Britain supports Peshmerga forces and Kurdistan
Will the US Re-enter the Precarious Middle East?

By | Gazi Hassan

In his first week since he took office, the new US President Donald Trump started with issuing threats and decisions of holding visa to seven Muslim-majority countries. He appeared with three plans and political discourse in regards to the Middle East; the first one is creating buffer zone in Syria. Second, a positive revision of its relations with Saudi Arabia, and third is warning Iran of its foreign policy in the area.

And in undercover, visa halting to Iraq and working for blocking political leader’s money in US banks and delaying Al-Abdali’s visit to Washington, then the issue of the expenses of Iraqi war and their disapproval of Iran’s role in Iraq would put the circumstances in front of many new options. That could be Trump’s another new important policy in the area.

Many people described Obama’s policy in the region as receding. This diplomacy gave chances to Iran and Russia to be empowered in the area, even Turkey was about to rebel against the US because of its internal problems and failure of achieving its agenda in Syria. This was implications of a declining US role, position and values in the area.

Following Trump’s entry to the White House, many aspects of foreign policy will be revised. It’s true that he calmed the situation down during his speech addressing China, but the issue is heading towards more tension and escalation in the Middle East. The Iranians can’t keep their concern hidden. Trump seems to be intending to put a limit to Iran’s dominance and authority in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain and Lebanon. This does not only affect Iran, but the militias it’s supporting would be forced to step back. The parties and political groups who’ve built their agendas based on Iran’s power and role will have to reconsider their accounts. The moderate Sunni Arabs front may take a sigh of relief amid these changes.

Trump doesn’t want US to be solely in favor of the outside, but he rather wants to use outside in favor of US economy and policy. Honest and truthful onset with his tough diplomacy to always give opportunity to softness ahead. He attacks to equalize dominance and compromise. He doesn’t compromise so as to be left without chances of an attack.

The issue in Iraq is complicated. The Iraqi internal fronts have been divided into the regional powers, especially Iran as it plays a direct and effective role on decision making and structure of Iraq. Trump’s policy doesn’t seem to get on well with this tendency. Although there’s no endless static in politics, but the situation implies that Trump’s US wouldn’t be adventurous, thrilling and full of surprises. All these changes will base on economy, revenue and regaining US economic power. Amid this, Iraq will need new identification, system and men hands in US pockets and let Iran make decision for it.

The Lantos Foundation honored Yezidi advocate Vian Dakhil with the organization’s top human rights award for “her efforts to combat terrorism, a crusade which made her into one of ISIS’s ‘most wanted’ women” near the US capitol in Washington, D.C.

“We need to build bridges of trust between communities so they can live beside each other,” Dakhil said upon receiving the award at the Rayburn House of Representatives office building on Wednesday.

Dakhil, born in Mosul, is the only Yezidi member of the Iraqi parliament, to where she was re-elected for a second term in 2014 on the Kurdish Democratic Party ticket. Previous recipients included the exiled Tibetan Dalai Lama and Holocaust survivor and writer Elie Wiesel.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson granted Dakhil special permission to travel to the United States, said Katrina Lantos Swett, the foundation’s president. The US has temporarily halted processing visas for most Iraqis amid President Donald Trump’s executive order, which is being reviewed in federal court.

“It’s unfair and unjust to consider Iraq with the countries that are considered as terrorists,” Dakhil said, adding that thousands of Iraqis have shed blood to fight terrorism.

Dakhil highlighted ISIS atrocities against the Yezidi people, who have been killed, napped and displaced from their homes in Shingal since 2014.

“More than 3,000 women and girls are still enslaved by ISIS,” Dakhil said. “I’m here to ask for your support in helping to free them.”

After the ceremony, Dakhil was received by Kurdistan Regional Government’s Representative Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman, and Iraq’s new ambassador to the United States, Fareed Yasseen, at the KRG’s office in Washington.

“I don’t know if a single woman can stop a genocide, but I know that Vian Dakhil certainly has tried,” Rahman said at the reception.

