

A Paper published by the Union of Unemployed in Iraq - UUI , Network of the UUI & FWCUI Representative Abroad

Appeal to all Trade unions and progressive organizations worldwide Re: holding a conference for workers of the southern Iraq in Basra

Dear friends

Dear freedom loving labour activists

The Federation of worker Councils and trade Unions in Iraq –FWCUI has determined to hold a conference for southern Iraq workers in Basra in November 25th 2004. More than 25 trade unions and labor organizations from various sectors such as southern oil company trade union, power distribution company, river transportation, Harbor workers, constructions, gas company, etc.... will participate in this conference. The purpose of this conference is to organize and unite the workers of the southern region of Iraq and their struggles (which include Basra, Imara, Nassiriya, Najaf, and Samawa), also to form an integrated leadership for the southern workers. The conference will discuss the following issues:

1. Draft labor law according to the international standards
2. Methods of the workers interventions in the political situations in Iraq and the ways of termination the series of instabilities and insecurities, formation of a secular and non ethnic government where the rights of individuals who live in Iraq are maintained equally regardless of their gender, religion, nationality, and ethnicity according to Geneva convection of human rights.
3. Other issues concerns the workers

situations in Iraq

4. The final part is going to be resolutions and elections to form a united leadership of the workers.

The conference will take two days long and will cost approximately \$15000. It is to cover the cost of accommodations, transportations, and to maintain secured atmosphere. The FWCUI is as everyone knows an independent union who has no support from any government, and relies in its activities on the membership fees only. Besides the transitional Iraqi government who is backed and supported by the American troops, confirmed the decree Nr. 16 which violates both ILO conventions Nr.98 and 87 regarding the freedom of trade unions and had imposed a puppet union over the workers as the only legal and official representative of labour movement in Iraq without any elections, also this union is pro-government union who receives a huge amount of financial support without any accountability or legal representation for the workers. We had filed a complaint in this regard along with our memorandum and submitted it to the ILO and other trade unions and organizations around the world. Your moral and financial support is the only way to make this conference succeed and it will be considered as a forward move in the Iraqi society and it will save it from the ethnic and religious conflicts that leads to killings of tens of innocent civilians on a daily bases.

Besides is to reintegrate the worker struggles in Iraq with their colleagues around the globe after an unwanted separation for more than 35 years.

We call on everyone to participate in this conference as monitors and we will assure your safety and security, transportations, and to prepare meetings for you with the workers and their leaders in Basra, Baghdad, Nassiriya, Kirkuk, etc....

Aso Jabbar, Rep.Abroad of Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq-FWCUI and in charge of Falah Alwan, President of FWCUI

October 2nd, 2004

Donations to be returned to this account Address:

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UUI
Sort code: 30 94 51
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Ilford IG1 3BZ London

Solidarity messages to be returned to this Contact

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UUI, Post Box 325, 3000 Bern 11,
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Moqdadyiah's Regional Governor leans on a decayed stick

On October 2, 2004, the regional Governor of the Iraqi town of Muqdadya organized a forum where he called for a vote to close the office of the Worker-communist Party of Iraq in this town. It is noteworthy that the leaders of WPIraq have recently launched a campaign to reveal the widespread corruption in governmental institutions including stealing public money and property, embezzlements, receiving bribes, pocketing money for non-existing projects while non of the projects to improve social services long waited by the residents of this town and suspected to be achieved by now have been carried out.

We want to inform the regional governor, that the American troops, Alawai's government and all pro-USA parties, that we are not a firm stick to lean on. It would have been more proper for the Interim Government to answer the hardships which face the society, provide solutions to the crises which control all aspects of life and treat the society's wounds starting from the most dangerous crisis which faces the Iraqi society, namely the crisis of unemployment which threatens all pillars of civility in the society, to the crisis of power, water supply, sewage system and public roads and others. Instead the puppet government has denied its responsibility toward the masses and resorts to savage military attacks and killing civilians including women and children, the method used by its bosses to solve the problems.

