

A Paper published by the Network of the FWCUI & UII Representation Abroad

Appeal to Labour Unions World wide:
Urgent Appeal for Financial Support for the
Workers Conference in Baghdad! P.6

The workers of Petrochemical and Plastic Industry in Baghdad concluded their strike successfully and they established their Council



The workers of Chemical and Plastic Industry in Baghdad concluded their strike successfully after the administration accepted 7 of their 8 demands raised to the administration. The demands were ; Rises in the minimum wage, Abolishment of the obligatory overtime , Payment of the salary for these workers who have been punished by the administration , Prevention of threats against

workers in all forms specially against those who are encouraging the protests, Payment of the compensation determined for professional safety and work hazards, Payment of the yearly Gains of this company to the workers, Replacement of technical Manager because of his mistreatment to the workers and misuse of his position and their demand to return worker Alla

Salman to his working place who has been dismissed because of his confrontation with the administration.

After the meeting with the leadership of FWCUI, the labour activists and leaders in this company decided to start a protest and strike in the front of the main entrance of the company and to call workers to join the strike. With the begin of official working ,the workers gathered in front of the main entrance and they distributed the statement of the workers which included their demands and copies of this statement have been also distributed in the around factories and companies. With the broadening of the strike and gathering of more workers, the administration asked the representative of so called Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions- IFTU for negotiation. **Continue on P.2**

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The workers of
Petrochemical and
Plastic Industry in
Baghdad concluded
their strike

But the workers declared that this pro government Union represents the interests of the employee and administration and opposes the demands of the workers and they are not representatives of workers. The workers refused that IFTU to represent them and they harassed this - pro government-Union because they are supporting the policies of this administration and many workers accused them for corruption and to stay always as a barrier in front of the struggle of workers to reach their demands. The Workers requested that the administration should negotiate with the representative of FWCUI and independent workers representatives. The workers held a general meeting and established the Worker council of Chemical and Plastic Industry in Baghdad and elected a delegation for negotiation and prevented the pro- governmental union to interfere. The pro governmental union moved away from the protest meeting and hidden themselves from view to avoid the anger of workers against them.

During the negotiation with the administration, Mr. Sameh Ashur and Faleh Maktuf represented the FWCUI with elected representative of workers.

After a successful conclusion of the negotiation and strike, hundreds of workers joined FWCUI.

The workers of Chemical and Plastic Industry in Baghdad concluded a victory which proves the importance and seriousness of unity of workers.

We congratulate workers for this victory and establishment of the Worker Council of Chemical and Plastic Industry in Baghdad which

IFTU Helps Alawi's Government to Crack Down on Workers' Protests

While the leaders of the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions-IFTU and its representatives pose as defenders of workers' rights and union freedoms, the activists of the Mechanical Union, a branch of IFTU in the Iraqi Petrochemical and Plastic Manufactures Company tried to prevent workers from establishing their own union and elect their representatives.

In collaboration with the company's administration, they threatened workers with sacking, jailing and killing to force them call off a strike organized early this month. They justified these oppressive actions by referring to resolutions passed by Alawi's government, which ban union activity and install IFTU as the only legal union.

This union issued membership cards and forced them on workers and force workers to pay compulsory membership by deducting it from their salaries, while, in many cases it stood against workers and defended the administration.

This union also ordered the workers who participated in the strike to pay 8 million Iraqi dinars as compensation to the company for its losses as the result of this strike or face sacking.

Genuine trade unions should not be formed by Iyad Alawi and should do not wait permission from his government. The acts of the governmental union are outright violation of workers' rights. They are the reproduction of the fascist traditions used against the Iraqi workers for decades.

It is worth mentioning that the workers of Petrochemical Manufactures have formed their own union and elected their representatives. Many workers joined the new union and prevented the pro-administration governmental union from carrying out its activity.

These violations of workers' rights must stop and the authority must not be allowed to interfere in workers' affairs. The IFTU which is acting as apparatus of the government rather than the representative of workers despite their attempt to appear as defenders of union freedoms and the right of workers to join any union before international community must not be allowed to impose resolutions passed by an illegitimate government.

**Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in
Iraq
Jan 10,2005**

could be a model of what could be concluded if the working class unite around our fundamental demands in our society.

