

To the All Concerned Parties regarding the assassination of Kurdish Journalist Wedad Hussein

To the United Nations

To All Defending Human Rights and Freedom of Speech Organisations

To All the European Countries' and the US Consulates in Erbil

At 09:30 in the morning on 13 August 2016, our son Wedad Hussein, a correspondent for Roj News Agency in Duhok, while driving through Malta street in Duhok was kidnapped by two unidentified people. According to an eyewitness, Amir Dawd, who witnessed this and then later posted the scene on his Facebook account, two unmarked, civilian cars with three unidentified people forced Wedad Hussein to get out of the car, one of the men had pointed a fire arm at Wedad's head while the other had him forcibly handcuffed, hooded and thus kidnapped.

Two hours later, the police arrived, seizing Wedad's car. Unfortunately his body, wounded with signs of torture was found in the road between Seje and Semel. Eyewitnesses at the time location say, "I saw him on the road and straightly informed the squire of the village of Seje." According to the squire of Seje who had come to see Wedad, Wedad was still alive. He states that: "Wedad asked for some water and he also said that his home is in Duhok at Gre Base neighborhood."

After this, the police of Semel were informed and brought Wedad to the hospital of Semel. In the hospital, Wedad was alive for about two hours. Yet the question that lingers is why wasn't Wedad taken to the Duhok Emergency Hospital where he would receive emergency treatment. Wedad passed away in Semel hospital where he was isolated and by the time his family arrived he had already passed and was unable to tell them what led to his untimely death. Therefore we are calling on all international human rights organizations and those who defend freedom of speech, European and American consulates in Erbil to investigate and to put pressure on Kurdistan Regional Government so that an international independent committee may investigate the abduction of Wedad. The men who are responsible in the abduction and murder of Wedad are free. A law suit has been filed in Duhok court and yet there is little clarification. We were deeply saddened to hear that the forensic report failed to mention how heavily tortured Wedad was, with electric cables and signs of third degree burns. The Eyewitness reports of Amir Dawd and the Squire of Seje village witness's accounts were never documented. None of the judges have so far been able to seriously and independently work in the case because the judiciary is not independent and or sovereign in the Kurdistan Region. After all, we, members of Wedad Hussein's family, are being monitored and also threatened by the authorities of the Kurdistan region which is ruled by a family. All of Wedad's family are under threat and observed of these criminal and authorities, We are thus afraid that another brother of Wedad may be murdered tomorrow if we are not locally and internationally supported as the governing authorities threats are strong and ruthless. If anything happens to us, the authorities of Duhok should be held accountable, the very same authorities whom threatened Wedad Hussein before his murder several times. Last

time it was by the Kurdistan Democratic Party's Asayish [Kurdish security] in Duhok. Finally, we, the family of Wedad Hussein, hold the Kurdistan Democratic Party led by the incumbent Kurdistan Region President Masoud Barzani and its intelligence force Parastin accountable for the murder of our son, Wedad Hussein. We are calling you all to work for justice and bringing justice to the murderers and the ones who were behind the murder through working on forming an international independent committee to investigate in the murder of journalist Wedad Hussein so that democracy will thrive and other journalists will be guaranteed that murderers of journalists will not remain unpunished.

Family of Martyr Journalist Wedad Hussein  
Duhok, Kurdistan Region of Iraq  
September 4, 2016