," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the museum.



KRG-USA Director for Art and Culture, Najat Abdulla opens exhibit in Los Angeles, California

CONGRESS

H.Res.873, a bipartisan resolution calling on the State Department to establish a U.S. Consulate in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, was introduced to the House of Representative.

CATCHING UP

In April, executive assistant **Brenda Kinser** celebrates five years of guiding operations at the KRG-US headquarters.

Zhala Sabir arrived in March, heading up

On February 24th, the House of Representatives passed H. Res. 944, a resolution calling for steps to be taken to protect religious minorities in Iraq.

Consistent with requests made by the resolution, the KRG has made repeated calls for full adherence to the federal constitution, which has provisions designed to protect these groups.

Congressional and Academic Affairs. Previously Zhala was posted to the Iraq embassy in Canada 2005. In 2009 she joined the KRG's Department of Foreign Relations in Erbil.

Yousif Azad Ismail, Office Manager since September, was born and raised in Kirkuk. Prior to arriving in the US, Yousif worked as a protocol-liaison office in Kurdistan.

The Kurdistan Regional Government Liaison Office – U.S.A. is registered as an agent of the Kurdistan Regional Government under 22 U.S.C. § 611 et seq

COPYRIGHT © 2010 KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

U.S. LIAISON OFFICE NEWSLETTER

MAY 2010

QUBAD'S REPORT

Representative Qubad Talabani met with Congressman Howard Berman, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and over twenty other members of Congress to discuss the post election situation in Iraq and the future of US-Iraqi/KRG relations.

The series of meetings were part of the KRG's extensive outreach to the U.S. Congress including Senate Foreign Affairs Committee Staff and staffers on the Kurdish-American Congressional Caucus. Representative Talabani urged US lawmakers that opening a Consulate in the Kurdistan Region serves the US's long term political and economic interests in Iraq while providing much needed consular affairs for Americans in Kurdistan.

He also shared the Kurdistan Regions perspective with U.S. officials from the National Security Council, Office of the Vice-President, State Department, and Defense Department on issues ranging from the outcome of the national election to political developments within Iraqi Kurdistan.

FILMING UNDERWAY

Filming of The Kurdistan Seed project is underway this month in Kurdistan. The project celebrates Kurdistan's rich agricultural history from ancient times to today. One goal is for the project to raise awareness and gather international support for the region's farmers.

The film will focus on the region's efforts to become self sufficient in food production, highlighting crops native to the Kurdistan Region, such as wheat, lentils, barley and onions. It will also recap the Regions history of farming and how the region was once the breadbasket for much of the Middle East.

Filming is to include daily life on three different Kurdish farms, a few days in the life of a young Kurdish farmer just beginning his craft, organic fruit farmers and their orchards, and film students in the agricultural college.

1532 16th Street Northwest
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: +1.202.797.575
Fax: +1.202.821.1870
www.knowkurdistan.com
www.krg.org

CLOSE UP

The Yezidi (or Êzidî), is one of the Near East's most ancient and mysterious people. Most Yezidis live in Iraqi Kurdistan, with smaller pockets in the Kurdish parts of Syria, Southeast Turkey, Russia and Armenia. The holiest site for Yezidis is Lalish Temple. A central Figure in Yezidism is Tawusi Malak (Malak Tawusi – Peacock Angel) who was created by God before the creation of the World and which embodies both light and darkness. The High Holy Day for All Yezidis around the world is known as Red Wednesday (Charshembe Sur), and this day falls on a Wednesday in early April.



CULTURE

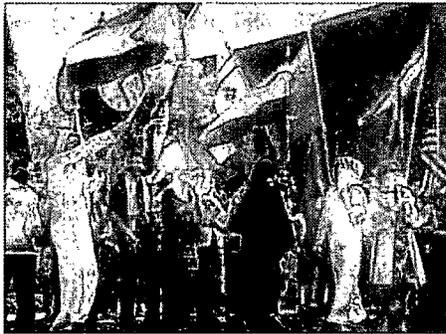
Human fossils from Shanidar cave in Kurdistan are a centerpiece attraction at the new Human Origins exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution Museum of Natural History in Washington. Those visiting also can enjoy a booth where you can see what you would look like 2 million years ago.

