

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Iraq: Authorities must investigate killing of journalist

Amnesty International has called on the authorities of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to launch immediately an independent, impartial and thorough investigation into the killing on 5 December of Kurdish journalist Kawa Muhammad Ahmad Garmyani, who was shot dead outside his house in Kalar, south of Suleimaniya, by gunmen who fled the scene.

Kawa Garmyani, aged 31, was the editor of the monthly magazine *Royal* and a correspondent for the daily newspaper *Awene*. He had been investigating corruption by officials in the Garmyan region of Iraqi Kurdistan and had published a series of articles on the subject in *Royal*. He recently announced on his Facebook page that he was in possession of documents relating to land corruption and that his next article would reveal the names of officials in the *Royal* magazine. He said that he received anonymous death threats over the phone shortly afterwards.

Kawa Garmyani had received other threats in previous years in connection with his work and had initiated lawsuits against individuals he believed were responsible for threatening him.