

# Kurdistan Parliament in 2014

## 1) Sessions, laws, and resolutions of the Kurdistan Parliament in 2014

During the fourth term of Kurdistan Parliament, totally 45 sessions were held; 3 of them for initiating the Parliament issues, 2 of them were unusual sessions and 40 were usual ones. In the past working year of the Parliament (2014), the Parliament made 9 laws and 32 resolutions in different fields. During the same period of time, the Kurdistan Parliament has had reading for 112 law projects and resolutions and has submitted them to the committees in charge of researching and preparing reports for the Parliament.

### Total number of the Parliament sessions in the fourth term 2014

	Law and resolution	No.
1	law	10
2	resolution	32
Total number		42

### Laws and resolutions made during the fourth term 2013-2014

	Sessions	No.
1	Usual Sessions	38
2	Unusual Sessions	32

3	Initiating Sessions	3
Total number		43

## **2) Activities of the Parliament permanent committees in 2014**

During the fourth term of Kurdistan Parliament, between 01/05/2014 and 31/12/2014, Kurdistan Parliament committees (totally 22 committees) held 502 sessions and submitted 108 reports regarding different projects.

During the same period of time, 84 governmental officials visited the different committees of the parliament including 11 ministers. In addition, the Kurdistan Parliament committees 379 visited different ministries, Peshmerga forces, governmental institutions, and abroad.

After starting the fourth term of the Parliament, three new committees were added to the committees, and now the total number of the committees is 22. The new committees are:

1. The committee of protecting consumer rights
2. The committee of Parliament affairs
3. The committee of Kurdish regions outside the region

## **3) Total budget of the region**

Since Iraqi Government, from Maliki's authority up to now, has blocked the Kurdistan Region budget since 2014 on one side and has not confirmed the share of the region of the total budget of Iraq, which is 17% of the whole of Iraq budget, on the other side, the Kurdistan Parliament has not been able to exercise its will regarding the budget issues.

## **4) Diplomatic activities and foreign relations**

Since 16/11/2013 till 24/12/2014 the Kurdistan Parliament Presidency has had 61 political and diplomatic activities in relation with 12 countries including United States of America, Britain, Canada,

Germany, Italy, Netherland, Hungary, Turkey, Japan, Jordan, Palestine, Sudan, and Iran. The list of meetings is as follows:

- 21 Ambassadors and Consulates
- 11 Foreigner political personalities
- 17 Parliament delegations
- 12 Foreign organizations

#### **5) Number of the questions addressed to the Kurdistan Regional Government**

During the first year of the fourth term of the Parliament, totally 382 questions have been addressed to the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). During the same period of time, 220 have been replies by KRG and for 162 questions there has not been any reply.

#### **6) The Kurdistan Parliament and present issues**

During the first year of the fourth term of the Parliament, a number of present issues were discussed including:

- 1) Kirkuk city and the Kurdish areas outside the Kurdistan region
- 2) The situation of Kobane and the way of interaction with western Kurdistan
- 3) Discussing the situation of Kurdish Yazidis and other ethnic groups
- 4) Naming Halabja as the capital of peace in 30/09/2014
- 5) Visiting Lahaye Crime Court in order to recognizing the crimes of ISIS against Yazidis as Genocide
- 6) Resolution of sending Peshmerga forces to Kobane
- 7) Recommendation of the Parliament for the delegation of KRG in Baghdad
- 8) Recommendation of the Parliament regarding violence against women
- 9) Discussing on principles of working on women issues in Media

#### **7) Selection of the committee members of elections and referendum in Kurdistan**

During the first year of the fourth term of the Parliament, nine members of independent committee of elections and referendum in Kurdistan were chosen in 03/12/2014.

#### **8) Live broadcasting of the Parliament sessions**

- 1) Live broadcasting of the Parliament sessions is allowed through the Parliament website in this term
- 2) Journalists can cover the news and events related to the Parliament issues
- 3) Making a new place for press conference inside the Parliament with all necessary equipments
- 4) Preparing needed information for the Parliament factions and committees, and media centers as well including 1078 videos of the Parliament sessions. The following list shows the numbers that the Parliament factions, committees, and media centers have used:

Factions 474

Media centers 402

Committees 62

Members of the Parliament 120

Journalists 20

#### **9) Establishing Information Bank**

During the first year of the fourth term of the Kurdistan Parliament, for the first time the law number 11 of 2013 regarding right to access information was used in the Parliament. For this purpose, the presidency of the Parliament made a decision for establishing an information bank, which is under the direct supervision of the Parliament Speaker Office. The duty of the bank information is to prepare information through the Parliament website for the media centers and Kurdistan citizens as well.

## 10) The Parliament Research Center and its continuous activities

The Parliament Research Center was established in 04/06/2012. Up to now this center has held 99 different workshops and seminars in cooperation with a number of local and international organizations. The following list indicates the kind and number of the Parliament Research Center from 2012 to 2014:

No.	Kind of activity	No. of activity
1	Conference, training course, workshop, seminar, and meeting	65
2	Organizing and sending of delegations	7
3	Research and official proposal	12
4	Book, pamphlet, and guidebook	10
5	poll and news coverage	2
6	Preparing and applying database	3
Total Number		99

## 11) The structure of Kurdistan Parliament in terms of nationality, religion, , and gender

### 1- The structure of Kurdistan Parliament in terms of nationality

No.	Nationality	Number of members
1	Kurd	100
2	Turkmen	5
3	Kildan, Assyrian, Syrian	5
4	Armenian	1
Total number		111

### 2- The structure of Kurdistan Parliament in terms of religion

No.	religion	Number of members
1	Islam	104
2	Christianity	6
3	Yazidi	1
Total Number		111

### 3- The structure of Kurdistan Parliament in terms of gender

No.	gender	Number of members	percentage
1	man	77	% 69.4
2	woman	34	% 30.6
<b>Total Number</b>		<b>111</b>	<b>% 100</b>

#### Some laws ratified in the first year of the fourth term of the Kurdistan Parliament

- 1) Law number 1 in 2014: law of amendment of the Kurdistan region Presidency law (number 1, in 2005)
- 2) Law number 2 in 2014: law of prolonging of working with law of counter-terrorism (number 3, in 2006)
- 3) Law of free independent committee of elections and referendum in Kurdistan
- 4) Law of the budget of political parties in the Kurdistan region in 2014
- 5) Law of official languages in Kurdistan in 2014
- 6) Law of amendment of the law of integration committee number 3 in 2011