The exhibit builds on the 1971 book "Beyond Bones" by Owen Edwards, which details the early excavation of Shanidar Cave complex. Shanidar has never been fully excavated.

COMMUNITY

International Week at George Mason University is one of the most famous weeks on one of the most diverse campuses in the nation. This year, after some effort, the flag of Iraqi Kurdistan was hung beside the flags of other countries and nations in the Johnson Center. It was a proud and emotional moment for many Kurds. An unprecedented number of Kurds participated in the Parade of Nations and carried more Kurdish flags than any other group.

The Kurdistan Student Organization placed fourth in the overall dance competition, prompting many students and faculty with questions about Kurds and Kurdistan—and Kurdish clothes. KSO members used the Culture on the Lawn event to make fresh kabobs and grilled vegetables, perform Kurdish dances and entice audience members to participate. The Showcase of Cultures was another venue for Kurdish food, snacks, books, display boards and maps. KSO members closed by attending “Rep Your Roots” and showcasing the documentary entitled, “Who am I? I am a Kurd”, reading poetry and from “Hell is Over: Voices of the Kurds After Saddam” and performing dances.



2010 JUN 24 PM 2:44
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

KRG staffer Sabat Mahmoud helped organize the Kurdish student participation in the GMU International Day.

DIPLOMATIC OUTREACH

Representative Qubad Talabani met separately with Ambassadors Dr. Christian Prosl of Austria, Petr Kolar of the Czech Republic, Pierre Vimont of France, and Jonas Hafstrom of Sweden, as well as diplomats from Japan, Norway and Germany, to provide details on the outcome of Iraq’s national election, discuss Iraq’s outstanding issues, and to encourage cultural and economic partnerships. The diplomats were impressed by the increasing number of construction and development projects in Erbil and throughout the Kurdistan Region. Talabani thanked each embassy for their involvement and interest, especially in promoting economic investment.

CATCHING UP

Kurdistani communities across the United States have urged their respective members of Congress to support a House Resolution (H.res 873) calling on the State Department to open a consulate in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Recently the community in Washington State met with Congressman Jim McDermott, members of the American Kurdish Council (AKC) in Virginia met with Congressman Jim Moran, and Kurdish American’s in Binghamton New York and St. Louis Missouri met with their respective Congressman’s staffers. These meetings follow previous meetings held by Arizona’s active community with Congressman Shadegg and Tennessee’s with Kurdish American Caucus Chair Lincoln Davis. There are currently 26 members of Congress who have signed on to H.res 873.



KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

U.S. LIAISON OFFICE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010

HOUSE BACKS CONSULATE IN ERBIL

On May 19 the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a resolution calling for the establishment of a U.S. consulate in the Kurdistan Region. Approval of this resolution – a key goal of the KRG-U.S. liaison office signals America's continued support for the stability, prosperity and democracy of the Kurdistan Region. Four Congressmen spoke in favor of Resolution 873, which was passed with no opposition. The resolution's sponsor Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) said, "A strong relationship with the Kurdish people serves the ideals of peace, stability and democratic governance... the Kurdish part of the country has served as a model for democracy" since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He said the establishment of a consulate in Erbil would "underscore the great friendship between the U.S. and the Kurdish people." He called it a moral and practical resolution.

The resolution states, "The Kurds of Iraq have been willing partners with the U.S. in the democratic transition in Iraq since 2003 and the Kurdistan Region has served as a model of Iraq's democratization since Operation Iraqi Freedom. The establishment of a U.S. consulate in the Kurdistan Region will demonstrate a U.S. commitment to maintaining and building upon the success and stability of this prosperous and democratic Iraqi region." It notes that a consulate "will both be helpful in attracting greater U.S. business and investment to the region and ensuring that the region continues to serve as a 'gateway' to U.S. business success in other parts of Iraq, as a number of U.S. government agencies have advocated."

Qubad Talabani, the Kurdistan Regional Government's Representative to the U.S., said, "I would like to thank the co-authors of the resolution and members of the Kurdish-American Congressional Caucus who supported it." Talabani also paid tribute to the Kurdish-American community for their efforts in meeting with their respective House members and urging them to support the resolution.

