International Crisis Group, Middle East Report no 151/8 May 2014: “The border between Syria’s and Iraq’s Kurdish areas became an arena for this intra-Kurdish competition. Fearing that the PYD would bolster its role by assuming control of aid distribution, the KDP would intermittently close crossings on its side of the border, barring entry of supplies. As a result, living conditions deteriorated rapidly in Syria’s Kurdish areas. By mid-2013, residents faced dire shortages of electricity, water, food and gas, prompting a stream of departures for Iraqi Kurdistan. 200,000 had already fled by early August 2013, when the KRG closed the border.”