The Union of Unemployed in Iraq believes that the Worker-communist Party of Iraq is the only party, which dedicates its energy to support unemployed people and their organization-the UUI and its demands. Therefore the Worker-communist Party of Iraq is the only party, which represents the aspirations and hopes of the Iraqi masses. The UUI believes that these attacks on freedom-loving people and violations against political freedoms are part of the USA plot to silence all liberationist voices. The pro-USA parties are simply used as tools to implement this plot. The money given to these parties for non-existing projects and contracts is the price for agreeing to carry out this plot.

The UUI categorically condemns this violation of political freedoms and believes that the masses in Iraq will brush the puppet government aside and will dismiss the USA troops and all parties and forces collaborating with them. It is time that the masses get rid of all bribe-takers and political gamblers and to rule themselves through their own representatives without the proposed elections to be conducted by occupation forces. There is no place in Iraq for a new dictatorship anymore.

Leading Committee of Union of Unemployed in Iraq October 4, 2004

UUI Opens an Office in Basra, Iraq

On July 13, 2004, Qasim Hadi the secretary of the Union of Unemployed in Iraq oversaw the opening of the UUI's office in Basra. The office was opened in cooperation with the Association of Homeless Families in Basra. Comrades Abdul Karim Abdul Saada (Abo Watan) and Sami Hassan Musa (Abu Kifah) the leaders of the association were present during the ceremony.

Mr. Adnan and two other activists vol-

unteered to work on behalf of UUI to achieve the wishes and aspiration of unemployed workers in Basra who have lost their jobs because of 13 years of economic embargo, policies of the fascist Baath regime and the wars especially the latest war launched by the American and British governments.

During the celebration several participants delivered speeches. UUI volunteers indicated that it was necessary to unit the ranks of unemployed

people to expel the occupying forces and build a mass alternative instead of a puppet government that serve the occupation. The speeches reflected the will of the masses and their insistence to solve the hardships faced by the unemployed workers. Speakers also emphasized the importance of direct intervention in political arena by the masses and developing an alternative to build a civil society.

Union of Unemployed in Iraq

Voice of Iraqi Workers

Editor in Chief ; Aso Jabbar, Email; asojabbar@yahoo.com

Address: UUI, P.Box 325, CH-3000 Bern 11 , Tel: 0041 78 882 55 89 ,

www.uuiraq.org

Hundreds of Workers, Labour activists and Unions in South Korea endorsed the complaint of UII and FWCUI to ILO and demand that ILO Conventions 87 and 98 be fully enforced in Iraq. October 2004

(Complaint lodged to the ILO trade union freedom committee by the Federation of Workers Councils and Trade Unions in Iraq (FWCUI) and the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq (UII)). Please look to this internet link to read text of the complaint .

http://www.uuiraq.org/english/Labour_Unions.htm

List of the Korean Labour Activists and Workers who endorsed our Compliant to ILO

An Seong Gon "Korea Rail Way Union"
 Bang Bok Hyun "Subway Union"
 Byun Hyun Joo / Theatrical Group "SAE-BYEOK"
 Cha Sang Yeol "Korea Rail Way Union"
 Chae Eui Soo / Volunteer of "Solidarity for Abolition of Unstable Labour"
 Cheon Yeon Ock Worker
 Cheon Yeong Suk / "For Workers' Council"
 Choi Da Hye
 Choi Ho Jin "Korea Rail Way Union"
 Choi Hye Soon
 Choi Min Yeong / "Countermeasure Committee for Residence in Dayeon & Uam"
 Choi Seong Min
 Choi Yoeng / "Center for Overcoming of Unemployment in Busan"
 Ha Gye Jin Worker
 Ha Jae Myeong / "For Workers' Council"
 Ha Seon Yeong / Cultural Commune "SogeuMkott"
 Han Dae Gu "Korea Rail Way Union"
 Han Eun Hee / "Center for Overcoming of Unemployment in Busan"
 Han Ji Hye
 Han Seong Wook "Korea Rail Way Union"
 Hong Sang Sim / "Memory of Teacher, Sin Yong Gil"
 Hong Seok Wan Gia Motors Union
 Hong Woong Sik / "National Stallmen's Association"
 Hur Myeong Hyun "Korea Rail Way Union"
 Jang Seok Tae "Subway Union"
 Jeong Bong Wha "Subway Union"
 Jeong Chan Sik

