
TENSIONS REKINDLE IN IRAQ'S OIL-RICH KIRKUK

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KIRKUK, Iraq - Tensions have resurfaced in the oil-rich, multi-ethnic Iraqi province of Kirkuk after a Kurdish party raised the flag of the countrys autonomous Kurdistan region over the building that houses its headquarters, drawing protest from the central Iraqi government in Baghdad.

Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi, in a statement, criticised the raising of Kurdistans flag by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and asked that it be taken down from the building in Kirkuk.

Kirkuk is Iraqs most multicultural province with a population that includes Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, as well as Chaldean and Assyrian Christians. In 2018, Iraqs Central Statistical Organisation estimated the Kirkuk population at nearly 1.5 million.

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