

**Dr. BARHAM SALIH,
Deputy prime minister,
Republic of Iraq**



Barham Salih

- *Barham Salih was born in 1960 in Iraqi Kurdistan.*
- *He joined the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in 1976 while it was still an underground movement.*
- *He was arrested twice by the Iraqi secret police (the Mukhabarat). He was forced to take his high school finals while in prison. Nevertheless, he achieved the highest grade possible in all Iraq that year and came third in the whole country.*
- *He left Iraq in 1979.*
- *He received a B.Sc. in Civil and Structural Engineering from the University of Cardiff and gained a Ph.D. in Statistics and Computer Modeling from the University of Liverpool.*
- *In 1985, PUK leader Jalal Talabani (now the first democratically elected president of Iraq) called upon Dr. Salih to serve as the movement's spokesman in London.*
- *In 1991, having been elected to the PUK leadership, he departed for Washington, D.C. and served there for ten years as the PUK and Kurdistan Regional Government representative to the United States.*
- *On January 21, 2001, he assumed the premiership of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Sulaimani. The main features of his platform were: the need to revitalize the Kurdistan region to create an open, pluralistic society and develop civic culture, the empowerment of*

women, educational and social reforms, freedom of expression and creating an environment in which a free media can exist. He is a leading advocate of a strong Kurdish role in shaping the new democratic Iraq.

- He was the target of an assassination attempt by the Al-Qaeda affiliated terrorist group, Ansar al-Islam, in April 2002. Five of his assistants and body guards lost their lives during the attack.
- Dr. Salih and the Kurdistan Regional Government worked closely with the United States during preparations for Operation Iraqi Freedom and provided full support for joint U.S.-Kurdish operations to expel Ansar al-Islam from its enclave in Iraqi Kurdistan. Kurdistan Regional Government forces served under U.S. command and with U.S. troops helped liberate Iraq. Kurdish forces continue to work closely with the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq, and provided intelligence that led to the capture of Saddam Hussein in 2003 and intercepted the “Zarqawi letter” in 2004.
- Dr. Salih served as deputy prime minister in the Iraqi Interim Government from June 2004 until May 2005. He had special responsibility for economic affairs.
- After being successfully elected to the Transitional National Assembly of Iraq during the historic January 30, 2005 elections, Dr. Salih joined the Iraqi Transitional Government in May 2005 as minister of planning.
- Elected again during the December 15, 2005 elections to the Council of Representatives (Iraq’s permanent parliament), Dr. Salih was called upon to join the Iraqi Permanent Government in May 2006 as deputy prime minister.
- Dr. Salih is married to Dr. Sarbagh Salih, a biologist who is also a women’s rights activist. They have a daughter and son.