1532 16th Street Northwest
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: +1.202.797.7575
Fax: +1.202.821.1870
www.knowkurdistan.com
www.krg.org



CLOSE UP

Tucked away in a side alley known as Aloy Kon, in the Kani Askan neighborhood of Sulaimani is Ahay Gula. A little gem of a restaurant, Ahay Gula is famous for its mouth watering grilled skewers of liver, kidney, hearts and other parts of lamb most others overlook and discard. There is only one way to enjoy these delectable morsels: get up very early in the morning – because by 9:30 a.m. the restaurant is usually closed as its delicacies are sold out. With laborers, local residents, and others "in the know" Ahay Gula is a true Sulaimani experience that every visitor must try.



CULTURE

The inaugural Kurdish Culture and History Festival will be held June 29 and 30 at the House of Sweden, 2900 K Street, N.W, in the Georgetown area of Washington, D.C. The two days will feature a variety of lectures and panel discussions on culture, journalism and current affairs as well as irresistible music, food, dance. Contact Najat Abdullah at eac@krgusa.org.

DELEGATION VISITS CONTINUE TO KURDISTAN REGION

A delegation from the Foreign Policy Initiative (FPI) spent a week in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, meeting with President Masoud Barzani, high level KRG officials, a number of senior regional and local officials as well as university students, businesspeople, and journalists. Julius D. Krein of FPI said the group received a very warm welcome from everyone they met. "The visit impressed upon the group members the vital importance of continued American engagement in order to ensure the progress achieved so far and to help build a better future for the people of the region." Members of the delegation wrote several articles about their trip, which can be found at www.knowkurdistan.com.

The visit of FPI - coordinated by Zhala Sabir, director for Congressional and Academic Affairs in the KRG-U.S. liaison office - follows trips to the Kurdistan Region by other foreign policy institutes, such as the Center for New American Security (CNAS) and the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).



Qubad Talabani speaks to Washington's foreign policy community at the Nixon Center.

IRAQ ELECTION RESULTS REVIEWED

Appearing before the Nixon Center, Qubad Talabani, the KRG's U.S. representative, urged the Washington foreign policy community to stay engaged in Iraqi issues, despite the new focus on the imminent U.S. troop drawdown and the shift to the Afghanistan-Pakistan region. He called on the U.S. administration to exert pressure on Iraq to achieve formation of a new government. "Any further delay could destabilize the region," Talabani said. "There is a long process ahead, and it is unlikely that a perfect Iraq will emerge. But if Iraq can become a relatively democratic, relatively stable, relatively pro-Western country, it could both play a stabilizing role in the region and act as an important and reliable exporter of hydro-carbons."

CONGRESS

Kurdistan Region President Masoud Barzani received U.S. Reps. Lincoln Davis, Chairman of the Kurdish American Congressional Caucus, and Brian Baird to discuss bilateral relations between the U.S. and the Kurdistan Region. The Congressmen travelled to the Kurdistan Region in recognition and appreciation for the friendship of the people of the Kurdistan Region toward the U.S. government and people.

CATCHING UP

We welcome Glen Ramson as our newest intern. Glen is from Frederick, Md., and has a BA in Economics from the University of Maryland. Glen is a Masters candidate in Middle Eastern studies at the Elliott School of International Affairs, at George Washington University. We say thanks to outgoing interns Bill Rice and Sabat Mamoud. Bill returns to American University to pursue studies in International Peace and Conflict Resolution while Sabat continues work on her Masters degree in Global Affairs at George Mason University.

Iraq's Election and Prospects for Stability

The Nixon Center, May 13, 2010, Washington, D.C.

Hello and good afternoon. Please, everybody move to their edge of their seats. That is where I suspect it will be best to sit when you hear what I am to say.

I am proud to be an Iraqi.

I am proud to be a Kurd.

It is my desire to be able to keep saying both of those statements, honestly and with conviction. I know I will always be able to say the second; I sincerely hope I will always be able to say the first as well, but at the moment the Iraqi part of that equation is contingent. It is why we are here today.

