

New front line emerging in northern Iraq

A 1,000km trench across Iraq, which the Kurds say is designed to repel suicide bomb attacks by so-called Islamic State militants, is raising fears in Baghdad that the country is moving closer to break-up

Kurdish forces monitoring trenches south of Kirkuk



- Area of semi-autonomous Kurdistan regional government
- Controlled by so-called Islamic State (Daesh) as of Jan 18



Approximate line of Kurdish-built trench: Route passes through areas claimed by Arabs and Kurds, creating tensions between ethnic communities