

Press release
February 24, 2006

Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists denounces the killing of Journalists Atwar and her colleagues in Samera

The Amman-based Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists (CDFJ) has expressed condolences to the Al-Arabiya Satellite TV Channel over the martyrdom of its journalists while on assignment on February 23, 2005.

In a statement issued today, the center condemned this "hideous crime which led to the death of journalist Atwar Bahjat, photojournalist Adnan Abdullah and sound technician Khaled Mohsen".

It noted that this vicious act was a direct threat to all journalists in Iraq and to all those who believed in press freedom.

The center has called on the Iraqi government, the occupation forces and the international community to move swiftly to secure the safety of Iraqi media people since such criminal acts have led to the death of dozens of journalists in Iraq.

The CDFJ has renewed its demand for the absolute rejection of the policy of killing and assassination aimed at intimidating media people in Iraq so as to silence them and turn a blind eye to the truth.

The center stressed the need to form independent probe committees to ensure tracking down the killers and bring them to justice for their cowardly and outrageous acts.

It added that no perpetrators had yet been identified and there were no serious investigation committees seeking the truth behind such crimes.

The center noted that the killers were under the impression that the serial of such terrorist acts against journalists would bring the Iraqi people to their knees, but the truth of the matter such acts would consolidate and solidify the unity of people.