We had two amazing elections in Iraq within six months, a model for the rest of the Middle East. The first was in Kurdistan last summer and the second we just had earlier this year throughout Iraq. Two fair and free elections, in which – as successful second elections should go -- were better than the first ones.

There was direct election for a president, in Kurdistan's election. There were open lists for candidates and vibrant opposition. And in the case of the national vote, there were muddled results -- the sure sign of a democracy in which no one pulls the strings.

Now we must take a hard look at where Iraq and our democracy stands after our national election, where it must go in the short term and where it must be before U.S. forces leave the country.

In the past weeks the Kurdistan Regional Government's demands for participation in a new Iraqi government were laid out very clearly by President Barzani and our other leaders. We want to participate – insist on participating – and have some benchmarks that must be met.

These benchmarks should sound familiar. They are the same benchmarks we sought and were promised in 2005, when we helped form the current national government. They have **NOT** been kept; and quite simply promises made **MUST** be promises kept. As President Barzani told the *New York Times*, "It is impossible for us to participate in or back a government that will operate in the same old way."

We have seen much reporting on negotiation efforts between the various Shi'ite groups to form a government that (according to initial reports) would essentially exclude Kurd and Sunni elements. This would be disastrous. Many media outlets have flatly said that the Shi'ites must reach out to Sunni and Kurds in order to have a truly democratic government. And in an analysis of the parliamentary elections, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace writes that "neither side can hope to rule a united Iraq if the Kurdish Alliance is not part of the government."

There has also been limited reporting on growing Sunni (and Awakening) concerns of again being shut out of the government. It is clear no one wants to be left out of helping Iraq move forward.

Nature dislikes a vacuum and the news media abhors a news vacuum even more. Something MUST be happening to write and report on, as the clock ticks on the U.S. troop withdrawal. As an example, a recent op-ed in the *Washington Post* concluded that "U.S. officials must state clearly that Iraq's government should be formed by Iraqis in Iraq and encourage Iraqis to form a government that ensures real power-sharing and continued political accommodation -- rather than cobbling together a government without any genuine political settlement."

Thankfully, the KRG and national politicians have been talking more – talking better – since the KRI's election last summer, with momentum flowing toward the positive. That is indeed heartening after years of uncertainty. While that makes up hopeful for the future, it does not yet ensure all will turn out well.

Despite our internal political differences, we Kurds have united with all the parties agreeing on the goals we seek from the next national government.

One of the crucial Kurdish demands will be a pledge from the next Iraqi prime minister to carry out the mandate of Article 140 of the Constitution, the constitutional formula for the democratic resolution of the status of the disputed territories, including Kirkuk.

As President Barzani stated clearly, "If Article 140 is not implemented, then this will mean the demise of the Constitution and Iraq itself."

We also are united on the need to get extra money for the pesh merga, which is our region's constitutionally recognized armed forces, and resolve outstanding differences with Baghdad over how to allot oil revenues. In recent days, we seem to be moving toward some agreement on that oil revenue – again, a healthy sign of the possibility of progress.

President Barzani also raised the very intriguing concept for achieving long-term stability in Iraq by dividing it into federations, preferably three: Kurds in the north, Sunni Arabs in the middle and west and Shiites in the south. Under this vision, President Barzani said Baghdad would become a “federal capital” fulfilling basic functions on a national government. He likened talk of a unitary governmental model in Iraq to “bird dreams and wishes.”

Clearly, that is not what many people wish to hear. Nor does that declare such a federation concept is the only ways Kurds will participate in the government. What it does mean is that all of us in Iraq need to look forward as to how our nation will be governed -- that what we had over the last few years was more transition than a model for the future.

So when we ask about the prospects or stability, it rest on two seemingly diverse points – inclusion within the federal government as well as devolution of power to the various regions. This is, in essence, a concept borrowed from the American experience with federalism. Will we stand up alone, as individuals or a region – or stand together to build a new Iraq, one where everyone can enjoy what we in the Kurdistan Region have shown is possible?

How the U.S. leaves _ and remains – in Iraq – is crucial to the stability of the nation and the region. Solving the tough internal Iraqi issues is a great priority to our friends in the United States. We realize this and look to whatever guidance and support they can give us. But solving these issues is even a greater priority to us.