Vian Dakhil Receives Human Rights Award in Washington
UK defense chief meets Kurdish PM and President with Mosul top of agenda

Kurdish Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani discussed with the UK Defense Minister Michael Fallon the ongoing Mosul offensive, post ISIS governance and the military cooperation between the two sides Sunday morning, Kurdistan’s Head of the foreign relations Falah Mustafa said.

Kurdistan’s Minister of the Interior and acting Minister of Peshmerga Karim Sinjari and the head of Foreign Relations Falah Mustafa welcomed the UK Defense chief and Britain’s Ambassador to Iraq Frank Baker at Erbil International Airport on Saturday evening.

Fallon met with PM Barzani today in Erbil, and also his deputy General Talabani, President Massoud Barzani’s chief of staff Fuad Hussein, Mustafa and Sinjari were among senior officials present at the meeting.

He told reporters Saturday evening after his arrival that he will be visiting a Peshmerga training site on Sunday.

Following his meeting with the prime minister Fallon met with President Barzani.

Fallon said that UK’s past supply of weapons to the Peshmerga were through the Iraqi government, and therefore it was indirect.

“The material that we have supplied in the past [to Peshmerga] has been routed through Baghdad — through the state of Iraq. We aren’t processing a request at the moment, so I can’t give you a direct answer,” Fallon said Saturday, when asked whether the UK would join countries that would directly send weapons to the Kurdish Peshmerga, currently only Germany makes such arrangements.

Iraq security forces and the Kurdish Peshmerga, with the support of the international coalition launched an offensive in October to recapture Mosul from the extremist group ISIS. They have since liberated the eastern half of city, while ISIS is still in full control of the western part.

Fallon was also asked about the status of the liberation of Mosul and a timeline for the defeat of ISIS.

Fallon added. “Two million people have been liberated under Daesh control. That’s a huge improvement. But I’m not going to put a final date on the liberation of Raqqa.”

He however was more specific about the Kurdish-led operation to liberate Raqqah, the de facto capital of the ISIS group, where he said he is hoping the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) will complete the isolation stage “by the end of Spring.”

The US-backed SDF launched the operation last November, and they announced the third stage of the operation to isolate and eventually defeat ISIS in Raqqah this month.

The primary goal of this phase is the complete isolation of Raqqah, clearing territory east of the city, Erbil Sheik Ahmed, spokesman of the general command of the Wrath of Euphrates had earlier said.

“I hope that isolation will be completed by the spring and then operations to liberate Raqqah itself can begin thereafter,” Fallon said.

The US-led anti-ISIS international coalition, which also includes the UK, provides air support and military materiel in support of the campaign.

“Raqqah is a much smaller city than Mosul but will clearly be defended very vigorously by Daesh and that means the operation to liberate Raqqah has to be very carefully prepared, as the operation for Mosul was,” Fallon said, using an Arabic name for ISIS.

“Once Raqqah is liberated after Mosul, we will see the beginning of the end of this terrible caliphate.”

Raqqah is the capital of the ISIS’s caliphate.

Prior to coming to Erbil, Fallon stopped in Cyprus where he discussed the country’s increased role in promoting regional stability and security with the Cypriot defense minister.

Fallon said in 2017 the coalition forces aim to strike the “decisive blow” against ISIS after pushing back its fighters in 2016, adding that two million people in Iraq have been liberated from the group, and that it now controls less than 10 percent of territory in Iraq.

Fallon last visited the Kurdistan Region’s capital in September 2016, when he discussed the ensuing Mosul operations with Kurdish officials.

Kurds discussed independence with senior Shia delegation

A delegation from the Shiite National Alliance headed by Ammar al-Hakim arrived in the Kurdistan Region on Saturday to meet with Kurdish officials including Kurdistan Regional Government President Massoud Barzani.

The delegation is visiting to discuss national reconciliation and the future of Mosul following expected capture of the city from the Islamic State.

