



ARSAKEIA  
TOSITSEIA  
SCHOOLS |  
MODEL UNITED  
NATIONS | 2018

SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE

DIONYSIS MENAGIAS

Distinguished delegates,

My name is Dionisis Menagias, i am a law student, based in Athens, born in 1997 and i will be serving as the Deputy President of Security Council.

From the very beginning of my law studies i entered the debate world, attending several conferences. These experiences have broaden my horizons, enriched my experience and enforced my principles, taught me discipline, improved my fluency, built up my self - confidence and gave me the necessary equipment to become a citizen of tomorrow. I will never forget the way I defended my views, the passion and enthusiasm I used to feel when I supported the fundamental human rights, the hours of tough debate on several flaming issues, the bombings i provoked as Russia (yes, i did) and the skills i gained.

Muhammad Ali once said: “what keeps me going is goals”. There is nothing more important for me than setting goals in your life and strive to achieve them. I have always believed that “the enemy of good is better” so, as a classic type of perfectionist, my everyday life consists of intense efforts to improve myself, achieve my goals and prove that once you believe you can, you are halfway there. This moto took shape for me during these conferences and it entirely changed my perspectives.

Dear delegates, i urge you all to strive for the best, believe in yourself. and think out of the box If you do so, i guarantee you that not only this but every conference you will be attending from now on will be life-changing.

Looking forward to seeing you, wish you all the best of luck.



**Committee: Security Council**

**Issue: The Autonomous State of Kurdistan**

**Student Officer: Dionysis Menagias**

**Position: Deputy President**

---

## INTRODUCTION

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq is an autonomous region located in the northern part of Iraq, governed by the Kurdistan Regional Government and inhabited by Kurdish people. It is also referred to as Southern Kurdistan as Kurds consider it as one of the four parts of Greater Kurdistan, which includes parts of northeastern Turkey, northern Syria and northwestern Iran, parts that have not gained independence until today. The Kurds are the world's largest ethnic group without a country. Their nation consists of approximately 25-35 million people (12 million in Turkey, 6 million in Iran, about 5 to 6 million in Iraq, and less than 2 million in Syria) and Kurds have been fighting for their right for independence for centuries. Turkey, Syria and Iran consider Kurds as their common enemy, strongly opposing to any acts or efforts to gain independence and leading to the tragic death of unobtrusive Kurds. Especially Turkey considers Kurds as a threat to their national and religious integrity, proceeding to innumerable attacks against Kurdish people (Afrin, January 2018). Will those Kurdish parts gain their independence? Have these actions against them lead to a genocide? How will Kurds be protected? All those are points to be addressed during this year's sessions. The idea of having a Kurdish state is considered not only a political dream. Actually, it is a part of the Kurdish culture, a part of their identity. They have been raised with the thinking that they deserve an independent state. In general, Kurds are strongly tied with their culture. The Kurdish language is recognized as an official language in Iraq and as a regional language in Iran. As far as Turkey



is concerned, it was only in 2012 that Kurds were allowed to teach their own language and culture in private schools. Furthermore, the majority of Kurds are Sunni Muslims, while others are Shia Muslims. Kurdish populations have notoriously been mistreated by their respective governments. This forced much of the Kurdish population to turn to a more extreme nationalist sentiment, leading to the creation of many political movements with different ideas. As a result, the Kurdish separatism has caused numerous conflicts in the region, in a wider effort to achieve independence.

## **DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS**

### **Autonomy**

The right or condition of self-government<sup>1</sup>.

### **Autonomous State**

An area of a country that has the freedom to govern itself or control its own affairs<sup>2</sup>.

### **Separatism**

The practice of separation of a certain group of people from a larger body on the basis of ethnicity, religion, or gender<sup>3</sup>.

### **Independent**

Free from outside control; not subject to another's authority<sup>4</sup>

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **How did it all started?**

The origin of the idea of the Kurdish state dates back in 1918. After the end of the First World War and the defeat of the Ottoman Empire, British forces invaded the oil-rich Ottoman province of Mosul, leading numerous Kurdish-populated areas under British rule. The Treaty of Sevres provided the opportunity for a Kurdish state, subject to the agreement

