**Petition condemning and protesting the kidnapping and murder of Kurdish journalist Sardasht Othman
5 May 2010**

We are deeply concerned about the kidnapping and murder of Kurdish journalist, Sardasht Othman on 4th of May 2010. He was kidnapped in front of the faculty of languages in Salahaddin University located in the center of Erbil, the capital of Kurdistan. His dead body was discovered two days later in Mosul.

Sardasht Othman wrote under the name Dashti Othman. His murder is another very dangerous sign for Kurdish independent and critical journalists, following the murder of Soran Mama Hama in Kirkuk in 2008.

Kidnapping a journalist in Erbil taking him outside the Kurdish region to Mosul and killing him there shows that his murder was organized by a group, not by an individual person. The Kurdish regional government and security forces must make it a top priority to investigate this murder and find the murderers. It is the duty of security forces to protect journalists and all other citizens. Terrorists kill journalists. If the government of the KRG is unable find the murderers, it will show that it is ineffective in opposing terrorists.

We as a group of writers and journalists in Iraqi Kurdistan, think that kidnapping and threatening journalists threatens the beginning of a dangerous era. Threats to the safety of journalists is unacceptable. We can’t be silent any more.

If KRG police cannot find the murderers and does not vigorously investigate the case, we will demonstrate in the capital city of KRG and other big cities.

Here, we ask the Presidency of Kurdistan region, Kurdistan parliament, KRG, UN, CPJ, Reporters without Borders, Human Rights Watch, and all other international organizations who are concerned about freedom of speech and human rights to investigate this case and press to find the murderers and bring them to trial in a court of law.

Names:

1. Asos Hardi
2. Ahmad Mira
3. Kamal Rauf
4. Dr.Farhad Pirbal
5. Bakhtyar Sayid
6. Shwan Muhammad
7. Adnan Usman
8. Halgurd Samad
9. Chiman Salih
10. Kazhaw Jamal
11. Azeez Mahmud
12. Jabar Jamal Gharib
13. Rebin Rasul
14. Smko Muhammad
15. Hemn Mamand
16. Diyar Azizi Sharif
17. Ibrahim Ali
18. Hemn Baqr
19. Dashti Sabah
20. Kamaran Muhammad
21. Saman Majid
22. Rebin Fattah
23. Umar Star
24. Hazhar Anwar
25. Awara Hamid
26. Kamal Chomani
27. Barzan Hasan
28. Mariwan Mala Hasan
29. Burhan Qadir
30. Saman Basharati
31. Ibrahim Hamaamin
32. Ramal Rabw
33. Imad Rafhat
34. Dr.Makhdid Sapan
35. Salah Mazin
36. Kawa Abdulkarim
37. Nahro Alayi
38. Almas Muhammad
39. Shilan Yasin
40. Shwan Taving
41. Shler Bapiri
42. Salih Qadir
43. Bakhtyar Palani
44. Niyaz Abdulla
45. Nizar Gzali
46. Rasul Sultani
47. Shawqi Kanabi
48. Hemn Malazada
49. Aram Qaradakhi
50. Hawkar Hamad
51. Alwand Hamid
52. Zaniyar Asa’ad
53. Isa Khdir
54. Hangaw Hashim
55. Sarkhel Hashim
56. Shamar Akrawi
57. Lanja Abdulla
58. Hemnin Karim Mamrash
59. Avan Faris Jaf
60. Farhad Mala Hasan
61. Farman Sadiq
62. Saman Faruq
63. Wrya Baqr
64. Farhad Hirani
65. Bekas Hamad Qadir
66. Namo Abdulla
67. Nabaz Goran
68. Bryar Namiq
69. Baram Subhi