

March 28, 2020

Statement by KRG Coordinator Office for International Advocacy (OCIA)

The Assailants who Attacked Adnan Rashedi Have Been Arrested

On March 26, 2020, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) released an article which described assaulting a journalist in Penjwin called Adnan Rashedi. One of the assailants claimed to be a member of Asayish security forces, the article stated. The assailants tortured Adnan Rashedi, humiliated his wife and daughter, and seized his press equipment. CPJ asked KRG to immediately launch a course of action to arrest the perpetrators and take them to justice.

KRG's Coordinator Office for International Advocacy has a coordinative connection with CPJ and most of the agencies involved in human rights affairs. This coordination formula suggests that the foreign counterparts shall inform KRG of the outstanding issues so that both sides would be aware of the progress made before they release such statements. Nevertheless, CPJ in Adnan Rashedi's case has bypassed KRG counterpart department and failed to mention and observe our notes in the matter.

Rashedi sued the perpetrators on March 17 for torturing, assaulting and seizing his press equipment. What followed was the arrest of two of them on the same day, while the investigation was in process for the previous ten days. On March 27, following an order from Penjwin Chief Investigation Judge, Penjwen security forces found and arrested the main assailant (K.M.S) who is thirty in age. The latter confessed his wrongdoing, and also uttered the name of the last remaining crime associate (C.H.G), whose age is thirty-seven. Now both of them are in custody under Articles 421, and 31-405, respectively, from the Iraqi Penal Code.

Adnan Rashedi is an editor for Kurdistan Human Rights Association in KRI. Rashedi announced that he had been attacked in his house by a group of unknown people from whom one claimed to be a member of Asayish security forces. He was tied up by ropes and cuffs, beaten by rods until his arm broken, and had his press equipment taken.

Freedom of press and journalism rights is enshrined in Law of Journalism No.35 of 2007. The aforementioned law inclusively highlights the duties and rights of journalists and media outlets. KRG treats every aspect of human rights with ultimate importance, especially in the journalism field. Meanwhile, journalism should abstain from violating the privacy of others and harming social security.

KRG's Coordinator Office for International Advocacy