Forward for a better, secure and free live

Long-live the unity of working class

FWCUI - 05.01.2005

Urgent international solidarity

To support the recent wave of workers strikes in cities across Iraq

Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq (FWCUI) is leading the strikes and struggles of workers in Iraq

Since its establishment the FWCUI has been organizing and mobilizing workers to defend their rights and maintain their unity in their struggles and uphold their ideals. FWCUI has been organizing in the middle of cross fire between the two poles of international terrorism led by the US and political Islam. The recent very successful conference of workers in Basra centred around the slogan of **"the power of the working class is in its unity and organization"** has provided a new vision for the workers struggle in Iraq as well as a model for organising and unity.

Since the Basra conference we have witnessed a marked increase in activities and the formation of a number of branches of FWCUI in many workplaces and factories. Such developments have attracted the attention of the authorities in the cities of Baghdad, Basra and Saharaban. Labour activists have been threatened by the authorities and prevented from joining FWCUI. Now a new wave of heroic strikes have

swept industries like the Textile in the city of Kut, in which the workers were suppressed and shot at by the authorities, also the strike of Electricity Power Station in Nasriyah, the chemical, and plastic industry, and soft drink factory workers in Baghdad, and in Basra Electricity Power Station. It was only the FWCUI who has stood side by side with the striking workers and fought for their demands. The main demands of these workers are the right to strike and the right to organization. Increase in wages linked to inflation, ban on overtime, improved health and safety standards, payment of annual bonuses and in many occasions replacement of corrupt managers and administration. FWCUI has become the only organization trusted by the workers to negotiate on their behalf and strengthen their position through it. More information about the workers strikes in detail could be found on our web page: www.uuiraq.org

These series of successful strikes in which the workers managed to impose their demands on the US appointed Interim Government and the bosses was a major step forward for workers in their daily

struggle.

The workers in Iraq, more than ever, during these crucial times need your support. International political, moral and financial support will give our movement in Iraq continuity and motivation to fight for more rights. So please participate in strengthening the strikes of workers and their struggle by supporting the only true representative of the workers in Iraq Federation of Workers councils and Unions in Iraq (FWCUI).

-You can send solidarity messages to striking workers

-You can send condemnation (or protest) letters to Iraqi Authorities and US forces who are violating international conventions including brutal suppressions of workers.

-You can send your financial support to FWCUI

Support the strikes of workers in Iraq!

For more information please contact: Aso Jabbar & Houzan Mahmoud

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Voice of Iraqi Workers

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

Address: UUI,P.Box 8553,CH-3001 Bern , Tel:0041 78 882 55 89

www.uuiraq.org

Appeal to all Labour Unions, political parties, and freedom loving people and to those who struggle for a free Iraq and to end the occupation of Iraq

Support FWCUI and Independent Unions in Iraq financially

FWCUI is a national federation of a network of independent unions established by workers in the heart of their protests and their motivation to defend and achieve their fair demands for a better living condition, for a progressive labour law, for democratic rights of workers in Iraq. FWCUI has led many protest actions of workers in different industries and companies, confronted administrations, employers, Iraqi and US authorities to achieve the demands of workers. FWCUI is an important organisation of the progressive civil front against the occupation in Iraq and demands immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all occupying forces from Iraq. It attempts to rebuild Iraqi civil society and is opposed to the terrorism of political Islamic groups and loyalists of the Ba'ath regime.

Now FWCUI attempts to strengthen the united leadership of labour unions in different parts of Iraq, to organise the working class in Iraq in a new model of unions and councils established by workers themselves in their general meetings, representing the workers' will and demands at different levels. The last victory of FWCUI was the conclusion of a successful workers broad conference in Basra in November 2004 with the participation of more than 350 delegates and groups from many industries and companies. FWCUI until now has led dozens of protests in Iraq and is now engaged in leading waves of protest of workers in the electricity, textile and oil sectors in Nassiriya, Basra, Kerkuk, Baghdad and Kut. FWCUI has

branches in Basra, Kerkuk, Nassiriya and Baghdad and many preparatory committees in other cities in Iraq.

