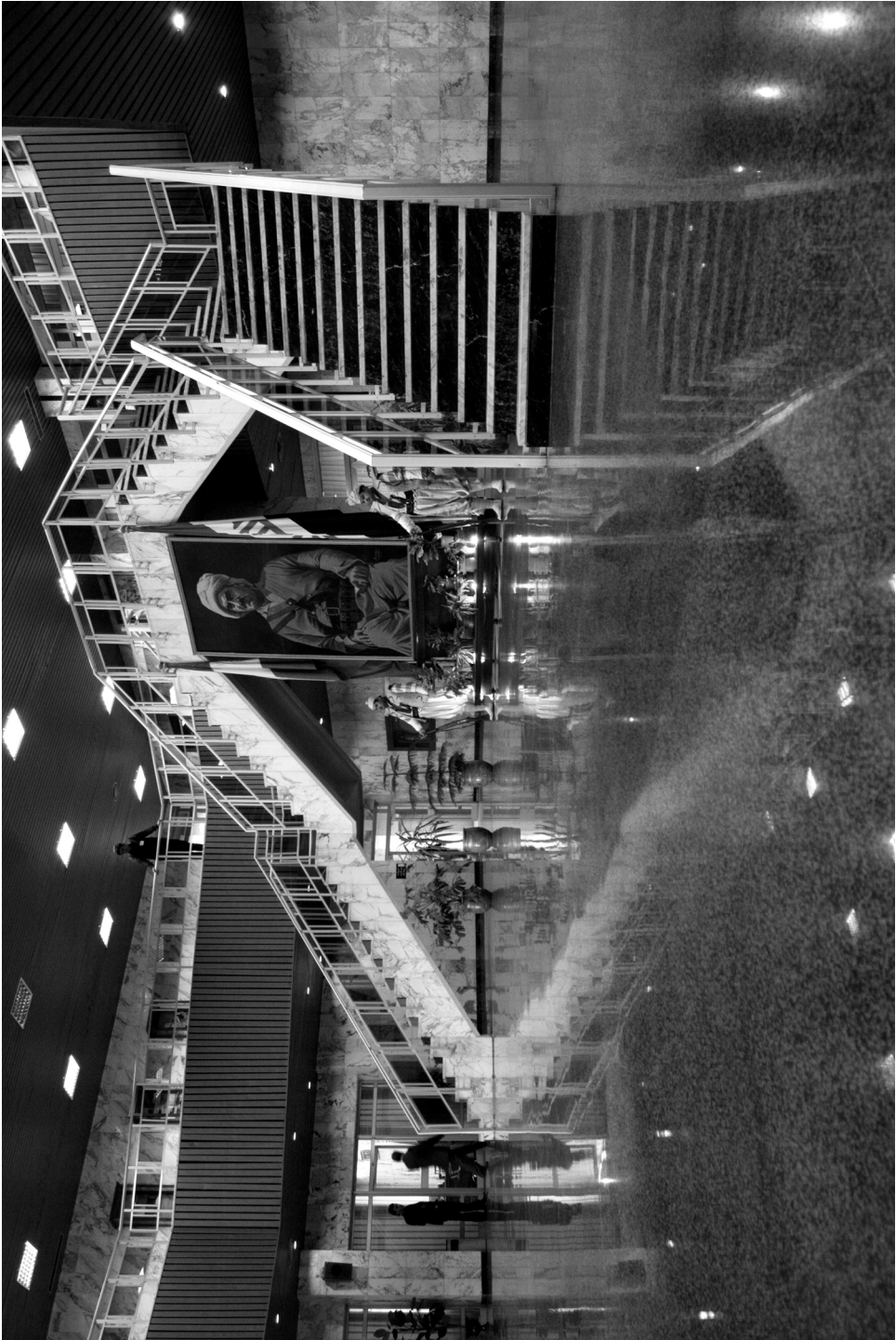


# **Photo Essay: Kurdistan's Armed Forces**

*Ian MacLellan, Geology '12*



The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Parliament building. Rather than fight for an independent state of their own, The residents and government of Kurdistan have largely put aside their personal grievances together as a region for a peaceful and democratic federal Iraq.



A Zerevani soldier plays an electric piano in the dining hall of a base outside Erbil. A portrait of Iraqi Kurdistan President Masoud Barzani hangs on the wall above the soldier. The Zerevani Special Forces are part of the Kurdish peshmerga. Within the myth and lore of the peshmerga there is a sanctification of the mountains and of political figures such as Mullah Mustafa Barzani, father of the current president.



Zerevani soldiers practice hand-to-hand combat. The Zerevani, like the rest of the Kurdish military and government, are transitioning from fighting in the mountains to organizing a region and providing regular services and support.



Portrait of a female Zerevani soldier.



Two Zerevani soldiers on a training course.