

**Country/entity** Kurds-Kurdistan

**Region** Cross-regional

**Agreement name** Kurdistan Regional Government Unification Agreement

**Date** 21 Jan 2006

**Agreement status** Multiparty signed/agreed

**Interim arrangement** Yes

**Agreement/conflict level** Intrastate/intrastate conflict

### **Iraqi Kurdish Civil War (1994 - 1997)**

A political rivalry between the two political parties, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), led to fighting with estimated casualties from 5,000 to 8,000. Fighting embroiled surrounding countries bringing in Iranian, Iraqi and Turkish forces. Elections in 1992 led to a split parliament between the PUK and KDP. Fighting began in 1994 and rivalries increased as the two sides fought over smuggling routes of Iraqi petroleum into Turkey. Regional politics, including the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) support for the PUK, allowed the KDP to ally itself with Turkey. Another weak alliance between the KDP and Saddam Hussein, allowed the two forces to re-take Erbil and Sulimaniyah from PUK forces in 1996. Turkey also intervened against the PUK. A ceasefire line was established in early 1997 although fighting broke out again. Another ceasefire was then unilaterally declared by the KDP on November 24, 1997, that was accepted by the PUK. The conflict ended with a power-sharing agreement brokered by the U.S. between the two sides in 1998.

Close

Iraqi Kurdish Civil War (1994 - 1997)

**Stage** Framework/substantive - partial

**Conflict nature** Inter-group

**Peace process** Intra-Kurdish process

**Parties** Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), signed for by Masoud Barzani, President; Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), signed for by Jalal Talabani, Secretary General.

**Third parties** -

**Description** An agreement between the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), providing for power-sharing between them within the Kurdish Region of Iraq.

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<b>Agreement document</b>	<a href="#">IQ_060121_Kurdistan Regional Government Unification Agreement.pdf (opens in new tab)</a>   <a href="#">Download PDF</a>
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## Groups

<b>Children/youth</b>	<p>Groups→Children/youth→Other</p> <p>Page 1, 5. The ministerial posts will be divided as follows:  ... b) The Ministers of Finance, Peshmerga Affairs, Higher Education, Agriculture, Martyrs, Culture, Electricity, Natural Resources, Municipalities, Sports and Youth, and Minister of Region for the affairs of areas outside the Region will be from the KDP.</p>
<b>Disabled persons</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Elderly/age</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Migrant workers</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Racial/ethnic/national group</b>	<p>Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Substantive</p> <p>Page 1, We must secure and guarantee the historic achievements of our people and the realization of our full and just rights by putting in place and implementing the permanent Constitution, establishing a genuine federal and democratic Iraq; restoring Kirkuk, Khanaqin, Sinjar, Makhmour, and other Arabized areas to the embrace of the Kurdistan Region, and developing and growing the democratic experience in the Kurdistan Region with further strengthening of stability and liberty through the creation of a lasting unification of the Kurdistan Regional Government.</p>
<b>Religious groups</b>	<p>Groups→Religious groups→Other</p> <p>Page 1, 5. The ministerial posts will be divided as follows:  a) The Ministers of Interior, Justice, Education, Health, Social Affairs, Religious Affairs, Water Resources, Transportation, Reconstruction, Planning, and Human Rights will be from the PUK.</p>
<b>Indigenous people</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Other groups</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Refugees/displaced persons</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Social class</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Gender**

**Women, girls and gender** No specific mention.

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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## **State definition**

**Nature of state (general)** No specific mention.

**State configuration** No specific mention.

**Self determination** No specific mention.

**Referendum** No specific mention.

**State symbols** No specific mention.

**Independence/secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/unification** No specific mention.

**Border delimitation** No specific mention.

**Cross-border provision** No specific mention.

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## **Governance**

### **Political institutions (new or reformed)**

Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references

Page 1, 4. If either of the ministerial blocs withdraws from the joint cabinet, the entire cabinet will be considered as resigned.

Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→New political institutions (indefinite)

Page 1, 1. A new post of Vice President of the Region will be established by amendment to the Law of the Presidency of the Region. The Vice President will be from the PUK and will also serve as the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Peshmerga forces of the Kurdistan Region.

Page 1, 2. The Prime Minister and his Deputy will be identified by the Kurdistan National Assembly (KNA) and will be charged by the President of the Kurdistan Region with forming a joint cabinet. The Prime Minister will submit the names of his cabinet to the KNA.

Page 1, 5. The ministerial posts will be divided as follows:

a) The Ministers of Interior, Justice, Education, Health, Social Affairs, Religious Affairs, Water Resources, Transportation, Reconstruction, Planning, and Human Rights will be from the PUK.

b) The Ministers of Finance, Peshmerga Affairs, Higher Education, Agriculture, Martyrs, Culture, Electricity, Natural Resources, Municipalities, Sports and Youth, and Minister of Region for the affairs of areas outside the Region will be from the KDP.

Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→Temporary new institutions

Page 1, 3. The Speaker of the KNA will be from the PUK and the Prime Minister will be from the KDP until the next election of the KNA at the end of 2007. For the next election, the KDP and PUK will participate in a joint slate as equals, and at that time the post of the Speaker of the KNA will go to the KDP and the Prime Minister will be from the PUK. This will be for two years. After that, the KDP and PUK will rotate the posts of Speaker and Prime Minister. If by the end of 2007 elections are not conducted due to delay, the posts of Speaker and Prime Minister will rotate.

Page 2, 5. The ministerial posts will be divided as follows:

... d) The Ministries of Finance, Peshmerga Affairs, Justice, and Interior should unite within one year. These four ministries, until they unite, will have both a cabinet minister and a minister of the region for the affairs of the concerned ministry. Each minister will have responsibility for the part of the ministry which is currently under their control.

### **Elections**

Page 1, 3. The Speaker of the KNA will be from the PUK and the Prime Minister will be from the KDP until the next election of the KNA at the end of 2007. For the next election, the KDP and PUK will participate in a joint slate as equals, and at that time the post of the Speaker of the KNA will go to the KDP and the Prime Minister will be from the PUK. This will be for two years. After that, the KDP and PUK will rotate the posts of Speaker and Prime Minister. If by the end of 2007 elections are not conducted due to delay, the posts of Speaker and Prime Minister will rotate.

### **Electoral commission**

No specific mention.

**Political parties reform** No specific mention.

**Civil society** No specific mention.

**Traditional/religious leaders** No specific mention.

**Public administration** No specific mention.

**Constitution** Governance→Constitution→Constitution affirmation/renewal  
Page 1, We must secure and guarantee the historic achievements of our people and the realization of our full and just rights by putting in place and implementing the permanent Constitution, establishing a genuine federal and democratic Iraq; restoring Kirkuk, Khanaqin, Sinjar, Makhmour, and other Arabized areas to the embrace of the Kurdistan Region, and developing and growing the democratic experience in the Kurdistan Region with further strengthening of stability and liberty through the creation of a lasting unification of the Kurdistan Regional Government.

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## **Power sharing**

### **Political power sharing**

Power sharing→Political power sharing→Executive coalition

State level

Sub-state level

Page 1, 1. A new post of Vice President of the Region will be established by amendment to the Law of the Presidency of the Region. The Vice President will be from the PUK and will also serve as the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Peshmerga forces of the Kurdistan Region.

Page 1, 3. The Speaker of the KNA will be from the PUK and the Prime Minister will be from the KDP until the next election of the KNA at the end of 2007. For the next election, the KDP and PUK will participate in a joint slate as equals, and at that time the post of the Speaker of the KNA will go to the KDP and the Prime Minister will be from the PUK. This will be for two years. After that, the KDP and PUK will rotate the posts of Speaker and Prime Minister. If by the end of 2007 elections are not conducted due to delay, the posts of Speaker and Prime Minister will rotate.

Page 1, 5. The ministerial posts will be divided as follows:

- a) The Ministers of Interior, Justice, Education, Health, Social Affairs, Religious Affairs, Water Resources, Transportation, Reconstruction, Planning, and Human Rights will be from the PUK.
- b) The Ministers of Finance, Peshmerga Affairs, Higher Education, Agriculture, Martyrs, Culture, Electricity, Natural Resources, Municipalities, Sports and Youth, and Minister of Region for the affairs of areas outside the Region will be from the KDP.
- c) The remaining ministries will be assigned to other parties of the Kurdistan Region.
- d) The Ministries of Finance, Peshmerga Affairs, Justice, and Interior should unite within one year. These four ministries, until they unite, will have both a cabinet minister and a minister of the region for the affairs of the concerned ministry. Each minister will have responsibility for the part of the ministry which is currently under their control.

State level

Page 2, 10. Both sides, KDP and PUK, will present Mr. Jalal Talabani [Head of PUK] as their candidate for the sovereign post in the Iraqi Federal Government.

### **Territorial power sharing**

No specific mention.

### **Economic power sharing**

Power sharing→Economic power sharing→Sharing of resources

Page 2, 6. The budget of 2006 will be managed as it has been decided, but the share of the budget of the Presidency of the Kurdistan Region, the KNA, the Council of Ministers, and the Judicial Council, and any other joint items from each side will be allocated equally. Afterwards, in the coming years, the Kurdistan regional budget will be prepared by the unified KRG and submitted to the KNA. After approval, the budget will be allocated to various areas according to population percentage and agreement within the unified KRG.

### **Military power sharing**

Power sharing→Military power sharing→Joint command structures

Page 1, 1. A new post of Vice President of the Region will be established by amendment to the Law of the Presidency of the Region. The Vice President will be from the PUK and will also serve as the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Peshmerga forces of the Kurdistan Region.

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## Human rights and equality

**Human rights/RoL general** No specific mention.

**Bill of rights/similar** No specific mention.

**Treaty incorporation** No specific mention.

**Civil and political rights** No specific mention.

**Socio-economic rights** No specific mention.

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## Rights related issues

**Citizenship** No specific mention.

**Democracy** Page 1, We must secure and guarantee the historic achievements of our people and the realization of our full and just rights by putting in place and implementing the permanent Constitution, establishing a genuine federal and democratic Iraq; restoring Kirkuk, Khanaqin, Sinjar, Makhmour, and other Arabized areas to the embrace of the Kurdistan Region, and developing and growing the democratic experience in the Kurdistan Region with further strengthening of stability and liberty through the creation of a lasting unification of the Kurdistan Regional Government.

