

Kurdish leader vows Iraqi soil will not be used against Iran

International Desk

Iraqi Kurdish leader Bafel Talabani said on Tuesday that Iraq and the Kurdistan Region would not allow their territory to be used to threaten Iran's security, as Tehran and Baghdad step up efforts to implement a bilateral security agreement and disarm armed groups opposed to Iran.

Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), made the remarks during a meeting in Tehran with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, where he led a delegation of senior PUK officials, IRNA reported.

"Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq will never allow the territory of this country to become a haven for harming and threatening the security of regional countries, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran," Talabani said.

He stressed the need for cooperation between Iran and Iraq to implement their security agreement and disarm armed groups opposed to Iran.

Araghchi, referring to the activities of terrorist groups along the two countries' borders, also called for greater security cooperation to protect the frontier.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) shakes hands with chief of the Patriotic Union of Iraq's Kurdistan Bafel Talabani in Tehran, Iran on September 15, 2026.
● TASNIM

The top diplomat said Tehran was ready to build up economic and trade ties with the Kurdistan Region, particularly the city of Sulaimaniyah, while strengthening security cooperation and efforts to combat terrorism.

Araghchi also warned of attempts to create divisions among neighboring countries.

"Our Kurdish friends and all countries in the region should be vigilant against false-flag tricks designed to create divisions among neighbors," he said.

Talabani described relations between Iran, Iraq and the Kurdistan Region

as historic and friendly, saying the PUK wanted to strengthen cooperation with Iran in political, security, economic and trade fields.

He called Iran "the strongest and ever-present supporter of the Iraqi people".

The issue of armed groups based in Iraq's Kurdistan Region has taken on added importance during the war the US and Israel waged against Iran in late February.

Iranian forces have repeatedly pounded US bases in the Kurdistan Region, as well as bases of Iranian Kurdish separatist groups and their weapons

depots, with missiles and drones.

US President Donald Trump has acknowledged sending arms to Kurdish separatist forces in the region to prepare for a ground invasion on Iran from its western border after the outbreak of the war. The planned attack never took place.

FM to visit China today

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi will visit Beijing this week and meet with his counterpart Wang Yi, China's foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

The two diplomats - who also met on the sidelines of

the BRICS conference in Delhi last week - will hold talks on Wednesday, the ministry said, as Beijing seeks to mediate in Iran's months-long war with the United States, AFP reported.

China is a top economic part-

ner of Iran, buying much of its oil output, and also an important diplomatic backer. The talks between their foreign ministers come just one week before an expected trip by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Washington, where

he will meet President Donald Trump.

The war in Iran will be a closely watched topic at that meeting, among other thorny issues ranging from trade to competition over artificial intelligence.

War on Iran damaged hundreds of US facilities, depleted key munitions: *Pentagon*



International Desk

The Pentagon's inspector general has released the first formal assessment of losses and operational disruptions caused by the war on Iran, reporting that Iranian strikes damaged or destroyed hundreds of buildings and structures at US military bases across the region and caused shortages of key munitions.

The special report, covering the period from February 28 through June 30, said Iranian strikes damaged or destroyed hundreds of buildings and structures at US bases in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman, and Jordan, citing communications with US Central Command (CENTCOM).

It also acknowledged the depletion of key US munition stockpiles during the war, while noting that earlier attacks had destroyed critical military assets, including missile-defense radar installations.

The report said the Iranian strikes forced CENTCOM to alter the way US forces operate across the region, as the command "shifted personnel, assets and storage facilities" in response to attacks by Iran and allied forces.

Among the changes was the withdrawal of US Army medical evacuation helicopters from Iraq and Kuwait. As a result, "most medical evacuations have been carried out by ground ... to local treatment facilities," according to the report.

The destruction of the US Navy's regional hub in Bahrain also created "significant challenges" in establishing adequate naval bases and support ports, the inspector general said. The situation prompted the US military to turn the remote Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia into a sea logistics hub, extending resupply cycles to between 14 and 18 days.

The resulting intermittent shortages of supplies, along with disruptions to the US military's regional mail system, further complicated the deployment of American forces to the Persian Gulf in support of air raids on Iran and, more recently, efforts to blockade Iranian ports.

The report warned that some of the changes to the US military presence in West Asia could become permanent,

as American military and intelligence officials have discussed the possibility of long-term reductions in personnel and facilities across the region after the war.

The assessment, prepared jointly with the inspector general offices of the US State Department and the US Agency for International Development, also examined damage to US diplomatic facilities.

According to the report, Iranian retaliatory attacks caused some \$184 million in damage to US diplomatic facilities in West Asia. It did not provide an estimate of damage to US military installations.

In early March, two Iranian drones struck the US Embassy compound in Riyadh, causing extensive damage, including to a CIA facility located there. Around the same time, a drone targeted the US consulate in Dubai, damaging a utility building.

The US Embassy in Kuwait suspended operations completely in March after being struck and damaged by Iranian drones. It resumed emergency operations for US citizens in late June.

More than 600 attacks were reported against US facilities in Iraq, according to a senior State Department official cited in the report. The attacks caused approximately \$157 million in damage, making Iraq the costliest site in terms of diplomatic losses.

The report said that between February 23 and June 30, as many as 3,500 US diplomatic personnel were outside the region, while most US diplomatic posts were operating under authorized or ordered departure measures.

Within weeks of the war's outbreak in February 28, the State Department ordered the departure of non-emergency personnel and all family members from Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE as attacks on US diplomatic facilities intensified.

Most US diplomatic posts in the region remain under "restricted operations," meaning staffing has not returned to normal.

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0440032

First Announcement



NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity	UNIT
1	CASING, API GRADE J-55, SEAMLESS "BUTTRESS" THREAD, RANGE 3, (MAX LEN: 40.5 FT) AS PER API 5CT/ ISO11960, PSL: 2SIZE(OD), WEIGHT(PPF), AS SPECIFIED MARKING: COLD DIE STAMPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH API 5 CT NOTE: LEVEL OF INSPECTION: 1 (L.O.I: 1) "QCP/ MPS DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW & CONFIRM" "ITP DOCUMENTS IS ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION" 20 IN., 133 PPF	2000	LE

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no.1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 111,776/72 EURO or 192,491,465,472 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS CFR, BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI, IRAN. PAYMENT TERM IS C.A.D INCLUDING 25% ADVANCE PAYMENT, SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

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Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON



Stop messing with the diesel supply.

RUSSIA

Strait of Hormuz