

**President Mr Fuad Masum
Iraqi Embassy in Brussels
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 115
1150 Brussels
Belgium**

Brussels, 30 September 2014

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), which, through the national Bars and Law Societies of the Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area, represents more than 1 million European lawyers. In addition to membership from EU bars, it also has observer representatives from a further thirteen European countries' bars.

The CCBE, through its Human Rights Committee, places great emphasis on respect for human rights and the rule of law. The CCBE is particularly concerned by the situation of human rights defenders in the world.

The CCBE has been informed that Ms Samira Saleh Al-Naimi, lawyer and human rights defender, was killed on the evening of 22 September 2014 by a group of masked armed men who belong to ISIS and opened fire and killed her in a public square in Mosul. She had been kidnapped by ISIS from her home after she described as "barbaric" the widespread damage that ISIS perpetrated on ancient features of her city.

We would like to express our shock and sorrow at the brutal murder of our colleague, Ms Samira Saleh Al-Naimi, in such abhorrent circumstances. We have also written to the Secretary General of the United Nations to urge the United Nations to investigate the execution of Ms Samira Saleh Al-Naimi, and to bring the authority of the United Nations in support of lawyers and other citizens in the areas of Iraq controlled by ISIS. The CCBE is ready to give what assistance it can to your government in order to contribute to the rule of law in Iraq.

Yours sincerely,



Aldo BULGARELLI
President