Jeong Chun Seok "Korea Rail Way Union"
 Jeong Dae Cheol
 Jeong Hyun Cheol / "Clerical Workers' Union in Seoul & Kyeong-In"
 Jeong In Za
 Jeong Mi Keong / Clerical Worker
 Jeong So Jeong
 Jeong Whan Sik / "Civil Movement of Green Traffic"
 Jo Bock Soon
 Jo Chan Joo / "Socialist Political Association"
 Jo Gye Hyun Construction Union
 Jo Jong Wan "Subway Union"
 Jo Myeong Je "Korea Rail Way Union"
 Jo Yong Soo
 Kang Ju On
 Kang Kyeong Suk
 Kang Mi Seng / "Clerical Workers' Union in Seoul & Kyeong-In"
 Kang Tae Wook "Korea Rail Way Union"
 Kang Young Jun "Korea Rail Way Union"
 Kim Dae Hee / "Korea Social Insurance Union"
 Kim Gi Whan / "For the Democratic Bus Union"
 Kim Hyun Kyeong
 Kim Hyung Gyun "Korea Rail Way Union"
 Kim Hyung Jeong
 Kim Jae Eu
 Kim Jeong Min Worker
 Kim Ji Whoon "Korea Rail Way Union"
 Kim Jin Han "Subway Union"
 Kim Jong Gon "Korea Rail Way Union"
 Kim Jong Mi / Cultural Commune "SogeuMkott"
 Kim Kwang Nam / "Countermeasure Committee for Residence in Dayeon & Uam"
 Kim Mi Ok
 Kim Sat Byeol
 Kim Woon Yong / "Korea Social Insurance Union"
 Kim Yu Na
 Kim Yu Ri
 Kim Yun Gil
 Kin Yeon Sun / "Countermeasure Committee for Residence in Dayeon & Uam"
 Lee Dong Gu / "Clerical Workers' Union in Seoul & Kyeong-In"
 Lee Dong Seop "Subway Union"
 Lee Dong Whon "Subway Union"
 Lee Du Seon ,Lee Hye Jin
 Lee Hyun Hun / "Memory of Teacher, Sin Yong Gil"
 Lee Hyun Sik / "For Workers' Council"
 Lee Hyun Wha
 Lee Hyung Ro / "Clerical Workers' Union in Seoul & Kyeong-In"
 Lee Jeong A
 Lee Jeong Ha
 Lee Jeong Rae Worker
 Lee Jeong Rae / Worker
 Lee Jung Hee "Subway Union"
 Lee Kang Geun "Subway Union"
 Lee Mi Yeong Health & Medical Union
 Lee Ok Sun
 Lee Seong Jae / "Clerical Workers' Union in Seoul & Kyeong-In"
 Lee Seong Min / "For Workers' Council"
 Lee Seung Chan / "Public Service Workers' Union"
 Lee Suk Gyeon / "Institute of Laboring Security & Health in Korea"
 Lee Yeong Gun / "Democratic Labor Party"
 Lee Yeong Ho / "Subway Union in Busan"
 Lee Yong Gyu "Subway Union"
 Lee-Whang Hyun A / "Institute of Policy for Workers' Enterprise"
 Lim Woo Chun / "Civil Movement of Green Traffic"
 Mun Jae Hoon Worker
 Mun Myeong Za
 Na Yeong Ae / Cultural Commune "SogeuMkott"
 Nam-gung Won / "Socialist Political Association"
 No Woo Seong "Korea Rail Way Union"
 O Sang Ryong Construction Union
 Park Cha Yeon / "Association for Realization for Residential Right"
 Park Chang Yong
 Park Hye Jeong
 Park Hyo Seok Worker
 Park Hyun Soo "Korea Rail Way Union"
 Park In Jo / "For Workers' Council"
 Park Jeong Chul "Korea Rail Way Union"
 Park Jeong Sang / "Goods Transporters' Solidarity"
 Park Ji Hoon Worker
 Park Ju Hee
 Park Moon Seok Worker
 Park Mun Suck / "Korea Facilities Management Union"
 Park Tae Geon "Subway Union"
 Seo Ryung Won.....

