



## Kurdish Government Quietly Signs Oil Deal

Posted by [Super G](#) on December 1, 2005 - 11:02am

Topic: [Supply/Production](#)

Tags: [iraq](#), [kurdistan](#), [nechirvan barzani](#), [oil](#) [[list all tags](#)]

From the [LA Times](#):

A controversial oil exploration deal between Iraq's autonomy-minded Kurds and a Norwegian company got underway this week without the approval of the central government here, raising a potentially explosive issue at a time of heightened ethnic and sectarian tensions.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party, which controls a portion of the semiautonomous Kurdish enclave in northern Iraq, last year quietly signed a deal with Norway's DNO to drill for oil near the border city of Zakho. Iraqi and company officials describe the agreement as the first involving new exploration in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003.

---

Some Iraqi politicians are not amused:

"This is unprecedented," said Alaa Makki, a leader of the Iraqi Islamic Party, a Sunni Arab group. "It's like they are an independent country. This is Iraqi oil and should be shared with all the Iraqi partners."

For a different perspective, check out this [article](#) from the Kurdistan Regional Government.

(via [Kevin Drum](#))



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States License](#).