



Joint Statement by Women Activists and Human Rights Organisations on the Death of Ghazal Mawlan

Justice Must Be Served: End Discriminatory Medical Practices and Protect the Fundamental Right to Life

Ghazal Mawlan, a 20-year-old woman and a member of the Kurdish organisation of Iran, was critically injured on April 14 following drone attacks carried out by the Islamic Republic of Iran targeting a refugee camp in Soordash in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Despite her urgent and life-threatening condition, she was transferred between multiple hospitals in Sulaymaniyah and was systematically denied medical treatment due to her political identity and discriminatory legal and administrative barriers.

Bakhshin Hospital, fully equipped to provide the necessary care, explicitly refused treatment on political grounds, citing lack of authorisation from local police under the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), as well as policies prohibiting the admission of Iranian nationals or individuals affiliated with Peshmerga forces. This refusal constitutes a deliberate denial of life-saving care.

We, as women's organisations and human rights activists, unequivocally condemn this act as a grave violation of international human rights law and medical ethics. We hold the Kurdistan Regional Government responsible for enforcing discriminatory and unlawful policies that directly contributed to the death of Ghazal Mawlan. These policies institutionalise medical discrimination and transform healthcare providers into agents of political exclusion, in clear breach of their legal and ethical obligations.

We further assert that the denial of treatment in this case constitutes a violation of the fundamental right to life, as protected under international human rights frameworks, and breaches core principles of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions, which mandate the non-discriminatory treatment of the wounded and sick under all circumstances.

Medical professionals and institutions are bound by the Hippocratic Oath and universally recognised ethical standards to provide care impartially and without discrimination. The actions of Bakhshin Hospital and any other involved institutions represent a serious dereliction of duty and a violation of medical neutrality. The refusal to treat a patient on political grounds is not only unethical, it may amount to criminal conduct.

We therefore call for immediate, independent, and transparent investigations into the role of Bakhshin Hospital, its administrative authorities, and all relevant officials. We demand that those responsible be held fully accountable through appropriate legal mechanisms. This includes potential disciplinary actions, suspension or revocation of medical licenses, and, where applicable, civil and criminal prosecution under both domestic and international legal standards.



Accountability in this case is essential not only for justice for Ghazal Mowlan, but also to send a clear and unequivocal message: discrimination in medical care will not be tolerated, and violations of human dignity and medical neutrality will carry consequences.

Finally, we call on all human rights defenders, women's rights movements, civil society actors, and people of conscience worldwide to take action. Raise your voices. Demand accountability. Pressure the Kurdistan Regional Government to repeal all discriminatory laws and practices that restrict access to medical care based on nationality, political identity, or affiliation.

Healthcare is not a privilege to be granted or withheld based on politics, it is a fundamental human right. The use of medical systems as instruments of political control is unlawful, unethical, and indefensible under any circumstances.

Please add the name and organization to the list:

1. Helaleh Taheri, Founder of Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation(MEWSO)The UK
2. Dashty Jamal, Secretary of the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR)- The UK
3. Bahar Munzir, Board Member of the Independent Women's Organisation (IWO)- Iraq/Kurdistan
4. Sawsan Salim, Director of Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Rights (KMEWO) The UK
5. Saeed Arman, Secretary of the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (BIMARZ) -The UK
6. Abdulkarim Abdulsada Omran (Abu Watan), President of the General Federation of Workers' Unions in Iraq & President of the General Energy Union- Iraq
7. Dabin Organisation for Democracy Development and Human Rights-Iraqi Kurdistan
8. The March 8 Network- (Composed of 63 organisations, Journalists, academics established 2022, to advocate for women's rights and struggle for equality between women and men in Kurdistan)
9. Kurdistan Justice Seekers – Iraqi Kurdistan
10. Alience for Workers Liberty -The UK
11. Azar Majedi, Spoke Woman of Women Liberation Organisation (WLO) Iran
12. Mercedeh Ghaedi, Board member of No To Execution in Iran
13. Solayman Ghasemiani, Chair Man-Working class Art and Literacy-Hana magazine- Sweden
14. Movement For Justice By Means Necessary- The UK
15. Maryam Namzi, Spoke Woman of One Law for All-The UK
16. Rebwar Aref, head of the congress of Freedom and Change- Kurdistan/Iraq
17. Freedom for Sustainable Development in Kurdistan- Kurdistan/Iraq
18. Azizeh Lotfi, Board member of the Kurdistan Women's Union- Kurdistan/Iran
19. Abi Asadi, The secretary of International Federation of Iranian Refuge- Sweden



20. Sahra Bahar, Member of Justic for Prisoners in Iran, Against Execution-Iran
21. Halala Rafi, International Committee for Women's Rights & Women's Shelter Nina-Sweden
22. Sara Mohamd, Chair Woman for Never Forget Pela & Fadima- Sweden
23. Mohammad Alloush, Secretary-General of the Palestinian Workers' Struggle Union-Palestine
24. Dian Nami, Executive Director of Kurdish & Iranian Women organisation-IKWRO