FWCUI publishes regularly the first labour independent newspaper in the history of Iraq called *Almajalis Alumaliya* -Workers Council - in the whole of Iraq, which became a public newspaper circulated in many industries among workers and their families. FWCUI until now has no central office in Baghdad, because of financial difficulties. It has no equipment like computers, internet service and photocopy facilities to enable its mission for the establishment of independent labour unions.

FWCUI is not recognised by Iraqi authorities but is recognised by thousand of workers as an active organisation to lead their protests and their struggle. FWCUI is confronting employers, administrations and governmental authorities on daily basis to achieve unconditional freedom of association and strike for Iraqi workers, to increase the wages according to inflation; to improve the safety, social, and health living conditions of workers in Iraq, to fight for a progressive labour laws in Iraq, to abolish all anti-workers laws and orders of Saddam's regime which are still functioning in Iraq by US occupying forces and Iraq authorities.

FWCUI attempts to encourage and strengthen the solidarity network of labour movements worldwide with Iraqi workers in today's difficult situation in Iraq under occupation, chaos and insecurity. FWCUI demands the immediate and unconditional end of occupa-

tion in Iraq.

We appeal to all labour unions, freedom loving people worldwide to support FWCUI morally and financially, to overcome its difficulties and to achieve more and more victory for Iraqi workers in direction of more establishments of independent unions and leading of protests and representing workers perspectives in these protest actions and in determination of the future of Iraqi society and to end occupation in Iraq.. Since FWCUI is not backed by Iraqi authorities and US led coalition, it has serious financial difficulties.

You can participate in the following options of solidarity with FWCUI and workers in Iraq and you can donate money to FWCUI for the following:

-Open a central office in Baghdad with 1000 USD rents per month.

-Regular publication of FWCUI newspaper *Al-majalis Alumaliya*-Workers Council- monthly needs 1000 USD to produce about 10000 copies and distribute it in the whole of Iraq.

-Buy computers for FWCUI central office in Baghdad and branch offices in other cities. Each Computer costs between 800-1200 USD. We require 12 Computer to supply all the branches urgently.

-To buy a photocopy machine for FWCUI media centre in Baghdad which costs 5000 USD

To.P.5

From P.4.... Support FWCUI and Independent Unions in Iraq financially

-To buy cars for FWCUI to facilitate the transportation in the insecure and difficult situation in Iraq, in which Union and federation leaders are confronted with attacks, persecution and threat to kill. Each normal car costs minimum 5000 USD. Numbers needed are 5 cars, two for central office in Baghdad and 3 for FWCUI branch offices in Nassiriya, Basra and Keruk.

-To buy mobile telephones for FWCUI to facilitate communication and contact inside Iraq and abroad with FWCUI branches and Labour Unions and media centres worldwide. Each mobile telephone costs 300 USD; Numbers of mobile telephones needed are 30 mobile telephones for FWCUI main activists in different branches.

-Media facilities like cassette recorders, microphones and cameras including digital cameras and video cameras for media centre of FWCUI. Each digital camera costs between 200-300 USD, each

video camera costs between 400-800 USD.

-Workers of various sectors in Baghdad need to hold a two days conference to elect a united leadership as the same model of FWCUI broad conference in Basra on 26.November 2004. FWCUI broad conference in Baghdad needs minimum \$10.000 for renting a hall, accommodation, publicity, transportation of workers and security.

You can send your donations in different ways:

1. You can send cheques to Aso Jabbar - abroad representative of FWCUI through the following address.

**Aso Jabbar, abroad
representative of Federation of
Workers Councils and Unions
in Iraq -FWCUI
Post Box 8553
3001 Bern
Switzerland**

2. You can send your donations through this partner account address in Switzerland with remarks FWCUI:

**International Campaign to
Defend Iraqi Women Rights
Solidarity with Iraqi Women
Rights -SIWR
Post Finance Bank
Account Nr. 30-340462-4
Post Box 326
3000 Bern 11
Switzerland**

3. You can send your donation through representative networks of UII and FWCUI in different countries; you can find their addresses on our webpage under Network of UII and FWCUI representatives abroad.