It is time for those of us throughout Iraqi to stand up and lead. The federal parliament was able to reach a consensus of a new election law, so that national elections could take place in March. That showed leadership and an understanding of how to reach agreement in a democratic system of compromise and unity. We all stood up that day; we need to do more of that on the tough issues that remain – and on the shape of the next national government.

As I look at the path of democracy that is underway in the Kurdistan Region and Iraq, something the Greek poet Homer once said keeps returning to my mind – “It is not the journey but the destination.” In 17 years since the first elected Regional Government of Kurdistan, those of us who believe in democracy have mapped out our journey and know the destination to which we head. The path has been bumpy – at times very bumpy – and sometimes the route has been obscured. On occasion, the journey has faced roadblocks, some that we have placed for ourselves But each day, each week, each month, the journey moves forward toward that destination of peace, prosperity and democracy.

We all desire security and stability. Stability is good. Stability is also dangerous. It all depends on what you seek in the definition and in the deed of that word.

Iraq was a very stable place when Saddam ruled and killed. When Saddam ruled, there were many nations and individuals who were pleased at the stability that a seemingly strong Iraq provided in the Middle East. Stability often suits the purposes of some, but not all – and in that case, certainly not the majority of Iraqis and clearly not we Kurds.

That certainly is not the type of stability that ANY of us seek in Iraq now – neither Kurds nor Arabs, nor I think what America and our other friends would want. The stability in Iraq today is provided, in part, by the assistance of the United States, in its institution building, its military and, perhaps most importantly, its tough love in – shall I say – convincing all of us in Iraq to work together.

We know the U.S. military is leaving, but the stability that will define the U.S. success in Iraq cannot and must not leave. That is why we were thrilled when U.S. officials, including President Obama, renewed and deepened pledges of support to the Kurdistan Region as part of its desire to ensure that stability stays in Iraq.

As many of you know, Kurds have been oppressed for most of the last century and most likely before that. So we are wary of too much power concentrated in the hands of a central government. We see the Iraqi constitution, which mandates federalism and a devolution of power to the regions and local governments, as the best way to ensure that ALL Iraqis feel safe as well as empowered. And importantly, the constitution is the law of the land – we follow it and expect others to do so as well.

Now, we all must govern wisely and fairly.

Democracy is a living concept. IT is not always the same in each nation. Those differences do not devalue it - it actually strengthens its. Many different voices toward a common, important goal.

Quite frankly, I get tired of these folks who pick the smallest thing wrong and make it in the proverbial mountain out of a molehill. Enough. Look at our history – when we are cornered, we fight to survive. Just like any normal human community. When we are offered the hand of friendship, of cooperation, we accept and work together.

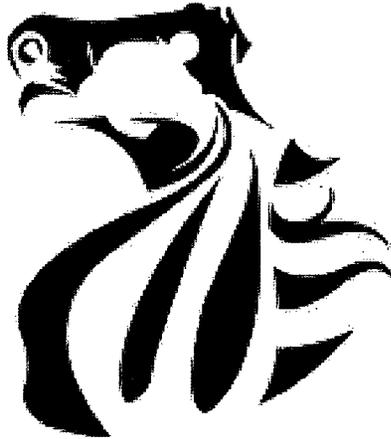
It is not just Kurds who feel this way, although our history in Iraq is more challenged than others. Millions of Iraqi suffered harm under Saddam and suffered harm from the policies of the world that let him fester in the region and feast on us.

We say never again.

It has often been declared that Kurds and Arabs are like oil and water, in that they do not mix. Well, Iraq is an artificially created country that has both the assets of oil and water – and both of those assets, the natural and the human oil and water, must mix to help us build a truly great nation. Mix they shall.

For decades we Kurds saw ourselves as David, struggling against a multitude of Goliaths. Then in 2003 after the fall of Saddam, some began calling us kingmakers. Today we have moved beyond such metaphors and are working to fulfill our constitutional role as a regional government within a healthy, stable and thriving Iraqi democracy. We are men and women who have endured many years and are now working to ensure that Iraq stays on its path of promise. We will stand for what is right, to make fair compromises to move our nation forward, do whatever we can do that is proper to protect what we have in Kurdistan and what we all CAN have in Iraq. We ask for the hand of equality and cooperation, and then the stability we all desire will arrive.

