

To Human right Organisations and Freedom loving people

Calling for releasing the imprisoned activists in Kurdistan

Date:17/02/2021

We wrote to you in November to inform you of the detention of Iraqi journalist Sherwani, and other activists in the Erbil and Duhok area by the Kurdistan Democratic Party forces. They all took part in demonstrations and protests of people against poverty, unemployment and unpaid wages of the governmental employees.

We are writing to you about yesterday's (16 February 2021) decision of the court of Erbil concerning Sherwani and four of his colleagues (names mentioned below). The court has just sentenced them to six years imprisonment on false and fabricated charges. The fact is that this verdict is political and the court is biased towards the Barzani family and party. It is political because the court has stated that they sentenced the people due to their claim to overcome the government. This is a justification that can be used against anyone who stands against the injustice and miserable conditions of life imposed by the authorities.

We also draw your attention that there are some other people who still remain in custody for the same reason of protesting against the authorities.

As we consider this resolution as unfair and despotic, we ask you to exert pressure on the authorities and demand:

1. The immediate annulment of the verdict.

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As we consider this resolution as unfair and despotic, we ask you to exert pressure on the authorities and demand:

1. The immediate annulment of the verdict.
2. Releasing these six people and the others.
3. Compensating all those detained and their families.

The names of those sentenced:

1. Sherwan Sherwani
2. Guhdar Zebari
3. Ayaz Karam
4. Shvan Saeed
5. Hariwan Issa

We look forward to your response.

Kind Regards

Dashty Jamal
In charge of Abroad Organisation
Worker-communist Party of Kurdistan

Please write to: KRG 2 Hobart Place Belgravia London SW1W0HU
email karwan.jamal@gov.krd

بۆ پهيوهند كرتن: دهشتى جهمال

Email: dashtyjamal@gmail.com *Tel:* 44(772)029-15168; *Website:*
www.hkkurdistan.org