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Ron Paul says US wants to break Kurdistan away **from Iraq**

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Former US congressman from Texas Ron Paul says the United States is seeking to break Kurdistan away from Iraq with the current bombing campaign in the country.

"This time it was about yet another regime change, breaking Kurdistan away from Iraq and protection of the rich oil reserves there, and acceptance of a new US military presence on the ground in the country," he wrote in an article on Sunday.

The former presidential candidate said his country has been at war with Iraq for 24 years with Operations Desert Shield and Storm in 1990.

"Shortly after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait that year, the propaganda machine began agitating for a US attack on Iraq," Paul said.

"This month, yet another US president – the fifth in a row – began bombing Iraq. He is also placing US troops on the ground despite promising not to do so."

President Barack Obama ordered the US military to start bombing the ISIL militant group positions inside Iraq earlier this month. The Pentagon continues the bombardments.

"This month, ISIS became the target of a new US bombing campaign in Iraq. The pretext for the latest US attack was the plight of a religious minority in the Kurdish region currently under ISIS attack," the Republican said.

He also noted that the Iraq war in 2003 "cost the US some two trillion dollars. According to estimates, more than one million deaths have occurred as a result of that war. Millions of tons of US bombs have fallen in Iraq almost steadily since 1991."

"What have we accomplished? Where are we now, 24 years later? We are back where we started, at war in Iraq!"

"President Obama has started another war in Iraq and Congress is completely silent. No declaration, no authorization, not even a debate. After 24 years we are back where we started. Isn't it about time to re-think this failed interventionist policy? Isn't it time to stop trusting the government and its war propaganda? Isn't it time to leave Iraq alone?" Paul asked.