Thank you.



2010 JUN 24 PM 2: 44
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

TS NAVIGATIONS LLC

Remarks by The Hon. Qubad Talabani to Young Professionals in Foreign Policy

“Regional Stability in Iraq, A Conversation with the Kurdistan Regional Government”

February 3, 2010, Washington, D.C.

Good evening and thank you for having me. I like to think that I am in a room with many, many like-minded individuals. Young professionals are who drive change, stimulate discussion and create action. I of course count myself among those ranks – so I look forward to an evening that ends with much good give-and-take and some wonderful takeaway ideas.

Over the last two weeks there have been numerous news stories about the stability in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq – from tourists discovering its hidden joys to yet more businessmen and women realizing that the safety and progressiveness of the region offers a great opportunity for investment in Iraq and the Middle East.

We are thrilled that the world is learning that our hard work is paying off, that we are steady in our march along the path of democracy, and that we are delighted that we in the KRI have done our part to help move all of Iraq forward. We are committed to that task - to making a federal, democratic Iraq a shining example for the world.

Whether we succeed or not will depend, in large part, on the topic of our conversation this evening – stability. And just what that needs to mean for the Iraq we all in this room want to see emerge.

Stability is good. Stability is also dangerous. It all depends on what you seek in the definition and in the deed of that word.

Iraq was a very stable place when Saddam ruled and killed. When Saddam ruled, there were many nations and individuals who were pleased at that stability that a seemingly strong Iraq provided in the Middle East. Stability often suits the purposes of some, but not all – and in that case, certainly not the majority of Iraqis and clearly not we Kurds.

That certainly is not the type of stability that ANY of us seek in Iraq now – not Kurds nor Arabs, nor I think what America and our other friends would want. The stability in Iraq today is provided, in part, by the assistance of the United States, in its institution building, its military and, perhaps most importantly, its tough love in – shall I say – convincing all of us in Iraq to work together.

We know the U.S. military is leaving, but the stability that will define the U.S. success in Iraq cannot and must not leave. That is why we were thrilled when U.S. officials – including President Obama last week – renewed and deepened pledges of support to the Kurdistan Region as part of its desire to ensure that stability stays in Iraq.

The implications of stability – or lack of it – are clear.

How the U.S. leaves – and remains – in Iraq – is crucial to the stability of the nation and the region. There remain tough internal issues that we Iraqis must work out – revenue sharing, a hydrocarbons law, the future of the disputed territories. Solving these issues is a great priority to our friends in the United States. We realize this and look to whatever guidance and support they can give us. But solving these issues is even a greater priority to us.

While Iraqis of all walks of life have stood up to overcome the gravest of challenges, including terrorism, sectarian violence, political stalemates and regional interference, we remain well aware that in order for the U.S. to stand down, and Iraqis to stand up in a sustainable and viable federal democracy, continued U.S. engagement, and more importantly, continued U.S. interest in Iraq is paramount.

As many of you know, Kurds have been oppressed for most of the last century and most likely before that. So we are wary of too much power concentrated in the hands of a central government. We see the Iraqi constitution, which mandates federalism and a devolution of power to the regions and local governments, as the best way to ensure that ALL Iraqis feel safe as well as empowered. And importantly, the constitution is the law of the land – we follow it and expect others to do so as well.

When I think about the question raised by this topic – *The Regional Stability in Iraq, A Conversation with the Kurdistan Regional Government* – my emotions demand that I remember the admonition of a wise examination of fact. I see things from the Kurdish perspective and I see things from the Iraqi perspective. I even see things from the American perspective and – increasingly and startling – sometimes from the Turkish perspective.

Ideally, all those interests align. That is one of my personal wishes and that is also the desire of the Kurdistan Regional Government and, I would suspect, the vast majority of our fellow Iraqis, the Americans, the Turk and all our other friends.

But it is hard to say that is what today's reality == today's facts – prove. So in our time today I wish to share how we in the Kurdistan Region see the future of Iraq – both as we wish and as we see it moving.

