

Kurdistan Regional Government Sulaimani, Iraq

Press Statement
February 1, 2004

Irbil Bombings

Dr. Barham Salih, Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Sulaimani, issued the following statement on the terrorist outrage in Irbil:

“The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) is saddened by the death of dozens of innocent Kurdish government officials and ordinary citizens as a result of two suicide bombings in the Kurdistan city of Irbil earlier today. The KRG has sent its condolences to the families and friends that lost loved ones in these deplorable acts of terrorism. Those killed included members of both the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) celebrating the Muslim Eid feast with the larger community in Irbil. The KRG sends its wishes for a quick recovery to those injured in the attacks. The entire Kurdistan community stands together during this difficult time.

The fact that the terrorists chose to attack Muslims during these sacred days shows the killers' utter disregard for the basic tenets of Islam and humanity. The terrorists, be they loyalists of the former regime, local affiliates of al-Qaeda or foreign terrorists, seek to derail Kurdish social and political advancements of the past decade as well as disrupt our joint efforts with our Iraqi compatriots to build a peaceful democratic nation. They will not succeed.

Terrorist tactics such as those employed in Irbil today will not impede Iraq's social, political and economic progress just as they have failed to do so in other cities such as Baghdad, Najaf, Karbala, Kirkuk and Mosul. Iraqis will fight terrorism in partnership with the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq.

The KRG, will use all the powers available to it to find and prosecute those behind today's terrorist incidents. It will spare no effort to keep Iraqi Kurdistan safe and secure from such terrorism in the future. At the same time, the Iraqi Kurdish leadership will continue working with other Iraqi democrats, inside and outside the Governing Council (GC), and the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) toward establishing a democratic, federal and free Iraq. ”