The Shiite National Alliance launched its project, called the National Settlement, aimed at the restructuring of Iraq after the defeat of IS, a year ago.

“The objective behind this initiative is to preserve Iraq and strengthen it as an independent state and as a sovereign, unit ed, federal, and democratic country,” a document from the Alliance reads.

The Alliance’s project rejects the secession of the Kurds, something which the Kurdistan Regional Government’s President and Prime Minister have been demanding more loudly recently.

Visiting Baghdad in September 2016, President Massoud Barzani, following a meeting with Iraq Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said all issues would be resolved through mutual understanding.

The KRG has accused the central government of withholding the region’s budget while Baghdad has said the unilateral sale of oil by the Kurdistan Region parliament is a violation of the agreement between the parties. The disagreement between Erbil and Baghdad has led to mass unemployment and financial turmoil in Kurdistan.

According to a statement by the KRG, Haikim called for resolving the stranded issues between Erbil and Baghdad “within the political settlement initiative and forming a joint political and governmental committee,” to resolve the issues within a new Iraq.

Hakim talked about the coordination between the Peshmerga forces and the Iraqi army in the war against terror, adding that “the joint struggle is the main reason bringing all sides together and helps resolve the disputes.”

Hamid Muela, the spokesperson for the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, headed by Al-Hakim, and one of the components of the Shiite National Alliance, told Rudaw TV on Sunday that the issue did not feature high in the talks Saturday evening in Erbil.

“It was not discussed in great length,” Muela said, “It was rather one of the topics, which states that ‘if we did not reach satisfactory solutions [with Baghdad] which would reflect the dreams of the people of Kurdistan, then the issue of independence is one of the options that we may seek.’

Hakim, who is also the head of the National Alliance, is in the Region promoting the national reconciliation initiative, a document that he has written and presented it with Iraqi parties as well as regional countries for more than a year.

Deputy to the Shiite National Alliance, it is a plan to rebuild and reunite Iraq after the ISIS.
KDP to undergo huge reshuffle of senior positions

A major reshuffle of senior positions is coming to the ruling Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP). The decision was made in a meeting of the highest executive body of the party on Wednesday and will take effect “in the coming days.”

The party also discussed relations between Erbil and Baghdad, with independence topping the Kurdish agenda, in light of the principle that the Kurdish capital by a senior Shiite delegation headed by Ammar al-Hakim.

The reshuffle, is expected to affect more than a dozen positions within the party and comes at a time when the party has not been able to hold its 14th congress. The KDP’s congress should take place every four years in normal circumstances; the last was in December 2010 in Erbil.

Mahmood Mohamad, the KDP’s spokesperson, declined to provide the affected positions because “the list is long,” he said in a press conference following the meeting. The changes will take place “in the coming days,” he confirmed.

The party had asked several committees to “study and prepare” reports to make changes in party positions, something described as a “normal procedure” by Mohamad.

It was then presented to the executive in Wednesday’s hours-long meeting. “It was seen as necessary to make some internal changes in some positions,” Mohamad said.

Some who were seen successful were repositioned in other positions where they can do good work there as well. And for some of our colleagues, maybe it is better for them to work elsewhere. And thus these changes and repositioning have been done and will be implemented in the next coming days.”

The changes will mainly be in Erbil and Duhok, Mohamad added, where the party enjoys large support from the population, and Kirkuk where it has performed poorly compared to its rival the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Regarding Kurdistan Region’s relations with Baghdad, especially after Hakim’s visit to Erbil this week, Mohamad said they seek to “re-establish relations between Kurdistan Region and Baghdad,” based on new developments in Iraq.

The principle of consensus, which governed relations between the different political parties and “the new Iraq,” is non-existent anymore, the KDP said in a statement published following Wednesday’s executive meeting.

“The meeting saw this action as going back to the practice of the past successive [Iraqi] governments which is not in the interest of the components” read the statement. “This is merely in the interest of one particular party. This needs to be revised in such a way to serve the interests of all the components.”

