2016

PEACE AND FREEDOM
ORGANIZATION IN KURDISTAN

ANNUAL REPORT
Peace and Freedom Organization in Kurdistan

Peace and Freedom is a non-governmental and not-for-profit organization that works in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region to protect human rights and civil rights and ensure peaceful co-existence through promoting trust and collaboration between the diverse components of the society and supporting governmental and non-governmental institutions in developing policies guaranteeing freedoms, rights and social justice in accordance with international standards.

Vision

A peaceful, democratic and diverse society that guarantees human rights and freedoms for all, promotes values of social justice, citizenship and non-violence and rejects extremism in all its forms.

Programs

PFOK has identified two main program areas in which it will focus its work for the coming 4 years: Peace-Building and Social Cohesion; Freedoms and Rights.

The Peace-Building and Social Cohesion program aims to preserve the diversity of Iraq by building capacities of individuals and key stakeholders to resolve conflict and promote peace to ensure peaceful co-existence among communities of diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds and ensure that adequate policies are developed to ensure protection and participation of all community groups.

The Freedoms and Rights program aims to shed light on violations of individual and collective rights and freedoms occurring across Iraq and ensure that adequate policies are developed to protect and promote these rights and freedoms.
# ANNUAL REPORT
## 2016

## Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace-Building and Social Cohesion Program</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedoms and Rights Program</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other PFOK Initiatives</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Development</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Statement</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Us</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Foreword

In Peace,

On behalf of Peace and Freedom Organization, I am pleased to present the annual report of our organization for the year 2016. The report introduces the various activities and projects that were conducted in different regions of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq over the past year.

While 2016 was a difficult year across Iraq as violence and conflict taking place still make the headlines of international news, it was a year that saw Peace and Freedom strengthened as an organization to prepare to better respond to the deteriorating context which negatively affects peace, rights and freedoms. PFOK adopted its new Strategic Plan for the period 2017 – 2020 which was presented during the first conference of the organization which sets an example in building a democratic, transparent and constituency-led democratic organization.

In 2016, PFOK was also able to expand its work outside of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and reach out to governorates of Baghdad, Basra, Diyala, Kirkuk and Ninewa and launch monitoring of rights and freedoms in these governorates as well as address increasing violence.

This annual report presents the most prominent features of the objectives and the vision of the organization and outlines the different projects and activities conducted within each project by the organization, in an aim to fulfill the objectives it has set for itself. Beside the presentation of studies and reports produced by the organization, finances of the organization are outlined to ensure transparency in regards to donors and expenditures.

I would like to extend my appreciation to all individuals and organizations who are believing in the work of Peace and Freedom Organization and who have contributed to the growing and strengthening of the organization.

I sincerely hope that the year 2017 will be a year of continuous hard work to build peace and contribute to building a just Iraqi society which protects rights and promote freedoms.

Abdullah Khaled
Chairman of Board of Directors
Peace and Freedom Organization
The Peace-Building and Social Cohesion program aims to preserve the diversity of Iraq by building capacities of individuals and key stakeholders to resolve conflict and promote peace to ensure peaceful co-existence among communities of diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds and ensure that adequate policies are developed to ensure protection and participation of all community groups.

According to the strategic plan of PFOK, the following strategies are to be used in the frame of this program:

1. *Raise awareness and capacity of communities to engage in dialogue and promote peace* with a focus on youth and members of displaced, refugee and host communities.

2. *Promote a positive role for parties engaged in spreading violence and hate speech* such as religious leaders, journalists and other radicalized elements of the community.

3. *Engage in advocacy with local and national governmental authorities* to develop policies ensuring protection of diversity, promotion of peaceful co-existence and participation of youth in peace-building processes.

4. *Build alliances to promote peaceful co-existence and social cohesion in Iraq* with other NGOs and networks.

*Kulluna Muwatinun – “We are all Citizens” – Building capacity of Iraqi youth to promote dialogue, address sectarian violence and engage in advocacy with governmental authorities*

Throughout 2016, PFOK supported the youth network “Kulluna Muwatinun” which gathers and mobilizes young people from diverse religious and ethnic communities in Iraq by enhancing their role in advocacy processes.

