

Sweden, Stockholm, 20 feb 2011

## Appeal

To:

Masoud Barzani / KDPs Chairman and President of the Regional Government in Iraqi Kurdistan

During the past two months we have witnessed how people in country after country in North Africa and the Middle East stood up against the corrupt and repressive regimes. The high unemployment, people's poor living conditions coupled with lack of freedom and the repression that has been practiced by the regimes in the region has now led to large demonstrations and protests in the region.

Now the waves of protest has spread all the way to Iraqi Kurdistan. (17 / 2) a peaceful demonstration was planned to take place at one of the city Sulemaniya large parks. Shortly after, many young people started throwing stones at the headquarters of the KDP, which is one of the ruling parties in Kurdistan Regional Government.

Instead of standing silent or otherwise attempting to prevent the stone throwing the KDP's armed guards opened fire at the demonstrators with live ammunition. All this can be seen on video taken by protesters.

According to the independent newspapers Awene, Hawlati and Lvinpress several young people were killed and over 40 people injured by the KDPs bullets. Most casualties were young. The youngest who was killed was only 15-16 years old.

We condemn this use of excessive force. We condemn the killings of young people and teenagers that manifest, even if they happened to throw stones at the party headquarters. We demand that the culprits in the KDP in Sulemaniya be brought to justice. KDP and the regional government as a whole must ensure protesters' safety.

People's right to express themselves and to manifest their views are universal rights that must be respected, even by the KDP and the Kurdish regional government in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Lars Ohly, Leader of the Left party and Member of the Swedish parliament , (V)

Helena Leander, Member of the Swedish parliament, (MP)

Eva Olofsson, Member of the Swedish parliament, (V)

Jan Lindholm, Member of the Swedish parliament, (MP)

Josefin Brink, Member of the Swedish parliament, (V)

Jacob Johnson, Member of the Swedish parliament, (V)

Annika Lillemets, Member of the Swedish parliament, (MP)

Hans Linde, Member of the Swedish parliament, (V)

Valter Mutt, Member of the Swedish parliament, (MP)

Kent Persson, Member of the Swedish parliament, (V)

Amineh Kakabaveh, Member of the Swedish parliament, (V)

Jabar Amin, Member of the Swedish parliament, (MP)

Bengt Berg, Member of the Swedish parliament, (V)

Torbjörn Björlund, Member of the Swedish parliament, (V)

Rossana Dinamarca, Member of the Swedish parliament, (V)

Hillevi Larsson, Former Member of the Swedish parliament, (S)

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