The KDP has in the recent years that the federal system which formulates Erbil-Baghdad relations has failed, and therefore it is calling for independence or a new form of relations that give Kurdistan more of a say in running its own affairs.

The issue of independence was discussed in “clear terms” with the Shiite delegation, Mohamad said, also confirming that two political and governmental committees from Kurdistan will visit Baghdad to discuss the relations between both sides.

“We are forced to be Iraqis,” he noted. He said the meeting also discussed “plans and plots” against Kurdistan by “our enemies,” without naming names or clarifying whether he was referring to domestic or external parties.

Regarding the KDP’s relations with other Kurdish parties, in light of the political deadlock ongoing since 2015, he said the KDP will continue its talks in the coming week, for now with the PUK, with whom the KDP has a strategic agreement.

Mohamad said Kurdish parties need to form a “new organization of the Kurdistan house,” which takes into consideration the new developments, Kurdistan’s place in the region, and as member of the international coalition against ISIS.

Masrour Barzani: We are forced to be Iraqis

Top Kurdish official has criticized the travel ban by the US against the Kurdistan region.

Masrour Barzani, the Chancellor of Kurdistan Region Security Council (KRSC) has said that the Kurdish Peshmerga forces, one of the most effective and reliable force for the US, is also being affected by President Donald Trump’s executive order banning Iraqi passport holders from entering the US.

He said that Kurds, among them the Peshmerga, are also concerned with the initiative.

“We are not happy. We are the ones that are fighting ISIS,” Barzani stressed out. “We are fighting the same enemy on the same front line, and I don’t think it is right to hold a nation to account for just a few individuals.”

“People are forced to be Iraqis, and then we are penalized for being Iraqis. So you sort that out.”

Canadian military supplies to Peshmerga to arrive soon

Canada has taken steps to acquire weapons and equipment that were promised to be delivered to the Kurdish Peshmerga forces battling the Islamic State in Iraq. Once the items, which include anti-tank missiles, medical supplies and other equipment, among other things, are purchased, the delivery will follow as soon as possible, the Canadian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

“The acquisition of the equipment is underway,” reads the statement. “The intent remains to deliver the items as quickly as possible, in line with suppliers’ ability to provide the quantities sought.”

The estimated value of the shipment will be $9.5 million, according to a statement made earlier this year by Daniel Le Bouthillier, spokesman for Canada’s National Defense.

The Iraqi government approved the delivery at the end of the previous year. There was some concern that the Iraqi government would refuse approval as the weapons could potentially be used to further the cause of Kurdish independence from Iraq.

The legal agreements which are being drawn up by Canadian authorities will need to be signed by both Baghdad and the Kurdish regional government in order to proceed with the delivery.
Prime Minister Barzani and EU Special Envoy discuss religious coexistence

DNO steps up drilling campaign in Kurdistan Region

Drug trafficking increasing in Kurdish areas near Iran’s border
**Five Killed and Hundreds Injured in Baghdad Protests**

At least four protesters and one policeman have been killed in the Iraqi capital during a rally by thousands calling for an overhaul of the electoral system, according to Baghdad's governor.

Iraqi security forces fired tear gas and rubber-coated bullets at thousands of supporters of Muqtada al-Sadr, an influential Shia leader, who were demonstrating on Saturday near Baghdad's Green Zone to press for electoral changes.

Despite looting the properties, the militia group has also set up sectarian flags on the Sunni religious sites.

**Hashd Al-Shaabi Looting Civilian Properties in Mosul**

At least 320 protesters and seven police officers were wounded as violence gripped the rally.

The Associated Press news agency, quoting hospital officials, said the officer died of a bullet wound.

“There were seven dead as a result of the violence. Two of them are from the security forces and the other five are protesters,” a police colonel told AFP news agency on condition of anonymity.

He put the number of people hurt in the chaos at more than 200.

Sadr has accused the elections commission of being corrupt and called for the commission's members to be changed, according to a statement from his office.

