

We condemn the brutal killings of Amina and Shawbo - victims of so called “honour killings” in Kurdistan

It is unbelievable to hear the news about a 12 years old girl, brutally killed by her father because he suspected her of having a relationship with their 24-year-old male neighbour. Amina was killed on the 5th May 2007 by her own father in their house opposite the Ministry of Human Rights in Erbil, Kurdistan.

Amina’s father is said to be a PUK military official who has not been charged or even punished for killing his daughter up until now. It is said that Amina begged her father not to kill her, and that she kissed her father’s feet twice for mercy. He was cruel enough to ignore his 12 years old daughter’s innocent plea and killed her in cold blood.

Shawbo Ali Rauf, aged 19 years old, is another victim of the so-called “honour killings”. According to her father, her in-laws killed her on 12th May 2007. She was married to Hemn Mawlod Ali (known as Namr Mhamada Ali in Britain). Hemn has refugee status in Britain.



It is said that she had gone back to her father’s house after having been treated badly by her in laws; she was accused of having a telephone number of some one not known to her in laws in her mobile phone. Hemn took Shawbo to a picnic to Dokan, and he killed her there. It is clear that she was shot seven times. She was beaten harshly and many parts of her body had broses and scars.

According to her father two other killers were involved; Samir Mawlod Ali and Mama Mawlod Ali. They too have refugee status in Britain.

It is very clear that these murderers feel safe to kill female members of their families in Kurdistan, as they can kill women freely and escape punishment.

The situation in Kurdistan is a dangerous one, and it seems that the authorities are not taking any measures to protect women's lives. According to reports another 12 women have so far been killed, strangled, or burnt by their families in order to clear the shame on a family's so-called "honour". All these incidents are happening just after the brutal public stoning to death of Doa on 7th April 2007.

So called "honour killings" are an epidemic in Iraqi Kurdistan, and the authorities are responsible to put an end to this hidden war against women in this region.

Women in Kurdistan need our support and international solidarity to strengthen their struggle against violence and terror against women and to put pressure on the Kurdish government to enforce a law that guarantees equality and dignity to all women. Also the British government is responsible to bring to justice the killers of Shawbo Ali who was killed by her husband and other two men who have refugee status in Britain.

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