At the governorate level, PFOK supported young people to organize themselves in an aim to participate in local decision-making processes through *forming youth advisory committees* to the local governorate council. As a pilot initiative launched in the governorate of Ninewa proved to be successful, youth advisory committees were created in the governorates of Kirkuk and Basra. The youth advisory committees, composed of 11 youth representing the diversity of communities living in the governorate, after receiving intensive capacity building, have been dedicated to *lobby members of the governorate council and address policies impacting youth and peace-building issues*. The youth advisory committees have been successful in creating a space for young people to open dialogue with their decision makers and address the need for young people to be included in decision making processes.

At the national level, PFOK participated in *building the capacity of the youth network to engage in evidence-based advocacy*. As capacity of youth to conduct scientific field researches was developed in order to study sectarianism and gender issues, they were coached to conduct these researches. A total of 21 researches tackling diverse issues such
as the occurrence of sectarianism, demographic change, the impact of violence on women and children, the promotion of hate speech by religious leaders and media, were produced. These studies were further used by the youth to engage in advocacy and address decision makers. More extensive studies were produced such as a research tackling the seizing of properties belonging to minority groups in Nahla and Baghdad, and the impact of emigration of young people. These studies were presented in conferences that led to further dialogue held between youth and decision makers.

PFOK further organized opportunities for the youth network to **address national decision makers during visits at the Iraqi and Iraqi Kurdistan Parliament.** 8 youth leaders visited twice the Iraqi Parliament and addressed the vice-speaker of the Parliament, the Human Rights Committee, and other Parliament members on policies that affect diversity and promote sectarianism. Youth leaders also met the Chief of Staff of Iraqi Kurdistan President Barzani.

PFOK focused on **supporting young people from Ninewa Governorate to organize themselves** and to enhance their role in promoting peaceful co-existence and social cohesion, especially as the liberation of Mosul is advancing and high levels of mis-trust characterize current relationships among the diverse community groups living in Ninewa plain. PFOK provided **intensive capacity building to a new youth organization**, Life Makers, which focuses on promoting social cohesion in the governorate of Ninewa. PFOK also brought all youth groups working in Ninewa together to reflect on their role to promote peaceful coexistence. The initiative led to **designing a vision from the youth towards the future of Ninewa to ensure peace.** The vision, which includes a strategic plan for the role of the youth to promote peace in Ninewa which identifies a number of initiatives that should be developed, was presented to decision makers and international organizations to mobilize further support.

**Paths to Social Cohesion, Co-existence and Peace - Building capacity of journalists from Ninewa plain – Zummar, Rabia, Sinoune, Wana, Sinjar – to promote peace and social cohesion**

In order to promote peace and social cohesion in the recently liberated territories in the North of Ninewa and Sinjar, PFOK focused on **building the capacity of journalists living in these areas to promote their role in countering hate speech and developing a media environment of balanced opinions.**

A 5 days training was conducted for 15 journalists who were further tasked to write several articles on the reality of Sinjar, Zummar and other towns, highlighting issues negatively impacting on the development of a peaceful environment. Journalists shared the written articles on a facebook page that was opened for the project: [https://goo.gl/J9I Neh](https://goo.gl/J9I Neh)
Articles were regularly posted on the page which has received nearly 20,000 likes.
Freedoms and Rights Program

The Freedoms and Rights program aims to shed light on violations of individual and collective rights and freedoms occurring across Iraq and ensure that adequate policies are developed to protect and promote these rights and freedoms.