**Detention procedures** No specific mention.

**Media and communication** No specific mention.

**Mobility/access** No specific mention.

**Protection measures** No specific mention.

**Other** No specific mention.

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## **Rights institutions**

**NHRI** No specific mention.

**Regional or international human rights institutions** No specific mention.

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## **Justice sector reform**

**Criminal justice and emergency law** No specific mention.

**State of emergency provisions** No specific mention.

**Judiciary and courts** No specific mention.

**Prisons and detention** No specific mention.

**Traditional Laws** No specific mention.

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## **Socio-economic reconstruction**

**Development or socio-economic reconstruction** No specific mention.

**National economic plan** No specific mention.

**Natural resources** No specific mention.

**International funds** No specific mention.

**Business** No specific mention.

**Taxation** No specific mention.

**Banks** No specific mention.

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## **Land, property and environment**

**Land reform/rights** No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/  
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

**Cultural heritage** Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Tangible  
Page 1, 5. The ministerial posts will be divided as follows:  
... b) The Ministers of Finance, Peshmerga Affairs, Higher Education, Agriculture, Martyrs,  
Culture, Electricity, Natural Resources, Municipalities, Sports and Youth, and Minister of  
Region for the affairs of areas outside the Region will be from the KDP.

**Environment** No specific mention.

**Water or riparian  
rights or access** Page 1, 5. The ministerial posts will be divided as follows:  
a) The Ministers of Interior, Justice, Education, Health, Social Affairs, Religious Affairs,  
Water Resources, Transportation, Reconstruction, Planning, and Human Rights will be  
from the PUK.

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## **Security sector**

**Security  
Guarantees** No specific mention.

**Ceasefire** No specific mention.

**Police** Page 1, 7. Under the auspices of the Presidency of the Kurdistan Region there will be  
established a Supreme Commission to institutionalize the police and security agencies of  
the Kurdistan Region. These united agencies will be removed from political  
considerations. After the unified KRG takes office in the capital of the Kurdistan Region,  
Erbil, a special program will be instituted for university graduates with the aim of  
recruiting new candidates to the security services of the governorates for the sake of  
unification and re-establishment of these important agencies for our people.

**Armed forces** Page 1, 1. A new post of Vice President of the Region will be established by amendment to the Law of the Presidency of the Region. The Vice President will be from the PUK and will also serve as the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Peshmerga forces of the Kurdistan Region.

Page 1, 5. The ministerial posts will be divided as follows:

... b) The Ministers of Finance, Peshmerga Affairs, Higher Education, Agriculture, Martyrs, Culture, Electricity, Natural Resources, Municipalities, Sports and Youth, and Minister of Region for the affairs of areas outside the Region will be from the KDP.

Page 2, 5. The ministerial posts will be divided as follows:

... d) The Ministries of Finance, Peshmerga Affairs, Justice, and Interior should unite within one year. These four ministries, until they unite, will have both a cabinet minister and a minister of the region for the affairs of the concerned ministry. Each minister will have responsibility for the part of the ministry which is currently under their control.

**DDR** No specific mention.

**Intelligence services** No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces** No specific mention.

**Withdrawal of foreign forces** No specific mention.

**Corruption** No specific mention.

**Crime/organised crime** No specific mention.

**Drugs** No specific mention.

**Terrorism** No specific mention.

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## **Transitional justice**

**Transitional justice general** No specific mention.

**Amnesty/pardon** No specific mention.

<b>Courts</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Mechanism</b>	Page 1, 5. The ministerial posts will be divided as follows: ... b) The Ministers of Finance, Peshmerga Affairs, Higher Education, Agriculture, Martyrs, Culture, Electricity, Natural Resources, Municipalities, Sports and Youth, and Minister of Region for the affairs of areas outside the Region will be from the KDP.
<b>Prisoner release</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Vetting</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Victims</b>	Page 1, 5. The ministerial posts will be divided as follows: ... b) The Ministers of Finance, Peshmerga Affairs, Higher Education, Agriculture, Martyrs, Culture, Electricity, Natural Resources, Municipalities, Sports and Youth, and Minister of Region for the affairs of areas outside the Region will be from the KDP.
<b>Missing persons</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Reparations</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Reconciliation</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Implementation</b>	
<b>UN signatory</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Other international signatory</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Referendum for agreement</b>	No specific mention.
<b>International mission/force/similar</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Enforcement mechanism</b>	Page 2, 9. In all the Governorates of the Kurdistan Region a joint committee will be established between the KDP and PUK to resolve issues as they may arise.
<b>Related cases</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Source</b>	Kurdistan Regional Government, Cabinet: <a href="http://cabinet.gov.krd/a/d.aspx?s=&amp;l=12&amp;r=24&amp;a=8891&amp;s=010000">http://cabinet.gov.krd/a/d.aspx?s=&amp;l=12&amp;r=24&amp;a=8891&amp;s=010000</a>

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