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/autonomy>

<sup>2</sup> <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/autonomous>

<sup>3</sup> <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/separatism>

<sup>4</sup> <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/independent>

of the League of Nations. An article of the Treaty referred specifically to the Kurds living in Mosul providing them the option of joining a later independent Kurdistan. Three years later, in 1923, Shaykh Mahmud Barzini alongside Kurds rebelled against British rule and proclaimed a Kurdish kingdom in northern Iraq. But, later that year, Kemal Ataturk attracted the international interest due to his policies; the Treaty of Lausanne replaced the previously signed Treaty of Sevres and recognized Turkey as an independent nation. Turkey possessed a key position in the international map and the Great Powers of that time started to see their interests alongside Kemal's Turkey. Under the terms of the Treaty of Lausanne, Turkey was no longer obligated to grant the Kurds autonomy, while the Kurdish region was divided among Turkey, Syria, Iran and Iraq. During the summer of 1946, the British Royal Air Force (RAF) bombed Kurdish rebels at the border of Iran, where they joined Iranian Kurds. The group was led by Qazi Mohamed, who found an independent Kurdistan in Mahabad. The Soviet Union backed the Mahabad Republic, but after an attack from Iranian forces, it collapsed. The result was the creation of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) by the Iraqi Kurd Mustafa Barzani, dedicated to the creation of an independent Kurdistan.

### **First Iraqi – Kurdish war**

In 1958, the Kurds found themselves with an opportunity to organize openly after many years in hiding, due to the overthrow of the Iraqi monarchy, while the new Iraqi Constitution recognized Kurdish "national rights". In February 1961, Mullah Mustafa Barzani defeated the government forces and consolidated his position as the leader of Kurds. Under his command, all government officials were expelled from the Kurdish territory. The Kurdish revolt truly broke out when an Iraqi column was ambushed by a group of Kurds. In response, the government of Abdul Karim Kassem ordered the Iraqi Air Force to indiscriminately bomb Kurdish villages. A ceasefire was declared three years later, leading to a split between Kurdish freedom fighters and Kurdish urban radicals, a split which was overcome during the following years. Finally, in 1970 a peace agreement was signed between the Iraqi government and the Kurds of northern Iraq granting them some self-rule, while at the same time, they amended the Iraqi constitution to state that: "the Iraqi people is made up of two nationalities, the Arab nationality and the Kurdish nationality". In reality, Kurds remained dependent on the Iranian military support and could do little to strengthen their forces.

### **Second Iraqi – Kurdish war**

In 1973, the United States of America made a secret agreement with Iran in order to begin funding the Kurdish rebels against Bagdad. A year later, KDP attacked Iraqi troops once again demanding control over the province of Kirkuk, which traditionally belonged to the Kurdish territory. The Iraqi government crushed the revolt and Jalal Talabani found the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). At the same time, the Algiers Accord is signed between Iran and Iraq, ending the Iranian support for the Kurdish uprising. KDP and PUK engage in a series of conflicts which lasted for decades. In Turkey, Abdullah Ocalan plays a major role in the creation of the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, with its main goal being Kurdish independence.

### **Iran – Iraq war | Kurdish rebellion of 1983**

In 1980, a war between Iran and Iraq broke out. At the beginning, the forces of KDP worked closely with Iran, but as the war escalated PUK and KDP joined forces alongside a number of other Kurdish factions to create a united Kurdish Front. They opposed Saddam Hussein, attempting to form their own autonomous country. Albeit, as the Iran-Iraq war was reaching its end, Iraqi forces launched the "Anfal Campaign" against the Kurds. Tens of thousands of Kurdish civilians and fighters were killed, and hundreds of thousands were forced into exile, in a systematic attempt to break the Kurdish resistance movement. A few months later, a poison gas attack on the town of Halabjah, close to the Iranian border, killed thousands of Kurdish civilians. In 1991, coalition forces declare the creation of a "Safe Haven" for the Kurds on the Iraqi side of the border, while international aid agencies launch a large-scale aid operation to help the refugees. It lasted only until an extensive Turkish military operation targeted PKK bases in northern Iraq from 1992 to 1995.

### **The autonomous period**

In 1998, PUK and KDP signed a peace agreement, which ended a long rivalry among Iraqi Kurd factions and in 2002 the Iraqi Kurdish regional parliament meets for the first time in six years, showing a true sign of unity between the Kurds. Since then, Turkey continuously has been attacking Kurdish villages proclaiming that they are targeting the PKK, which they consider as a terrorist group. As of 2014, the Islamic State of the Iraq and the Levant has carried out many attacks against the Kurdish people, conquering several towns

inhabited by Kurdish population and USA and Iraq supply the Kurds (Peshmerga) against ISIS. In 2014, Peshmerga and Syrian Kurdish fighters retake Mount Sinjar from Islamic State forces. In addition, in June 2017, President Barzani agreed to hold a referendum on 25 September. The referendum was carried out successfully and 93,5% of the voters decided independence. However, the Iraqi government condemned the Kurdish people, characterizing the referendum illegal, asserted its authority and imposed punitive measures.