Rising to his call to protest, demonstrators gathered near the Green Zone - a cluster of embassies and government buildings - to demand an overhaul of the commission that supervises elections before a provincial vote due in September.

Riot police fired tear gas when the crowd tried to move towards the zone, which also houses international organizations and the homes of prominent politicians.

Shots rang out in central Baghdad as security forces used live fire and tear gas to disperse the crowds.

**KRG, UNICEF Researching IS Child Soldiers**

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**Babaker Zebari: Maliki Wanted Mosul to fall**

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Despite looting the properties, the militia group has also set up sectarian flags on the Sunni religious sites.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Iraq has stated that approximately 30,000 displaced Iraqis who fled from the intense fighting before ISIS was evicted from Mosul are urgently in need of medical assistance to the villages of Gohbal jar on Thursday.

In addition, the group has also set up sectarian flags on the Sunni religious sites.

The foundation also delivered a large amount of medical assistance to the villages of Gohbal and Zorava in Sinjar district.

Meanwhile, BCF stated that 139 displaced families in Dhiba camp received household supplies offered by the foundation in collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Migration and Displacement.

On Wednesday, teams from the charity foundation also offered winter supplies and clothing to 1,142 Yazidi families in Sinjar.

BCF stretches out to the IDPs and refugees across the camps in the entire Kurdistan Region on a daily basis.

**30,000 Displaced Iraqis to Return to Mosul**

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Iraq has stated that approximately 30,000 displaced Iraqis who fled from the intense fighting before ISIS was evicted from Mosul have left displaced camps to return home.

According to the United Nations, 180,000 people had been displaced and forced to seek refugee outside of the city, many of whom went to displacement camps the east of Mosul.

According to Zebari, Maliki long wished for a battle between the Iraqi army and Peshmerga.

A huge amount of military equipment belonging to five Iraqi army brigades fell into the hands of the IS organization which significantly enhanced the group's capacity to further seize the Iraqi territories.

He also revealed that Sinjar fell to IS due to the collaboration of the Arab tribes in the villages west of Mosul.

Regarding the presence of Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) forces in Sinjar, Zebari said their presence is for creating unrest in the area and providing Turkey with justifications for interventions in the Kurdistan Region internal affairs.

He added that the PKK forces were a barrier to rescuing 4,300 Yazidis in Kojo village.

Zebari is a former Kurdish politician and retired General in the Iraqi Army. He was chief of staff of the Iraqi army from 2003 to 2015.
**Sports News**

**Rampant Barcelona Put Six past Alaves**

Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez both scored as Barcelona thrashed Alaves in La Liga. Suarez turned in the opener for the visitors from Aleix Vidal's drilled cross, before Neymar tapped in the second from close range. Barca turned on the style in the second half with four goals in the space of nine minutes, as Messi stroked in the third before Aleix's own goal.

Ivan Rakitic smashed home from inside the area and Suarez added the sixth

**Alexis Vidal out for five months**

Barcelona full-back Alexis Vidal will miss the rest of the season after dislocating his right ankle during Saturday's 6-0 La Liga win at Alaves. The defender, 27, was carried off after he was injured in an 85th-minute collision with opponent Theo Hernandez.

Barcelona said on Saturday evening that Vidal, signed from Sevilla in 2015, would be out of action for five months.

"Alexis, you'll be back stronger - get well soon," wrote team-mate Andre Gomes on Twitter.

Vidal had recently established himself as a regular in Luis Enrique's side, scoring in league victories over Las Palmas and Athletic Bilbao since the turn of the year.

**Sanchez scored twice as Arsenal Edge Past Hull**

Alexis Sanchez scored twice as title-chasing Arsenal beat relegation-threatened Hull in controversial circumstances in the Premier League.

The hosts had been on top when the ball came off forward Sanchez's hand and ended up in the net on 34 minutes. He added a penalty in injury-time which was awarded after Sam Clucas was sent off for handball from Lucas Perez's header.

