

**PUBLIC & COMMERCIAL SERVICES UNION**



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Dear President Barzani

I am writing on behalf of the National Branch Executive Committee of the Public & Commercial Services Union (PCS) at the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) to express our shock and sadness at the recent murder of Kurdish journalist Kawa Garmyani.

Kawa Garmyani was both the Editor of 'Rayal' and a correspondent for the 'Awene' newspapers. He was shot dead outside his home in Kalar on the 5 December 2013. We understand that three days before his murder Kawa had publicly announced that he was in possession of documents relating to a corruption case to which he intended to write an article for 'Rayal' magazine.

The branch understands that Kawa had been involved in disputes with local Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) leaders because of his investigative reporting and that he had recently registered a complaint with the police against one PUK official.

The branch has watched with interest the development of Government structures in Iraq and Kurdistan since the fall of Saddam Hussein. We believe that if Kurdistan is to become a democratic country it is vital that terror is not allowed to rule the streets. We therefore ask that the Kurdish Regional Government investigate this murder and take the necessary steps to bring the perpetrators to justice. We call on the Kurdish authorities to examine the allegations relating to those PUK officials responsible for threatening Kawa Garmyani.

The branch fully supports the freedom for the press and the right for all people to express their views openly; we therefore support the International Federation of Iraq Refugees' call for freedom of expression and of the press in Kurdistan.

Yours Sincerely

Paulette Romain  
Branch Secretary

CC:

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