

His Excellency Mr. Fuad Masum

ID: LFG-2018-0009

President of the Republic of Iraq

Office of the President

Al Sijood Presidential Palace

Green Zone

Baghdad 217

Republic of Iraq

January 30th, 2018

Re: Situation in the Kurdish Region of the Republic of Iraq

Request for the Republic of Iraq to join the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

His Excellency Mr. Fuad Masum,

I am sending you this letter concerning the situation in the region of Kurdistan of the Republic of Iraq. It has been to my knowledge and understanding that officials with the Kurdistan Regional Government were a part of the cause as to an independence referendum in which the majority of the people in the region of Kurdistan voted in favor of. While I do not believe that independence of the Kurdish Region of the Republic of Iraq is a wise decision, I do hope that you understand that there were reasons behind the people of Kurdistan voting in favor of the past independence referendum. As far as all of those issues are concerned in which did result in the majority of the people in the Kurdish Region of the Republic of Iraq wanting to gain full independence from the Republic of Iraq, I do hope that the government of the Republic of Iraq will respectfully address all issues and all concerns that the people of the Kurdish Region of the Republic of Iraq had and have in which did persuade their want for independence from the Republic of Iraq.

While I have sent letter to the President of the Kurdistan Regional Government regarding their independence referendum, I would like to ensure to you that I am hoping that all parties are able to peacefully coexist without their being any type of want of retaliation, sanctions or an armed conflict. Currently as you already know, the Republic of Iraq is facing serious hardships. Regardless as to the hardships that are current in the Republic of Iraq, I believe that it is imperative for all of us to work together instead of fighting and that whenever disputes occur between different regions of the world, I believe that those countries needs to ensure that they enter into peace talks with one another, in preferably some neutral country with respect as to conflicts that occur between different countries in our world.

As I have stated in my letter to President Masoud Barzani of the Kurdistan Regional Government of the Republic of Iraq, I do not in any way want the situation in Syria to be the same as the situation between the Kurdish Region and the non-Kurdish Region in the Republic of Iraq. When looking into the past and the current situation in Syria, politics has contributed as to some countries being deliberately indifferent as far as atrocities that have occurred in Syria. The United Nations Security Council has failed to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court when they should have done so. The

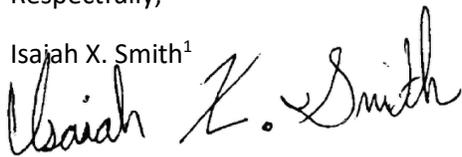
United Nations Security Council should have taken other action in response as to chemical weapons being used in the Syrian conflict and other atrocities that have occurred in Syria. I do believe that if there was some type of armed conflict between the Kurdish Region of the Republic of Iraq and the non-Kurdish Region of the Republic of Iraq, that politics would be used to prevent countries, or even the United Nations Security Council, from addressing a situation that involves the Kurdish Region and the non-Kurdish Region of the Republic of Iraq. As a world, I believe that we cannot let this become a reality.

With regard as to the Republic of Iraq becoming a party of the Rome Statute, in which would give the International Criminal Court jurisdiction to investigate atrocities that have occurred, I would like to strongly recommend to you to please do everything in your power and pursuant to your authority to have the Republic of Iraq join to become party to the Rome Statute. Currently and in the past, there have been an extremely large amount of atrocities that have occurred in the Republic of Iraq and even in Syria by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, and by other extremist entities. The individuals that are responsible for committing atrocities in the Republic of Iraq do not appear to be prosecuted for their crimes. A lot of the individuals that have been accused of committing crimes also do not appear to have been given adequate procedural due process. While it may seem like the right thing to do as to prosecuting the accused without the accused being given proper or adequate procedural due process protections, I do believe that all individuals have a right and should have a right to procedural due process when they are being prosecuted for crimes. Whenever an individual is being prosecuted for crimes, their liberty and their property interests are at stake. A government of a country, as the prosecuting body, has to be held to a high standard whenever a person's liberty or property interests are at stake. Since this does seem to be an issue in the Republic of Iraq, I do believe that it would be in the best interest of the Republic of Iraq and the international community for the Republic of Iraq to become a party of the Rome Statute in which would allow the International Criminal Court the opportunity to do their job.

In conclusion, I am hoping that the government of the Republic of Iraq and that the government of the Kurdish Regional Government will work out whatever disputes or conflicts that are occurring, and all of the concerns of the people of the Kurdish Region of the Republic of Iraq that did lead to the vote on the independence referendum. I believe that the government of the Republic of Iraq needs to make sure that it does that because I believe that this will be the best way to resolve disputes, conflicts or concerns that the people of Kurdistan have in which transpired for their want to gain independence from the Republic of Iraq. I hope that as this new year moves forward, that regardless as to any political ideology or political stance that any political figure of the Republic of Iraq has as to this issue, that you and your office will work to help ensure that peace and diplomacy exists and that there are no types of retaliation that occurs in response to the past independence referendum or against the individuals that voted in favor of the independence referendum. Not only that, but I am also respectfully requesting that the Republic of Iraq becomes a party of the Rome Statute. The International Criminal Court does need to be allowed to do their job without political interference.

Respectfully,

Isajah X. Smith¹

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isajah X. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

¹ www.isaiahxsmith.com