To p.4

A reply to the Stop The War Coalition

<http://www.workersliberty.org/node/view/3237>

13 October, 04

The officers of the Stop The War Coalition have issued a statement denouncing the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions (pictured), which was printed in the Morning Star of 11 October 2004. Here are the statement and a reply.

Stop The War Coalition officers' statement

Since the bloody and illegal invasion and subsequent occupation of Iraq by US and British armies, the Stop the War Coalition (StWC) has consistently called for the withdrawal of foreign troops and the ending of the occupation. This position commands the support of the great majority of the British people, and was recently reaffirmed as the unanimous position of the TUC. It also commands the support of the majority of the Iraqi people, as evidenced by opinion polling carried out by the occupation forces themselves.

At the same time StWC has always refrained from taking any position on the internal development of Iraq, since this is solely the preserve of the Iraqi people themselves. Affiliates of the Coalition have, of course, developed their own links with Iraqi organisations, according to their particular policies or spheres of interest.

However, the recent activity of the representative of the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU) in Britain compels the StWC to make its position clear. In recent weeks the IFTU representative has:

* Urged that the Labour Party conference welcome the puppet Iraqi premier Allawi, at a time when the entire anti-war movement was demanding that the invitation be withdrawn, which it subsequently was.

* Shared a platform with Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and the UK government's "human rights envoy" to Iraq Ann Clwyd, respectively a leading architect of and an indefatigable apologist for the war and the occupation.

* Most shamefully of all, energetically

lobbied the trade union affiliates of the Labour Party to oppose a motion, reflecting the union's own agreed policies, calling on Blair to set an early date for the withdrawal of British troops from Iraq.

In this last undertaking the IFTU representative worked as the direct instrument of the government and the Labour Party apparatus, which prepared and distributed his statements to delegates and ensured him access to union delegations. Indeed, the statement by the IFTU representative issued by the Party was not merely supportive of the continued military occupation of his country, but could also be read as supportive of the original invasion of Iraq.

There is little doubt that this intervention played a significant part in persuading some major trade unions (and perhaps constituency delegates too) to abandon their agreed policy on the occupation (affirmed at the TUC just two weeks earlier).

It is understandable that British trade unions should wish to express their support to the working class of Iraq in its extremely difficult struggles, and the StWC has always encouraged such support insofar as it falls within our political remit. The IFTU is one of a number of trade union and workers' organisations in Iraq, distinguished from others by its support for the Allawi government and, it is now apparent, for the foreign occupation on which that government depends for its existence.

The IFTU has, however, attempted to divide the anti-war movement from the trade unions by taking advantage of the goodwill towards it shown by a number of unions for honourable reasons of solidarity, the lack of understanding of the actual nature of different organisations in Iraq, and the climate of pre-election pressure from the government on trade union delegations.

As a result, several affiliated trade unions at the Labour Party conference voted for a policy of effectively open-ended licence for the occupation and against the early withdrawal of British troops.

The StWC hopes that the leading

unions will restate their previous policy of an end to the occupation. The coming weeks and months are likely to see still bloodier battles within Iraq, with a growing number of deaths both of Iraqis and of British and US soldiers. It remains most likely that the war and the occupation will remain the dominant political issues in the months leading up to the next British general election. The trade union movement must find a voice on these developments and cannot remain within the confines of the statement agreed at the Labour Party conference.

With regard to the IFTU, the StWC condemns its political collaboration with the British government, exemplified at the Labour Party conference and its view that genuinely independent trade unionism in Iraq can develop under a regime of military occupation (including the daily bombardment of major Iraqi cities) by the USA and Britain.