According to the strategy plan of PFOK, the following strategies are to be used in the frame of this program:

1. *Raise awareness and capacities of community members* with a focus on women, youth and minorities on key principles of human rights and freedoms

2. Engage in *monitoring and reporting of violations of human rights and freedoms* with a focus on minorities and worker’s rights

3. *Build capacity of non-governmental institutions* to promote individual and collective rights and freedoms, NGOs and syndicates in particular

4. *Engage in advocacy with governmental institutions* to develop policies ensuring promotion of human rights and freedoms

Promoting Workers’ Rights and Freedom of Syndication in Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan

This project looked at identifying the gaps existing in the legal framework related to workers’ rights and freedom of syndication and monitoring the violations that are occurring in 6 governorates across Iraq.

PFOK produced a baseline research which outlined the international, regional and national existing frameworks that provide protection to workers’ rights and freedom of syndication. It studies the current existing laws in Iraq and KRG and identified gaps and amendments needed in the legal framework to ensure protection and freedom as well as issues related to enacting and implementing the existing laws. Interviews, focus group discussions and questionnaires collecting opinions of 1000 individuals helped in better understanding the environment in terms of workers’ rights and freedom of syndication. The research was distributed in 3 languages, Arabic, Kurdish and English.
PFOK conducted monitoring of violations impacting workers’ rights and freedom of syndication in 6 governorates: Baghdad, Basra, Kirkuk, Sulaymania, Erbil and Dohuk. The monitoring exercise helped identify cases of most common violations committed across Iraq and the Kurdistan Region which related to: death of workers, no or late payment of salaries, absence of work contract, abuse, threat and beating of workers, over time, prohibition of labor organisation, etc.

A roundtable was organized at the end of the project to discuss the baseline research and the outcome of the monitoring exercise and addressed decision makers in an attempt to enhance the environment of workers and syndicates.

In parallel, a training of trainers for 24 members of syndicates was organized to equip them with a better understanding of international standards and tools to defend workers’ rights. Participants were asked to train the members of their syndicates.

Promoting Freedom of Association, Expression and Right to Information in Iraqi Kurdistan

This project looked at identifying the gaps existing in the laws and regulations related to freedom of association, expression and right to information as well as the shortcomings of the KRG in implementing the recommendations from the UPR process in 2014 related to Freedom of Expression. It also contributed to building the capacity of key stakeholders, including governmental liaison officers, NGOs, journalists, and activists on the Access to Information Law passed in 2013 by the KRG and the policy to implement the Right to Information law adopted in 2016.

PFOK participated to establish the Alliance of Rights and Freedoms which is composed of 2 networks of activists combating for rights and freedoms previously established by PFOK and by PGN. The Alliance of Rights and Freedoms was instrumental in this project to conduct the surveys and the monitoring of violations.

PFOK produced 3 baseline surveys that aimed to identify the gaps in the current legal framework of the following laws: Press Law, Demonstration Law and Right to Information Law.

It further conducted monitoring of violations occurring across Iraqi Kurdistan through conducting 3 focus group discussions and visiting the Parliament, NGOs and journalists. A total of 127 violations were recorded during 2016.

A booklet gathering the baseline studies and the outcomes of the monitoring exercise was produced and distributed at the occasion of a conference which gathered decision makers,
NGOs and media outlets to discuss obstacles existing to ensuring freedom of expression and right to information.

A close partnership was developed with the Independent Commission of Human Rights in Kurdistan as an MOU was signed to provide capacity building to governmental liaison officers in regards to the Access to Information Law (11, 2013) that was passed in 2013. 76 liason officers were familiarized with the text in the governorates of Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymania.

Other capacity building trainings were organized for NGOs, media and government employees to discuss the Access to Information Law and the policy to implement the law passed in 2016 to ensure greater understanding and identify shortcomings in its implementation.
Other PFOK Initiatives

Beside implementing various projects in the frame of its two main programs, Peace and Freedom Organization in Kurdistan took part in other initiatives that contribute indirectly to the mission of the organization.

Launching the Kurdistan Social Forum

After being inspired by the organization of the Iraqi Social Forum, members of PFOK have shaped the idea to launch the Kurdistan Social Forum. After a year of discussions, a first meeting was organized in mid-2106 at the office of PFOK in Erbil which gathered representatives of 60 civil society organizations, unions and federations. A Forum Council was selected which includes a representative of PFOK and a secretariat will be formed.