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:** USA has supported the Kurds over the decades but not a Kurdish state as they are in favor of a united, federal and democratic Iraq (which is a huge ally). In contrast to that, Israel highly supports a Kurdish state, a potential ally of them.

**TURKEY:** The Kurds constitute the 15-20% of Turkey's population having always hostile relations with Turkish government and its population. Many were forced to resettle back in 1920 and 1930 as well as to change their names, customs, beliefs and language due to rebellions. In 1978 the PKK was created by Abdullah Ocalan with the main goal being the creation of an independent state within Turkey. Six years later they started an armed battle resulting in more than 40.000 deaths and thousands displacements. In the 1990's PKK prioritized the cultural and political autonomy as the fight continued until 2013 when a ceasefire was agreed after secret talks. It only lasted until 2015 when 33 young activists were killed by a suicide bomber in the Kurdish town of Suruc near Syria. The PKK blamed the authorities and an armed coalition started again. In August 2016 Turkish troops fled to Syria to fight against ISIS.

**IRAN:** Just like Turkey, Iran is against the establishment of a Kurdish State, even outside the borders as they fear that this state will threaten their national unity and integrity. Moreover, Iran is close with Iraq, seeing this state as a buffer between Iran and hostile neighbors. A Kurdish state, friendly to the USA and Israel, is something Iran fights.



**IRAQ:** Following the Kurdish referendum, Iraq sent a military response in order to conquer the city of Kirkuk, which is a vital part of Kurdish territories (wealth and history).

**SYRIA:** In 2011, as protests were spreading around the streets, Syria granted over 300.000 undocumented Kurdish citizenships, striped back in 1992, as the Kurds were seeking a federal system such as Iraqi autonomous position in Syria.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
1920	The treaty of Serves provided a Kurdish state, subject to the agreement of the League of Nations
1923	Shaykh Mahmud Barzinji rebels and declares a Kurdish state in northern Iraq
1970	Iraqi and Kurds peace agreement granting autonomy, an agreement rejected by the Kurds in 1974
1980	War between Iran and Iraq breaks out
1988	The Iraqi forces launch the “Anfal Campaign” against the Kurds; tens of thousands are killed, hundreds of thousands forced into exile
1991	The Pershmerga, Iraqi Kurdistan’s military forces, force the Iraqi government troops to finally leave Kurdistan, thus creating a de facto autonomous region (Safe Haven)
1992	A Turkish military operation strikes bases of the Kurdistan’s Workers Party (PKK) inside the Safe Haven
1994-1997	Civil war between KDP and PUK forces, the two major political parties in Kurdistan, for control over the Kurdish autonomous region
2005	First session of the Kurdish Parliament
2017	Independence referendum; 93,5% votes in favour of the Independence. The Iraqi government called the referendum



	illegal
--	---------

## **UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS**



UN RESOLUTION 688: condemned the repression by Iraq and demanded from Iraq to end the repression and respect the human right of both the Iraqi and the Kurdish population.

UN RESOLUTION 986: authorized Iraq to sell oil, a move that led to the economic development of the Kurdish area as the 13% of the funds ended up to Kurds.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN GENEVA (March, 2011): the topic was the genocide that Iraq committed against the Kurds. The conference concluded that the resulting murder, sexual slavery, rape, and torture ISIS perpetrated against the Yezidis constituted genocide under the terms of the Genocide Convention of 1948.

U.N: have publicly offered to mediate and organize meetings in order to resolve the Bagdad

SECRETARY GENERAL OF U.N: has multiple times urged Iraq to “normalize relations with the Kurds”

SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE REFERENDUM: opposed because “the referendum would detract from efforts to ensure the safe voluntary return of over 3 million refugees and internationally displaced people”

## **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE**

Generally, delegates should familiarize themselves with the term solution process. Solution process is used by experts to underline previous attempts on the solutions of the Turkish Kurdish conflict, specifically Turkish- PKK peace processes. It is important to note

that both parties showed interest in resolving the issue in the past although many dramatic events occurred meanwhile such as the bomb attacks in the Turkish justice ministry. As a matter of a fact, a letter written by PKK leader was read out in traditional holiday underlining that a unilateral ceasefire between the two parts has been decided upon and a few months later, the PKK enforced the peace agreement's conditions by withdrawing its men from a specific area in turkey and northern Iraq. Albeit, the ceasefire did not bring an end to the conflict. Turkish forces in 2015 noted that they will keep up with a violent campaign against PKK forces.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

### **Generally**

Kurds consist the largest ethnic group in the world which has been subjected to such systematic and well-known violations of human rights. Although the creation of a Kurdish state seems the most appealing solution to the Kurds based on their right to self-determination and self-defense, it looks as if such a drastic measure cannot be implemented without reactions. Thus, a multifaceted approach should be taken into consideration.

