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The Kurdish Referendum: What Comes Next?

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On Monday, Iraqi Kurds voted in a controversial referendum over whether to declare independence from Iraq. The controversy wasn't reflected in the outcome; results are not yet final, but it seems roughly 92 percent of the possible future country voted for independence.

Rather, the controversy arose from the response of the Kurds' neighbors. Iran moved to seal its border with the Kurdistan region, while Baghdad and Ankara announced joint military exercises on Iraqi Kurdistan's border. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned Iraqi Kurdistan that Turkish forces could "come unexpectedly in the night." The Kurdish governor of the contested city of Kirkuk urged residents to refrain from celebratory gunfire and to "save your bullets for when they are needed to defend the city."

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For full article, see:

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