On the positive, 2009 has been a year of significant progress in many areas. While that makes up hopeful for the future, it does not yet ensure all will turn out well.

Some of the positive changes are the result of old fashioned hard work and determination, to get to the next goal. Some are the result of help from old friends like the United States and surprisingly newer friends, like Turkey. I must be honest – I would have never predicted that by my next visit here would be after Turkey announced it would be opening a diplomatic consular office in Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan region. Two years ago, Turkey would not even acknowledge our existence as a constitutionally recognized autonomous region of Iraq! Their officials would not talk to our officials, despite close economic ties that existed and a vivid need for political dialogue to solve important problems.

Today, not only do we talk, we had the amazing – and wonderful – spectacle of seeing Kurdish children on the streets of Erbil waving Iraqi Kurdish flags AND Turkish flag as the Turkish foreign minister went by.

That was a remarkable day of progress for us.

Another notable day of progress was in July, when there was a historic set of elections for the President and the Parliament of Iraq's Kurdistan Region. These elections were truly a milestone in Kurdistan's journey to democracy as there was both a lively and free campaign period, along with a relatively smooth and trouble free Election Day.

It showed the rest of Iraq and the world what we all knew: that we know how to take the strong steps to make our country better – that we know how to stand up for democracy and move further down that path.

Almost 80 percent of the Region's 2.5 million eligible voters took part in the elections, which the Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq and international observers trumpeted as fair and transparent.

These elections are a significant landmark in our Region's history. Several entirely different slates of candidates divided the vote in meaningful way in accordance with the wishes expressed by the citizens of Iraqi Kurdistan. The parties in power lost some support, while continuing to be the largest bloc in the new government, while a healthy opposition gained strength. That means our new government, which took office last month/earlier this month, has both the experience and continuity of progress along with expanded ideas, robust debate and new energy.

Add to those impressive numbers the fact that at least 30 percent of the new Parliament is female. That percentage is greater than in any national or regional government in the Middle East, North America and most of Europe. Moreover, the Parliament has representation from every religious and ethnic constituency within the region.

Thus, the real winner in these elections was the Kurdistan Region itself and not anyone party or slate.

We were challenged by some to hold the gold standard in elections. We accepted that challenge – and we stood up and delivered. That showed the world and our brothers and sisters in Iraq that democracy is strong in our nation.

These are both important as Iraq moves to a national election in early March. There is a cliché that it is not the first election that is important but the second. That cliché has

merit in Iraq. Just as the second election in the Kurdistan Region proved to be (stellar), so sits the opportunity for the second election in post-Saddam Iraq have the potential – and imperative – to be historic.

The Kurdistan Region showed the rest of Iraq and the world what we all knew: that we know how to take strong steps to make our country better—that we know how to stand up for democracy. We are capable to lead Iraq to a new era, as we have proven. We overcame our internal conflicts to establish a Regional government that united the warring political parties. We have worked hard to secure our area from the scourge of terrorism and extremism. We are proud today that not one American has been killed, injured in combat or kidnapped in the Kurdistan Region.

A young America saw political turmoil through trial and error. Only after a few years of uncertainty and eventual stability, and a decreased threat from outside, did its leaders produce the Constitution of the United States – a document whose noble ideals have been embraced for centuries by freedom seeking people around the world.

Democracy takes time, and the U.S. is more than aware of this fact. We are grateful that, during her recent visit of President Obama, the US reiterated its commitment to Kurdistan and to the democracy in our region and in Iraq.

Democracy is hard work, but the destination is worth it. Difficult issues remain and the journey faces tough terrain. However, we are still moving forward. This is not a sprint and it should not be. This is the foundation of our future, for our children and grandchildren, for Kurdistan, and Iraq.

Earlier in these remarks, I quoted Homer's view of the journey and the destination. Homer has relevance not for just the statement. It was the Greeks who first developed the principles of democracy that the world has then built upon. Developed by the Greeks and idealized by Americans, democracy in all of its forms remains the most promising form of government ever developed. We in Iraqi Kurdistan are on that journey to that destination of democracy.

Thank you very much. I look forward to your comments and questions.

2009 JUN 23 PM 2:45
CRIMINAL REGISTRATION UNIT