Funding has been secure to organize the first Kurdistan Social Forum at the end of 2017. It is planned that a series of meetings will be held across Iraqi Kurdistan in the course of 2017 in preparation to holding the first Social Forum.

Facebook Page: https://web.facebook.com/Kurdistan-Social-Forum-1403045843100609/

Iraqi National Network for Social Protection

The network was established in 2016, PFOK is a founding member of this network. The goals of the network are:

- Promoting the role of Iraqi communities in monitoring social protection programs
- Developing the work of NGO members in the network and strengthening the link between their programs and the goals of network
- Working towards strong coordination with NGOs, government and other networks to activating the law of social protection for the public benefit and majority of Iraqi people
- Building the capacity and developing the skills of Iraqi workers and Iraqi employees who are working towards achieving social protection.

Joining the Iraqi Transparency Alliance for Extractive Industries (ITAEI)

The network provides a framework for the efforts of civil society to monitoring the extractive industries in Iraq.

Established in 2011, the network gathers representatives of CSOs, unions, professional syndicates, media institutions and some individual experts. Its main objective is to unite the efforts and contributions of the Iraqi civil society to improve transparency for extractive industries in Iraq.

While individuals from PFOK were founding members of the network in 2011, PFOK became an official member in 2016 and participated to the last meeting held in December 2016 in Baghdad.
Publications

In the frame of the different projects implemented by Peace and Freedom Organization in Kurdistan, several reports and publications were produced and published by the organization. They have all been widely distributed among the civil society community working in Iraq in hard copies and in electronic format. The publications are available below for reading and download.

Peace-Building publications

This publication gathers studies on the reality of the youth from diverse minority groups living in the governorate of Ninewa – Arabic – Kulluna Muwatinun
http://www.almubadarairaq.org/?p=2396

This publication gathers studies on the reality of the youth from diverse minority groups living in the governorates of Kirkuk and Basra and shares the experience of young people advocating for implementation of UNSCR 2250 – Arabic – Kulluna Muwatinun
https://issuu.com/pfok1/docs/youth_peace

This publication is a case study on the occurrence of demographic change in Iraq, shedding light on land disputes occurring in Nahla, Dohuk – English – Kulluna Muwatinun
https://issuu.com/pkok8/docs/nahle-report_pfok_final
This publication is a research on the reality of the emigration of young people from the governorate of Ninewa conducted by the Youth Advisory Council of Ninewa, under the supervision of PFOK – Arabic – Kulluna Muwatinun

https://goo.gl/o2U39c

Freedoms and Rights publications

This publication provides an analysis of the legal framework regulating and protecting the rights of workers and the freedom of labor unions in Iraq and KRG and shares findings of the monitoring of violations that occurred over the year – English – Norwegian People’s Aid

https://issuu.com/pkok8/docs/en-des

This publication provides an analysis of the legal framework regulating and protecting freedom of expression in Iraqi Kurdistan and shares findings of the monitoring of violations that occurred over the year – English – Norwegian People’s Aid


In this study, PFOK together with Al Mesalla for Human Resources providing a reading of the new law “Protecting components in Kurdistan”
passed by the KRG Parliament in May 2015. It highlights weaknesses and shortcomings of the text – English – Kulluna Muwatinun


In this note, PFK together with Al Mesalla for Human Resources gathers notes and recommendations on the new law “Protecting components in Kurdistan” passed by the KRG Parliament in May 2015 which was shared with the KRG Parliament – English – Kulluna Muwatinun

Organizational Development

Peace and Freedom Organization in Kurdistan aims to be a transparent, democratic and collective initiative which sets an example of good governance among the civil society organizations working in Iraq.

In order to achieve this, PFOK is dedicated to ensure that continuous organizational development is occurring in order to strengthen the institution and develop its capacities.

