

Luis Ayala  
General Secretary of Socialist International

Date: 12<sup>th</sup>. July 2015

Dear Ayala,

We would like to introduce the case of killing 5 of our members by the forces of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which is led by Jalal Talabani and is an affiliated member of your organisation. In the remainder of this letter we briefly summarise the issues and we trust that you will consider the facts presented.

After besieging our headquarters and cutting electricity and drinking water, the PUK's armed militia attacked us on 14th July 2000 in Sulaymaniya, killing 5 of our members. Far from any humane tradition and custom, they hid the bodies.

Following this attack the PUK launched a campaign of detaining and imprisoning hundreds of our members and affiliates, closing down all our bases and plundering our properties. On the 15 July 2000 the PUK raided organisations in which our party was active, such as the Independent Women Organisation, Defending Women Centre (Shelter), The Centre of Defending Children Rights, and the Teachers' Organisation. After plundering these organisations and detaining their activists they closed the organisations, thereby halting their activities. As a result of these attacks the political activity of the Worker-communist Party was forbidden.

The PUK's pretext was that our party defended the people's right to self-determination, the establishment of a secular non-sectarian state and political freedom, and favours the abolition of the Iraqi Personal Code and the guarantee by law of equality between men and women in Kurdistan.

Although the killing of our comrades happened overtly and publically, we attach documents that reveal the forces that carried it out and the stance of the freedom-loving people. It is expected that you, as a third party, will look at and judge this incident and the other crimes of the PUK conscientiously.

The PUK is still not willing to accept responsibility for the attack on our offices and uses its authority in the courts of Kurdistan to prevent the legal process of the case and inhibit the facts from being exposed.

It is about four years since we requested that this case be investigated by the courts. Besides putting the perpetrators before justice, our main intention is to secure respect for political freedom and see

it applied to every party, ensuring the commitment of the authorities and other parties to civil and political struggle instead of using armed force in any dispute.

The PUK claims to be a social-democratic party and it is a member of your organisation. The actions and crimes of this party against people in general, the other political parties and our party should be of concern to you because they affect the reputation of the Socialist International.

We therefore ask you to consider this letter and exert pressure on the leadership of the PUK to:

1. Stop hindering the legal process and allow the complaint against itself to come before the courts.
2. Be ready to come to the court and bring all the persons accused in this case to prove their innocence.

We would like the opportunity to meet with you to explain the whole case and the allegations in this letter in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

Dashty Jamal  
Chairperson  
Worker-communist Party of Kurdistan  
Abroad Organisation

Attachment:

Document about the incident