The StWC reaffirms its call for an end to the occupation, **To P.5**

From P.3

List of the Korean Labour Activists and Workers who endorsed our Compliant to ILO

Seo Yeong Nam Worker
 Seok Jung Wha
 Seok Yeong Jin
 Sim Yeun Ji
 Sin Byung Hyun / Professor
 Sin Seung Cheol / "Professor Union"
 Sin Sun Mi
 Sin Yong Tae "Subway Union"
 Son lee Heon / "Association for Realization for Residential Right"
 Song Jae Jun "Korea Rail Way Union"
 Whoang Jung A / Theatrical Group "SAEBYEOK"
 Yang Chun Bok "Committee for Dismissed Workers' Reinstatement"
 Yeem Tack Soon "Korea Rail Way Union"
 You Kyeong Hee "Korea Rail Way Union"
 You Sang Gee "Korea Rail Way Union"
 Yu Byung Min / Public Service Worker
 Yu In Cheol / "Workers' Association in Busan"
 Yu Mi Keong , Yu Whang Sun , Yun Moon Ho

From P.4... A reply to the Stop The War Coalition

the return of all British troops in Iraq to this country and recognises once more the legitimacy of the struggle of Iraqis, by whatever means they find necessary, to secure such ends.

Our reply (Workersliberty)

The Stop The War Coalition officers claim that they have "always refrained from taking any position on the internal development of Iraq, since this is solely the preserve of the Iraqi people themselves." So, they make no comment about suicide bombs killing children; or hostage-taking and beheading (of Iraqis as well as foreigners); or attempts to impose sharia law; or the Mahdi Army's destruction of an entire township of 10,000 people populated mainly by gypsies; or the political assassination by Islamists of left-wing activists like Muhammad Abdul Rahim, in Kut; or their killing of large numbers of women for practising professions or working as interpreters or with foreign companies; or their imposition of veiling on women, and bans on alcohol, wherever they dominate. The one thing that forces the STWC leaders to break their claimed silence is some manoeuvring at Labour Party conference.

The inescapable logic of what the STWC leaders are saying here is that the IFTU's actions are worse than killing innocent people, and that union bureaucrats (what the IFTU representative did was, basically, act like a union bureaucrat) are worse than Islamist or sectarian militias.

We disagree with what the IFTU did at the conference. Yes, the anti-Blair motion had deficiencies in wording. Yes, some of the speeches proposing it seemed foolishly to suggest that everything would be just fine if only Iraq were handed over to the Islamist militias.

But to get the conference to vote for a Blairite "NEC statement" gave Blair to come out of the conference with an effective "mandate" to continue backing Bush in Iraq. Bush is collaborating with some Islamist militias while he fights others with brutal and arrogant methods, indifferent to civilian casualties, whose political effect is only to boost groups like the Mahdi Army. (It

was a small group before the USA decided to try to "take it out").

The occupation's tolerance for trade union organisation is temporary, partial, and unstable; its dedication to the forced privatisation of Iraq is relentless.

We disagree with the IFTU's rallying to Allawi and the Interim Government as a "lesser evil" than Sadr, just as we disagree with the British unions' rallying to Blair as the "lesser evil" than Howard (with less excuse, since the Tories are much less scary than Sadr).

But we continue to support the IFTU as a trade-union organisation, as we continue to support Unison and the TGWU as trade-union organisations.

We also support other trade-union organisations in Iraq, like the Union of the Unemployed and the Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions, which aim to build a "third pole" in opposition to both the Islamist resistance militias on one side, and Allawi and the occupation forces on the other (while we disagree with the UUI's and FCWU's dismissal of the IFTU as a stooge organisation).

The STWC leaders go on from their specific denunciation of the IFTU to much worse: "With regard to the IFTU, the StWC condemns its political collaboration with the British government, exemplified at the Labour Party conference and its view that genuinely independent trade unionism in Iraq can develop under a regime of military occupation (including the daily bombardment of major Iraqi cities) by the USA and Britain."