So far, 2,760 Yezidi women and girls have been able to escape the Islamic State (IS) dominant areas and a number of them resorted to suicide under the pressure of IS abuses and offenses, said a Yezidi lawmaker to the Iraqi House of Representatives.

As of August 1, 2016, when Sinjar and its surrounding areas were occupied by IS, nearly 6,900 Yezidi women and girls were captured by the extremists, Vian Dakhil told BasNews on Tuesday.

**Yezidi Mass Grave Found Near Sinjar**

Peshmerga forces are now protecting the site until a special committee arrives to exhume the grave

Erbil Security (Asayish) Directorate announced on Saturday that five people are facing charges for membership with the Islamic State (ISIS) organization.

In a statement issued by Asayish, the directorate said the five people had plans to join the extremists in Hawija district in Kirkuk province which is still under ISIS control. The directorate confirmed to BasNews that 2,760 Yezidi captives have so far managed to escape the extremist group, or were rescued by the Kurds.

She explained that still 3,600 Yezidi women and girls, aged 4 to 50, are held by IS, most of them in Raqa,Syria and Mosul, Hawija, Ba'aj and Rab'a in Iraq.

**Thousands of Yezidi Women Still Under IS Control**

At the same time Dakhil blamed the Iraqi government for not "taking a single stride" to free the Yezidi women while she was happy that they could finance the 2017 budget bill, stipulating 2 billion IQD for the case "though this fund is also very little compared to this big case."

She urged the related bodies to create a special center where the freed Yezidi women can receive psychological treatment and to run small projects for these women so that they learn a profession and have a source of income while they also overcome their psychological pain.

**Medicine share KRG receives from Baghdad is not satisfactory**

The Iraqi central government has voted to transfer to the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) a share of medical supplies, but it does not satisfy the demands in the Kurdish region, said a government official.

"Alike the previous years, Baghdad has pledged to send medicines to KRG during the year 2017, it has also promised to include an additional 200 refugees and IDPs who are overburdening KRG in the health sector," Khalis Qader, a spokesperson for KRG's Ministry of Health, told a local Kurdish news agency. "The amount has not been specified by the Iraqi government, but they have ensured to deliver the ships every month," Qader added.

However, the shortage of medicines cannot be addressed with the Baghdad deliveries, and KRG needs to buy and distribute the necessary amount in accordance to the government instructions.

**Five ISIS Members Arrested in Erbil**

The Kurdish region, said a spokesperson for the Kurdish Peshmerga forces, said that the five people had planned to join the extremists in Hawija district in Kirkuk province which is still under ISIS control. The names suggest that the arrested people are Kurds.

Asayish were able to arrest the five people by{|...|"terrorism" charges."

**Kurdish Peshmerga forces on Tuesday discovered another mass grave of Yezidis victimized by the Islamic State (IS) militants in Sinjar.**

The mass grave, some four kilometers west of the Yezidi town in northern Iraq, is believed to contain at least four bodies, said Khali Shvani, a Peshmerga official.

"The body of the Yezidis are faced with the IS, but when IS heard the KRG was planning to join the extremists in Hawija, Ba'aj and Rab'a in Iraq, they played a "terrorist" game."

"The Peshmerga forces are now protecting the site until a committee of specialists will arrive to exhume the bodies and proceed with the documentation process," Shvani told BasNews.

After seizing control of Mosul back in 2014, the IS militants overran the predominantly Yezidi town on 3rd of August. The year, killing almost every man they captured, and kidnapped over 6,000 women and children. Yezidi MP Vian Dakhil confirmed to BasNews that 2,760 Yezidi captives have been rescued by the KRG.

"The amount has not been specified by the Iraqi government, but they have ensured to deliver the ships every month," Qader added. However, the shortage of medicines cannot be addressed with the Baghdad deliveries, and KRG needs to buy and distribute the necessary amount in accordance to the government instructions.

