

His Excellency President Masoud Barzani

ID: LFG-2017-0012

Kurdistan Region Presidency

Diwan

P.O. Box 60

Iraqi Kurdistan

Erbil, Iraq

Sent via: Mail

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

His Excellency President Masoud Barzani,

I would like to personally wish you and the people of Kurdistan region success as for coming up with a plan as to voting through a referendum as to whether or not the people wanted to gain independence from the Republic of Iraq. While this letter to you is not going to address the legality as to such a referendum, I would like to firmly make it known to you that I do support the people in all countries having the liberty as to respectfully addressing issues that are needed in a society. While I may not agree as with Kurdistan gaining independence from the Republic of Iraq, I do however surely hope that this will not be the last step for the people of Kurdistan being allowed to appropriately stand up and advocate for humane and dignified treatment that they want to receive by and through representation.

I believe that the government of the Kurdish region needs to negotiate with Iraqi officials in Baghdad and to respectfully have peace talks with one another before making a final decision as to whether or not independence of Kurdistan from the Republic of Iraq will be a reality. I think that peace talks are extremely necessary as far as this situation is concerned because I do not want the people of Kurdistan to be subjected to any financial or any other types of sanctions or any retaliation by any other country as a response as to the referendum for independence from the Republic of Iraq in Kurdistan. When peace talks occur between the Kurdish region and with the Republic of Iraq, I would like officials with the Kurdish Regional Government to discuss all grievances and all concerns that contributed to the people of Kurdistan voting as to wanting to gain independence from the Republic of Iraq. I believe that if all parties respectfully and peacefully listened to the grievances that the other party had with regard as to each other, I believe that a settlement as to grievances or other issues would be able to be respectfully and peacefully resolved without the need for a want of independence.

The situation between the region of Kurdistan and the Republic of Iraq sort of reminds me of the situation in Syria and I do not in any way what this situation to follow in the same footsteps as the one in Syria. As you may already know, citizens of Syria marched through the streets to protest against the President Bashar al-Assad Administration and for liberty. However, I believe that the world screwed up on addressing the situation in Syria. Some countries provided arms to moderate rebel groups in Syria while other countries backed President Bashar al-Assad.<sup>1</sup> One of the factors that I do believe that contributed to the downfall of moderate rebel forces in Syria is somewhat because some countries

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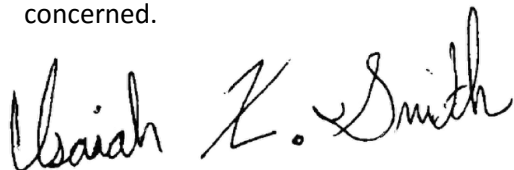
<sup>1</sup> See for example the attached black and white copy of a letter that I received from the White House regarding the situation in Syria.

supported certain moderate groups and then changed their foreign policy standpoint as to assisted groups. As with regard as to the situation in Kurdistan, I believe that it could be possible as for the same situation to occur if the government of the Kurdish region decided to fight for independence from the Republic of Iraq. I do believe that if this occurred that the people of Kurdistan may have some countries supporting an independence movement, however you should know that when new administrations get elected into office, the foreign policy of a country can always subject to change.

I would like to emphasize repetitively that I do not in any way want the situation in Syria to be the same as the situation between the region of Kurdistan and the Republic of Iraq. Politics has contributed as to some countries being deliberately indifferent as far as atrocities that have occurred in Syria. It could be a possibility that if a war broke out between the region of Kurdistan and the Republic of Iraq, that atrocities could occur. If atrocities did occur as a result as to a war, I believe that it is possible for politics to have the potential as to ensuring that deliberate indifference as far as atrocities are concerned between the region of Kurdistan and the Republic of Iraq. As a world we cannot afford to have another atrocity being committed and we most certainly cannot afford to have politics being the new norm as for deliberate indifference as far as atrocities are concerned in our world.

Regardless as to whether or not independence for Kurdistan will become a reality, I would strongly recommend that the region of Kurdistan immediately becomes a party to the Rome State in which would give the International Criminal Court authority as to addressing serious violations of international law. I believe that the Kurdish region becoming a party as to the Rome Statute would be beneficial to the region. I believe that the people would be ensured that atrocities would not be tolerated and that political interference in which contributes to deliberate indifference would not be allowed as with regard as to appropriately addressing atrocities or other violations of the law.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that I want the people of Kurdistan to be treated with dignity and respect by all of the representatives in which are supposed to serve the people. I believe that all individuals in every country should have a right to obtain life, liberty and a pursuit of happiness. While we move forward as a world, I surely hope that the world will respect both sides, both point of views and will help work towards a peaceful settlement occurring. Regardless as to if or when that happens, I surely hope that you do everything in your power to make sure that the region of Kurdistan becomes a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The world in too many occasions has allowed politics to be used as a tool to prevent countries from engaging in peace talks or addressing atrocities that are occurring in our world. I do not want that to happen as far as this situation is concerned.



Respectfully,

Isaiah X. Smith<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [www.isaiahxsmith.com](http://www.isaiahxsmith.com)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 19, 2016

Mr. Isaiah X. Smith  
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Isaiah:

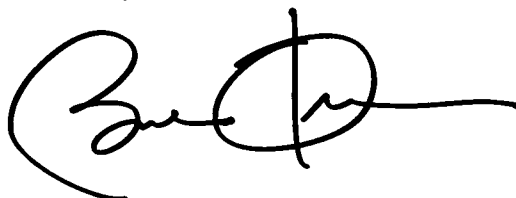
Thank you for writing. What started off as peaceful demonstrations by the Syrian people has become a devastating civil war, breeding human suffering on an order of magnitude that has affected the whole world. Hundreds of thousands have been killed, millions have fled for their lives, and terrorist groups like ISIL are exacerbating the strife. America's objectives in Syria are clear: We will continue to go after terrorist groups that threaten the United States and our allies and partners, we will work to relieve humanitarian suffering, and we will support a political transition away from the Assad regime.

The human cost of this conflict is evident, captured in searing images of Syrians killed by their own government, refugees waiting at border crossings, and children drowned trying to escape war. Helping those who have been pushed to the margins of our world is a matter of collective security, and we have a moral responsibility to assist families forced from their homes. In response to this humanitarian crisis, the United States has stepped up as the largest donor of assistance, providing \$4.5 billion in aid since the start of the conflict and increasing the total annual number of refugees we admit to a minimum of 85,000 this year—including 10,000 Syrians—and a minimum of 100,000 next year.

Together with a coalition of more than 60 countries, we are focused on degrading and ultimately destroying the threat posed by ISIL. However, we know that a long-term solution requires finding an end to the war in Syria, which is not possible as long as Assad remains in power. With our partners around the world, we are supporting moderate Syrians and pressing the regime's international backers—including Russia and Iran—to work toward an inclusive political transition to a new government that can stop the fighting, unify Syrians, and allow them to rebuild their lives.

Thank you, again, for writing. To learn about how you can help those affected by this crisis, visit [www.AidRefugees.gov](http://www.AidRefugees.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, written in a cursive style.