The STWC leaders claimed not to presume tell Iraqis anything about the internal affairs of Iraq - but now they tell Iraqi workers that it is impossible to build independent trade unions under the occupation! So, presumably, not even worth trying!

That would explain why at the STWC conference in March, they opposed and defeated motions calling for solidarity with the democratic and secular forces in Iraq. They said then that STWC could give no preference to the democratic and secular forces over the Islamists. Now they say that the democratic and secular forces cannot exist!

In fact independent trade unions have

already been built in occupied Iraq. They will continue to be built. Independent trade unions have been built in many countries under foreign occupation, and often played an important role in colonial liberation struggles. Independent trade unions were built in South Africa under apartheid.

If independent trade unions and workers' parties cannot be built to fight to end the occupation, then who is going to end the occupation? Someone else, obviously, not trade unions or workers' parties. People who want trade unions had better hope that whoever stops the occupation and takes power is willing to let them set up "genuinely independent trade unions" afterwards, but it's not a good bet. Remember the experience of Iran. Many leftists thought that the Khomeiny movement was a genuine democratic movement, with just a superficial religious coloration. We were wrong. Khomeiny in power crushed independent trade unions, and the left, even more ferociously than the Shah had done.

The STWC leaders' statement just sets them up as able to denounce any trade union which it does not like as not a real trade union, because (they've already told us) real trade unions are not possible under military occupation. And if it is impossible to develop genuinely independent trade unions in Iraq, then what is it possible to develop? Genuinely independent sectarian militias! Genuinely independent movements for an Islamic state!

In their final sentence, the STWC leaders even more openly contradict their claim not to comment on the "internal developments of Iraq". After making the comment on "internal developments" that independent trade unions are not possible, they conclude by endorsing the "struggle of Iraqis, by whatever means they find necessary" against the occupation. Issued at almost the same time as the ceremonial beheading of Ken Bigley, this is a statement of specific support for the terroristic tactics and philosophy of the Islamist militias, and the "internal development" by which those militias hope to gain supremacy over the trade unions and other democratic and secular organisations in Iraq.

Solidarity Letter from Workers Solidarity Alliance in USA to the Conference of Workers Unions in Southern Iraq in November 2004

**To: the Federation of worker Councils and trade Unions in Iraq-FWCUI
November 2004, Basra**

Dear Friends,

Greetings from America and on behalf of the Workers Solidarity Alliance (WSA). The WSA sends you our good wishes and hope that your conference will be Successful. Although we will not be able to attend, however, we stand with the Independent workers organizations, the unemployed and the women's Organizations in your struggle to advance the cause of freedom, Secularism, woman's emancipation and decentralized and self-managed Workers and community control of production and distribution.

Yours in solidarity,

Mike Harris, Corresponding Secretary, Workers Solidarity Alliance , National Office
wsany@hotmail.com , www.workersolidarity.org.

A Statement Issued By the Trade Union Leaders

While we work on building labor organizations that represent the labor will and hope, our leaders and activists face the authority's suppression which bring back to our mind the acts of the former regime.

We declare here in our meeting that we stand unite with the labors who confronted and will confront the authorities in their efforts to earn their demands. Also we declare our solidarity with the transportation workers in the southern power company who opposed the resolution to transfer them against their choice, refused to follow orders in this regard, and disclosed the authorities' acts who called the police to arrest them. Because of the persistency of the workers the police didn't follow the orders too.

We also declare our solidarity with (Bassim Khalil) the secretary of the thermo power trade union who stood firm against all unjustified acts made against the workers by the authorities.

In addition we demand the ministry of finance to clarify its position towards the labor annual benefits that have

been veiled, we also demand the ministry of transportation to process the payment for those who returned to work, and their payment was not being made for more than 4 months. Meanwhile we call on the people to support the workers cause to achieve their essential goals and interests.

