

Justice for Salwa is Justice for All

Biography of Salwa Bugaighis

Salwa Bugaighis was a human rights lawyer renowned throughout Libya for her work defending political prisoners arrested by the Qaddafi regime. In early 2011, Salwa gained further notoriety as one of the first women to take part in protests against the Qaddafi regime in front of the courthouse in Benghazi. These protests would subsequently lead to the full outbreak of revolution.

Throughout Libya's revolution, Salwa continued to play a prominent political role, including her work as an organizer of the February 17 coalition – the body responsible for forming Libya's first opposition government in over four decades.

Following the removal of the Qaddafi regime, Salwa remained an active force in the country's ongoing political transition. She became an original member of Libya's National Transitional Council (NTC), the Vice-President for the National Dialogue Preparatory Commission and a member of the Committee for Development of the Judiciary System.

Outside of government, Salwa was a founding member of the Initiative for National Action- the body is calling for redrafting the road map of Libya's transition. Salwa also struggled tirelessly to ensure women's presence and participation in decision-making and society. She was one of the founders of the Libyan Women's Platform for Peace and rapidly became one of the most well known figures in her field. She also earned deep respect for her unbending resolve and commitment to the initial goals and objectives of the revolution, resigning from her position within the NTC after three and a half months in protest at the lack of women in the new government.

Salwa established a unique place in the hearts of many, particularly through her constant support to female candidates and her skillful and effective lobbying of Libya's fledgling government.

Salwa Bugaighis was assassinated on the 25th June 2014.