

October 10, 2018

Dear Supporters of IraQueer and LGBT+ Rights Globally,

IraQueer members are heartbroken after confirming the killing of two LGBT+ individuals in the last three days in Iraq. The 17 year old Hamoudi Al Mutairi whose photo was circulated on social media was stabbed to death in Zaafaraniyah neighborhood in Baghdad on October 7th, 2018, and was filmed while dying. The second victim whom identity will be kept anonymous his boyfriend's request was shot in the head in Kirkuk city on October 8th, 2018 by someone who shouted "I'll clean up my city" before shooting the victim. Based on the information IraQueer has at this moment, these crimes seem to be purely homophobic attacks against people who are perceived to be LGBT+.

This is not the first time that extremist groups target LGBT+ people and others in Iraq. Several women have been killed last month because of their social media presence or/and activism. While LGBT+ people have been facing killing campaigns every year since 2006. Not even one person has been held accountable for the killing of an LGBT+ individual.

This type of violence has pushed LGBT+ Iraqis further into isolation and fear. It has been negatively impacting our ability to mobilize and demand accountability. LGBT+ Iraqis continue to be marginalized by the Iraqi government and other influential groups.

All of us at IraQueer will honor these two victims by continuing our fight for LGBT+ people in Iraq. But we will not be able to do so without support. IraQueer calls upon the newly formed Iraqi government and the international community to take immediate actions, investigate these murders, and put an end to the killings of LGBT+ Iraqis. The right to life is the most basic human right and the Iraqi government has the responsibility under domestic and international laws to protect its citizens. IraQueer demands that the Iraqi government extends the protections guaranteed under Iraqi laws to all Iraqi citizens without exceptions. Those who target women, LGBT+ people, and others must be held accountable.

For more info, contact IraQueer at hello@iraqueer.org.

In solidarity,

IraQueer Team