**The women were sold at much money has so far been raised to free the Yezidi women.**

"They have subtle statistics about differences over the price son to another "as there are different prices every month," Qader added. However, the shortage of medicines cannot be addressed with the Baghdad deliveries, and KRG needs to buy and distribute the necessary amount in accordance to the government instructions."

It's not just how much he's won, but how he plays and carries himself."

Federer accepted Murray's invitation after he agreed to play at the Swiss star's own charity event in April after scheduled participation at tournaments in Dubai, Indian Wells and Miami.

"I'm one of the best players that's ever played the game." "It's not just how much he's won, but how he plays and carries himself."

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The Young Kurdish Painter Rawand Jaafar

Rawand Jaafar is a young Kurdish painter born in Erbil in 1993. He completed the Institute of Fine Arts in 2008 and The Academy of Fine Arts in 2013. So far he has taken part in 16 various exhibitions. He opened his solo exhibition in 2012, and he’s now a teacher in the Private Lawik Institute of Art.

This time’s selection of a young artist goes back to Rawand’s academic and skilful work in materializing the topics and forms and composing the colors in an academic form, which has grabbed artist’s and audiences’ attention. When I was wandering through Medya Gallery and observing his 35 artwork in his solo exhibition, I got the impression that they were very attractive. This made me understand that one artist’s development and creativity do not solely depend on the number of years of experience. It’s the quality of his works which is important not the quantity. If we take a detailed look at Rawand’s works, we see many aspects and artistic principles worth mentioning, including academics which is a well-based school of painting. This will reveal the beauty of art and the level of the artist’s success in his work. The nature and mountains of Kurdistan and Kurdish culture have been composed intelligently in his work. He sometimes uses contrasting colors that has taken audiences’ attention. Linking academics with realist-expressionism expands the form of ideas and thoughts of the artist.

Now as a young teacher, he intends to improve the students’ ability to perform their work and on the other side demonstrate a high value of the art. His use and choice of color resemble the reality and the nature, for example, the nature of mountains of Kurdistan such as Rawanduz, Korek, Erbil Citadel, Hareer Plain. The nature of the country has become bases of his work. Carrying out these in large measures has magnified the view in the eyes of the audience. Rawand has put the experience of design, watercolour, oil color and academic into his works. His use and choice of color reflects a high value of the art. This time’s selection of a young artist has been influenced by the international artists as he studied the history of art and figured out the styles and forms that the international artists used, especially in the golden era, which is the Renaissance period. If Rawand’s drawings were in a museum, they would receive much attention and preservation and would be valued in the galleries. Rawand’s activities express his deep interest and ambition in his own works. Teaching a generation has become a professional work of art that creates a group of youth that would be able to lay the foundation of the academic art of Kurdistan. Sketching and planning for new ideas is not always easy. The artist many times use the

Kurdish films astonish Iraqi and Egyptian artists

The Second International Anti-Terrorism Cinema Forum ended its work on February 2nd 2017 in Erbil and the winning films were announced.

Microphone, directed by Karimok, won the best Kurdish film, while Dyab which is directed by Mazin Sherani won the best documentary. The film 8, directed by Aseem Sifaj won the best idea and scenario, in addition to the best director. Jwan, directed by Ali Pshtiwan Abdullah, one of the event’s organizers said, regarding the Arab and Egyptian artist’s opinion on the Kurdish films, that they were astonished by the good quality of the films.

Jabry won the best Iraqi film. Yasamen, directed by Muhannad Kalsoum won the best Syrian outside. The actress Shadi Safadi acting in Hiwa, directed by Kinan Sharef won the best actor prize. The film Running away, directed by Zulfadig Murtay won the jury’s prize.

Patriwan Abdullah, one of the event’s organizers said, regarding the Arab and Egyptian artist’s opinion on the Kurdish films, that they were astonished by the good quality of the films. The Second International Anti-Terrorism Cinema Forum was held on February 1st 2017 in Mega-Mall Erbil, with 29 films taking part, all with anti-terrorism themes. The participated films are to be shown in Sulaimani too.

By H.G. Hassan

By Ashti Garmiyani