In solidarity

**Aso Jabbar
Abroad Representation of
FWCUI
Bern**

07.01.2005

Tel.0041 78 882 55 89

Solidarity Message from FWCUI to the strike of Textile Workers in the city of Sanandaj, Kurdistan - Iran

According to a letter written by Mr. Mozafar Mohamadi from Worker Communist Party of Iran-Hikmatist, more than 400 Textile Workers in the city of Sanandaj have started a strike action against wide-scale dismissals and for achievement of their demands which are ; hygienic workplace, prevention of work-related illnesses and access to medical treatment for workers fallen ill due to work conditions. Presently over half of the workers suffer from back complaints and ear and lung diseases. The employers have, however, responded with the threat of sacking the entire workforce. They have also involved the state security forces, seeking the arrest of the three members of workers' delegation - Farshid Beheshtizad, Shis Amani and Hadi Zarei. The employers have also refused to pay workers' last month wages in order to put pressure on them to cease their protests.

We in FWCUI declare our solidarity with our class comrades of textile factory in Sanandaj and their demands. We condemn strongly the aggressive policies of the employer to attack the workers and their leaders and we condemn security forces of Islamic republic in Iran to attack the strike of workers in Sanandaj.

We appeal to Labour Unions worldwide to support the demands and strike action of textile workers in Sanandaj -Iran

**Aso Jabbar
Representative abroad of FWCUI
05.01.2005**

Urgent appeal for financial support for the workers conference in Baghdad!

To all unions, labour organizations, political parties and individuals - support the forthcoming conference of workers in Baghdad!

Dear comrades and supporters of the struggle of workers in Iraq:

The federation of workers councils and unions in Iraq (FWCUI) is preparing its second workers' conference in Iraq. This event will take place in Baghdad in February 2005. As you are aware, we have already held a successful conference in Basra that attracted more than 350 representatives of workers from various unions and factories and from different cities in south Iraq. These participants created a united leadership to move towards a more coordinated struggle of workers across the south. This has provided a model for workers in other parts of Iraq and now – responding to the demands of workers in Baghdad and other cities in central Iraq - FWCUI is preparing this second conference.

Our second conference is going to be another major step towards uniting workers around a clear progressive platform. It will facilitate the struggle of the workers of Iraq to impose their just demands on the pro-US administration. Crucially, it will also be a boost to the formation of strong independent unions across Iraq, fighting workers' organizations that are independent and opposed to the US's repressive machinations against our class. The reason workers are gathering around our

federation is because of its intransigent commitment to independent working class principles and its defense of workers' rights. All of this was evidenced in recent successful wave of strikes lead by FWCUI.

The workers of Iraq are determined to hold their conference in Baghdad, the capital of their country. This conference will be an essential organizing tool to strengthen the many local initiatives that are taking place in the field of trade union struggles as well as to forge a united working class front with the struggles that are taking place the length and breadth of Iraq.

But we desperately need your help and solidarity. Concretely, we are asking for donations – large or small – to help make sure this vital working class gathering can go ahead.

The FWCUI's budget for this conference is \$10,000

We need this money In order to accommodate workers coming from different parts of the country as well transport, security, food, publicity, renting hall, etc...

Please rush your donations to FWCUI – help make sure that this historic step forward for working people in Iraq actually takes place.

In solidarity

Aso Jabbar and Houzan Mahmoud- FWCUI

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3000 Bern 11
Switzerland**

For a progressive Labour Law in Iraq

Statement of FWCUI on: killing of 18 Iraqi workers in Mosul.

The bodies of 18 young Iraqi workers taken off a bus and executed last month while seeking work at a U.S. base have been found in a field near the city of Mosul. A terrorist group belongs to the so called armed resistance composed reactionary of political Islamic groups and Arab nationalists shot the men, who ranged in age from 14 to 20, on Dec. 8 after stopping their two mini-buses about 30 miles west of Mosul. The bodies were discovered Wednesday, 05.01.2005. Their hands were tied behind their back and each was shot in the head. All of the workers were from Baghdad's northern neighbourhood of Kadhimiya who had been hired by an Iraqi contractor to work at a U.S. base in Mosul.