**Federation of Worker
Councils and Trade
unions in Iraq/ Basra**
22.10.2004

Workers Without Payment

For several months the returned workers in the sea transportation company didn't receive any kind of payment. These returned workers are either fired from jobs in the former regime era or who quit their jobs

because they refused to comply with its policy to be in one of its armed machinery like popular army, or Al-Quds army. Meanwhile they are waiting for their life to get better and being compensated, the authorities have

made them sign affirm not to demand their payment before at least 2 months and it has been extended till today which is considered unprecedented step that must be stopped firmly, the workers are being deprived from any payment on the other hand billions of dollars disappear in fraud and false contracts or any other sort of corruption.

Keeping the pressure over the authorities, we also call on all international organizations, trade unions, and human rights organizations to support sea transportation workers in Basra, and to pressurize the authorities to comply with the workers demands.

**Federation of Worker
Councils and Trade
unions in Iraq/ Basra**
30.10.2004

For a progressive Labour Law in Iraq

Who defends Iraqi workers?

by Houzan Mahmoud , November 2004

Under the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein, workers had no right to organize or strike. There were trade unions, of course, but their leaders were the regime's loyal collaborators, and the workers were often persecuted if the leaders reported them to the Ba'athist authorities. All the unions implemented the Ba'ath regime's rules, and workers had no right to protest. This went on for more than 30 years, and the segregation of Iraqi workers from the rest of the world was very damaging to their struggle in Iraq. Now the US war on Iraq, followed by the occupation, has created huge unemployment in Iraq and destroyed civil society. Nor does the future look promising, with the installation – against the will of the people in Iraq of a puppet Government which brings together the most right-wing forces tribal leaders, the religious mafia and nationalist and ethnocentric forces. In addition, the rise of political Islam in its various forms is resulting in a growing lack of security and an increase in terrorist activities, including hostage taking, beheading, veiling women and depriving women of work and education. Workplaces have been turned into battlefields. In April 2004, aluminium and sanitary supplies factory workers of Nasserya refused to give way to the Moqtada Al-Sadr's terror group's wish to turn the factory into a site of confrontation with US forces. In Samawa too, unemployed workers protesting for their rights were attacked by Islamist forces. Both the occupation and political Islam have created chaos and uncertainty in Iraq. The occupation gives the Islamists the pretext to con-

tinue their terrorism in Iraq under the slogan that they are fighting the "enemy of Islam" or defending the "land of Arabs". In reality, this as nothing to do with people's demands and desires for real freedom and equality. Helping and supporting these reactionary forces under the illusion that these are "resistance" forces will just further their terror and violence against the masses in Iraq – especially workers and women.

Despite all this, the working class has been organizing and protesting for their rights. A Union of the Unemployed in Iraq (UII) was formed, as the majority of workers became unemployed due to the war and occupation. They have organized at least 14 major protests in Baghdad and other cities and had a 45-day sit-in in front of the offices of Paul Bremer's civil administration for Iraq. The leaders of the union have been arrested by the US forces in Baghdad for defending the rights of unemployed workers. The Federation of Workers Councils and Trade Unions in Iraq (FWCUI), of which the Union of Unemployed is a member, was founded to organize workers in the unions and factories around a very progressive and secular agenda.

It seeks to defend the rights of men and women workers at work, to have the right to organize unions and to strike and to end all discrimination against female workers, guaranteeing full equality between men and women at work. These unions and workers councils soon became very popular in Iraq and many trade unions are requesting to join them. They are holding a conference on 25th

November in Basra. More than 25 unions are expected to attend to discuss issues of concern and elect a leadership.

The Interim Government, illegally imposed on the people of Iraq, issued Article 16 on 28th January 2004, stating that the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU) is the only legal union and the sole representatives of workers in Iraq. This totally violates the rights of other unions like UII and FWCUI which have been in the forefront of many workers' protests. In contrast, IFTU has little to offer and has been recognized by the Interim Government because this will best serve US plans for privatization in Iraq.