### **Possible solutions**

Firstly, it is important to reach consensus on the granting of fundamental human rights to the Kurds by countries such as Turkey and Syria. The United Nations could agree upon applying pressure to Syrian and Turkish leaders in order to accomplish such a goal. It is also of great magnitude to discuss the issue on the basis of the Kurdish language and its acceptance in public education in turkey and Syria as well as on the basis of the acceptance of Kurdish representatives in governments in respective countries. If Kurds cannot be granted a state, they should on any case enjoy both fundamental human rights and other rights preserved specifically in United Nations resolutions on minority rights.

Moreover, delegates should discuss the issue of Kurdish activists sent to prison without the claimed necessary evidence, taking the necessary measures, organizing common action plans and imposing possible sanctions in order to exterminate this phenomenon.

Continuing, delegates should discuss once more the issue of a ceasefire. Since the last ceasefire talks were fruitful even for a short period of time, there is hope that stricter terms and conditions of a future agreement could bring peace to the region. Therefore,

conditions and clauses of the peace talks should be debated upon and the committee should decide on whether, how and under which circumstances the peace talks should take place. Transparency and accountability on behalf of both parts are important factors which could ensure the implementation of an agreement.

Last but not least, it is important to underline that in 2004, a non-partisan delegation delivered 1.7 million signatures, signed by Kurdish people, to the United Nations in order to ask for an Independence referendum in Iraqi Kurdistan. As a result, delegates should now discuss and reach consensus on the issue of another referendum as well. On any case, delegates should discuss the issue and exchange views on the grounds of an official agreement, a possible referendum, of combatting the issue of separatists in Iraq and of the preserving of the rights of Kurds in general keeping in mind both the historical background and the solution process.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY - INFORMATION

- I. Cockburn, Harry. "UN Offers to Help Resolve Iraq's Kurdish Independence Crisis." *The Independent*, Independent Digital News and Media, 28 Sept. 2017, [www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/un-help-resolve-baghdad-iraq-kurdistan-kurdish-referendum-crisis-syria-a7972911.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/un-help-resolve-baghdad-iraq-kurdistan-kurdish-referendum-crisis-syria-a7972911.html).
- II. *Infoplease*, Infoplease, [www.infoplease.com/kurdish-history-timeline](http://www.infoplease.com/kurdish-history-timeline).
- III. Wires, News. "UN Security Council Opposes Kurdish Independence Vote." *France 24*, France 24, 22 Sept. 2017, [www.france24.com/en/20170922-united-nations-security-council-says-opposes-kurdistan-iraq-independence-vote](http://www.france24.com/en/20170922-united-nations-security-council-says-opposes-kurdistan-iraq-independence-vote).
- IV. "Why Don't Syria, Iran, Iraq And Turkey Want A Kurdistan? | AJ+." *YouTube*, YouTube, 14 Jan. 2018, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFQdwNzzTP4&t=448s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFQdwNzzTP4&t=448s).
- V. Kurdistan24. "Kurdistan Region Marks Referendum on Independence Anniversary in 'New Iraq'." *Kurdistan24*, 25 Sept. 2018, [www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/295ab49e-327c-4cf7-a31d-c6056eb72e83](http://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/295ab49e-327c-4cf7-a31d-c6056eb72e83).
- VI. "Kurdistan Independence Referendum: One Year On." *Rudaw*, [www.rudaw.net/english/analysis/240920181](http://www.rudaw.net/english/analysis/240920181).

- VII. Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Kurdistan." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 11 Dec. 2017, [www.britannica.com/place/Kurdistan](http://www.britannica.com/place/Kurdistan).
- VIII. "Separatism | Definition of Separatism in English by Oxford Dictionaries." *Oxford Dictionaries | English*, Oxford Dictionaries, [en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/separatism](http://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/separatism).
- IX. "Independent | Definition of Independent in English by Oxford Dictionaries." *Oxford Dictionaries | English*, Oxford Dictionaries, [en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/independent](http://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/independent).
- X. "Autonomous | Definition of Autonomous in English by Oxford Dictionaries." *Oxford Dictionaries | English*, Oxford Dictionaries, [en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/autonomous](http://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/autonomous).
- XI. "Autonomy | Definition of Autonomy in English by Oxford Dictionaries." *Oxford Dictionaries | English*, Oxford Dictionaries, [en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/autonomy](http://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/autonomy).

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY - PHOTOS**

- I. *Female Kurdish Fighters*, Google.
- II. *Flag of Kurdistan*, Google
- III. *Iraqi Kurds Fly Kurdish Flags*, Google
- IV. *Map of Kurdistan*, Google