Iraq under the occupation has turned into an international battlefield, this war put the entire region in a crisis, and it has also jeopardized the people's safety and all aspects of life. Tens of civilians are falling dead on daily basis because of this war without having anything to do with it. Terrorism and terrorist acts are marching towards the residential areas, workplaces, markets and everywhere in the Iraqi society. Poverty, deprivation, and the lack of job opportunities are other results of destroying civility in Iraq.

In reality the Iraqi society now is sunken in a dark scenario. One of the dangerous aspects of the current situation is insecurity, which controls the whole society. The terrorist conflict between America on the one hand and political Islam and remnants of the Baath regime on the other breaches the lives, livelihood and the rights of citizens and workers and claims the lives of scores of them everyday.

We condemn strongly the series of killing, assassination and terror against Iraqi workers and we express our condolence to all families and relatives of these workers.

Down with terrorism Immediate end of occupation of Iraq

FWCUI-Representative abroad -06.01.2005

Statement of FWCUI on the Assassination of Mr. Hadi Saleh, international secretary of Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions-IFTU

A terrorist group has assassinated Mr. Hadi Saleh, a prominent leader and international secretary of Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions-IFTU, Wednesday January 04. 2005 .They assassinated him near his home in Baghdad, in a series of assassination and physical eradication exercised by the terrorist groups.

Assassination is tradition by those political groups who have no any connection with Iraqi people and they are trying to implement their policies through threats, assassination persecution and physical eradication.

Assassination will not end the path of any progressive political activist and group which determined to struggle for a free and progressive life for Iraqi people.

We express our condolence to his family and his friends.

We condemn strongly this reactionary antihuman action which directed against any human aspect of Iraqi people.

We declare in order to guarantee a peaceful and secure live for Iraqi people and to eliminate the current insecure and chaotic situation and scenario of assassination, terror and persecution in Iraq, are only possible through strengthening the progressive front of civil people in Iraq to end the occupation in Iraq and to eliminate the terrorism of political Islam and loyalists of Baath regime.

**FWCUI
05.01.2004**

**No To America, No To Political Islam ,
For a Secular Secular State in Iraq**

Statement of the Federation of Workers' Councils and Union in Iraq-

Representation Abroad on:

The recent attacks on workers and labour activists January 7, 2005

On Wednesday 5 January 2005, bodies of 18 workers were discovered in a farm near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul all shot on head early last month while in their way to Mosul. These workers were residents of Baghdad lured to Mosul by promising them with jobs at a US base in this city.

On the other hand an activist of the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions was strangled in his own house in Baghdad using a wire. Few other attacks were reported elsewhere against workers and activists of IFTU.

The Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq rapidly condemns these barbaric acts against workers and labour activists. Despite of our difference with IFTU, we strongly condemn all attacks on its activists and members. These brutalities are part of the terrorist war between the USA and its allies and the Islamo-ethnocentric resistance in Iraq and show the anti-human essence of this resistance.

The occupation forces and local authority are responsible for the safety of workers and worker activists.

The Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq express it sympathy with the families and friends of workers killed in these brutal acts.

Solidarity Statement: Construction workers' council in Nasiryiah says "we are a united row"

"In all parts of Iraq ruined by US attack and the rule of the Baath regime, reconstruction and frustrating the outcome of war and its social and economic consequences is the task of workers. Despite these efforts by the workers, they are faced with constant violation and negligence of their rights.

The plight of our brothers at the power station is obvious evidence of the size of the destruction caused by Saddam's regime and by the American occupation that this regime brought upon Iraq and which is destroying what is left.

"None of the officials in the city,

including officials at the power station, are ready to hear what people's needs are and what workers need to carry out their task of serving the country. "The protest of our brothers, the power workers, is an audible voice to all who are concerned about the future of Iraq.

"We, the council of construction workers at the Talil site, are proud of what the power station workers have achieved. We join forces with them and extend a hand of support to them because we the share same concerns.

"We are a united row and behind

us stand all freedom-loving people. We are a broad front. Its depth is all workers everywhere. At our working site we are suffering at the hands of the bosses. So we await your victory. Do not give others a chance to abort the hopes of the masses of workers.

"Well done."

Long live workers!

*Construction Workers'
Council in Nasiryiah*

December 27, 2004

Join our Campaign to

**End the Occupation of Iraq and
for Unconditional Right of Organisation
and Strike for Workers in Iraq**