**Developing a strategic plan for the period 2015 - 2020**

In August 2016, 9 staff members of PFOK gathered during 2 days in order to design the new strategic plan of the organization. This collaborative process aimed to discuss the current political and economic context in the country and identify dynamics impacting peace-building and rights and freedoms issues. A vision and a mission was clearly defined for the organization and strategies and tools of the two main programs of the organizations were identified.

A SWOT analysis of the organization enabled to set priorities for 2017 to ensure continuous institutional development.

This initiative aimed to ensure a participatory and collaborative approach in developing the work of the organization and ensuring coherence in the programs of the organization.

The strategic plan of PFOK can be downloaded here: [https://goo.gl/JXVAd7](https://goo.gl/JXVAd7)

**Organizing the first conference of the organization**

A 2-days conference was organized by PFOK on September 21st and 22nd, gathering members of the organization in order to present the work achieved by the organization in 2015 and proceed to present key directions chosen by the organization and elect a new administrative board.

This initiative reflects the will of PFOK to become an organization gaining legitimacy among its constituency and driven by the opinion of its membership base.

As activities and projects implemented in the course of 2015 were presented, the yearly narrative and financial report was presented for approval to the assembly composed of 58 members. The draft strategic plan was discussed and adopted.

A new administrative board composed of 11 members was elected among the persons present at the conference and in turn, it elected a new board of directors composed of 7 members. Mr. Abdullah Khalid was re-appointed as general director of the organization.
The administrative board is composed of the following members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Abdullah Khalid</td>
<td>Erbil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hewa Omar</td>
<td>Erbil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rania Adel</td>
<td>Baghdad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sangar Youssef</td>
<td>Erbil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chalak Ali</td>
<td>Erbil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pasteur Louis</td>
<td>Erbil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Halwesta Karim</td>
<td>Sulaymania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Vanda George</td>
<td>Erbil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Khand Magnetic</td>
<td>Erbil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Keyfi Maghdid</td>
<td>Erbil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Shamal Raof</td>
<td>Garmian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial Statement

List of financial grants

Over the year financial year of 2016 running from January 1st to December 31st 2016, Peace and Freedom Organization in Kurdistan has received the following financial grants from international organizations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Project Start Date</th>
<th>Project End Date</th>
<th>Total Budget amount awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nineveh Journalists for peace</td>
<td>UPP-UNDP</td>
<td>25/12/2015</td>
<td>31-3-2016</td>
<td>$21,735.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kulluna Muwatinun - EU</td>
<td>PAX</td>
<td>12/01/2015</td>
<td>31-12-2016</td>
<td>$135,001.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kulluna Muwatinun - Embassy</td>
<td>PAX</td>
<td>06/01/2016</td>
<td>31-12-2016</td>
<td>$47,675.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting Workers’ Rights and Freedom of Syndication</td>
<td>NPA</td>
<td>07/01/2016</td>
<td>31-12-2016</td>
<td>$84,980.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting Freedom of Expression</td>
<td>NPA</td>
<td>01/01/2016</td>
<td>31-12-2016</td>
<td>$86,115.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total of grants received</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$375,507.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditures per item

Budget received over the financial year of 2016 was spent by Peace and Freedom Organization in Kurdistan in the following way:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount of expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary</td>
<td>$61,656.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Costs</td>
<td>$27,755.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>$257,629.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total of expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$347,039.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount unspent returned to donors</td>
<td>$28,468.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Partner organizations

PFOK has received financial support from the following international organizations:

- **PAX for Peace** [http://paxforpeace.nl/](http://paxforpeace.nl/)

- **Norwegian People's Aid** [https://www.npaid.org/](https://www.npaid.org/)

- **Un Ponte Per** [http://www.unponteper.it/en/](http://www.unponteper.it/en/)
Contact Us

Address of the organization

Peace and Freedom Organization in Kurdistan
Erbil, Iraq
Firkat Zira’a

Contact Details:

Director of PFOK
Mr. Abdullah Khalid
Email: abdullaxalid@yahoo.com
Phone: +9647504150511

Manager of programs
Mr. Sangar Youssef
Email: sangar.pfok@gmail.com
Phone: +9647701548774