This is a crucial time for workers faced with the two poles of terrorism from the US and from political Islam. Support and international solidarity from all labour organizations, trade unions, left groups and individuals are urgently needed by the forces of humanity, secularism and egalitarianism. Support us in our struggle for freedom and equality in Iraq!

Houzan Mahmoud:

Is UK representative of the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq as well as an activist for the UII and FWCUI.

For more information on the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq see:

www.uuiraq.org

Support the Union of Unemployed in Iraq - UII
www.uuiraq.org

The kidnapping of the Japanese man by the criminal Islamic groups in Iraq is condemned

Few days ago gangs of political Islam in Iraq kidnapped a Japanese man and threaten that they will hack off his head if the Japanese troops are not withdrawn from Iraq.

This terrorist and anti-human act is part of a string of similar operations perpetrated by criminal Islamic groups under the rubric of fighting against the occupation of Iraq and forcing the occupying forces to withdraw from this country.

It is common knowledge that under no circumstances hacking off people's heads by Islamists can be justified by referring to the crimes committed by the USA forces and allied forces against people in Iraq.

These acts have nothing in common with human sentiments and behavior and have nothing to do with the fair demand of the masses in Iraq in necessity of the withdrawal of the occupying forces and with people's aspirations in freedom, equality and prosperity. The terrorist and bloody practices of groups of political Islam in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Afghanistan and any other place these groups exist indicate with no doubt that the desire to bloodshed is a key part of their methodology and essence no matter how different are the excuses and justifications.

We the political organisations and trade Unions strongly condemn and denounce the crimes of kidnapping foreigners in Iraq and we demand that the Japanese hostage be immediately and unconditionally released. We express our solidarity and sympathy with the family and friends of the hostage. The freedom-loving people in Iraq are relentlessly struggling to liberate themselves from the wickedness of these Islamic groups. They call on the civilized humanity to support and build solidarity with them in their struggle for freedom and to get rid of the down spiral of violence and terrorist conflict between the USA and political Islam.

Worker-communist Party of Iraq-WCPI

Union of Unemployed in Iraq-UUI

Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq-FWCUI

Orgnasiation of Women s Freedom in Iraq

October 30,2004

In defense of workers struggle in Holland for social justice and workers rights

Message of solidarity from Union of Unemployed in Iraq -UUI, and federation of worker councils and trade unions in Iraq-FWCUI, and Organization of women's freedom in Iraq (OWFI)

Like any other capitalist state in the world who are violating workers rights and attacking their achievements on daily bases, the Dutch capitalists and the state wants to cut down, or even wipe out the great achievements that workers in Holland had strived for many decades to gain, but now these achievements are under attack and are been threatened to cut down.

The state aims at cutting down the cost of education- terminate the unemployment benefit-cut down the medical provisions- social services and age of pension to be 65.

These are few examples of a wide campaign by the state to attack the rights and achievements of people

along the history of workers struggle in Holland.

This has led to anger and aggravation among the working population and people generally in Holland. Your recent wave of protests in the streets of many cities in Holland gave a new meaning to the workers and to people's struggle to fight back the right wing government's attacks on the social provisions. This shows the state that workers aspiration for equality, social justice is hard to be undermined by them. It has been obvious throughout years that workers struggle means freedom, equality and welfare, but capitalism always meant hunger, poverty, depravation and inequality, so the need for building a humanistic and egalitarian alternative is an urgent and most needed alternative for the human society in this era more than any other time in history.

Hereby we would like to declare our endless support and solidarity to you

in your struggle to defend your existence achievements and our thoughts are with you.

We are hoping that this could be a starting point not only to fight to maintain what the state want to take back from you, but to strive to achieve even more rights for workers in Holland. As we see workers rights as universal and should not be compromised for any reason.

Accomplishing rights and social justice for workers and people in Holland is giving people in other countries a hope to look forward towards a better world for us all to live in.

We wish you success in your struggle
Warmest regards

Date 02/10/2004

Aso Jabbar Representative of UUI and FWCUI Abroad

Nadia Mahmood: Representative of OWFI abroad