

HANDS OFF IRAQI OIL!

How Shell is poised to rip off Iraq's oil wealth



“ We have done all our homework for Iraq. I'm not going to speculate on the timing, but we are ready to move. ”

– Jeroen van der Veer, Shell Chief Executive, September 2006

www.HandsOffIraqiOil.org

Stealing Iraq's future...

The war in Iraq has brought enormous suffering to the Iraqi people. An estimated 650,000 Iraqis have died as a direct result of the war and occupation, while millions more have been displaced from their homes. But some companies – foremost among them Shell – are hoping to profit from this suffering.

In March 2003, just days before the bombs started falling on Baghdad, senior company managers met with officials at 10 Downing Street, to insist that Iraq's oil should benefit not just US companies, but European companies too.

Now, in May 2007 a new oil law proposes fundamentally restructuring Iraq's oil industry, to give the primary role in oil development to multinational companies, under contracts of up to 30 years.

Like most countries in the Middle East, Iraqi oil production has been in the public sector since the 1970s. But the US is pushing the oil law as its top political priority in Iraq, and threatens to bring down the Iraqi government if it fails to pass it. Working with the occupation, Shell has played a central role in pushing for this:

- From Feb to Sept 2003, the former head of Shell USA was hired by the Coalition Provisional Authority to begin the restructuring of the Iraqi oil industry.
- Shell is one of six oil companies sponsoring a lobbying effort, together with the British government, pressuring the Iraqi government to grant long-term contracts that would give them exclusive rights to extract Iraq's oil, along with potentially unlimited profits.
- Shell saw the new law in July 2006 – eight months before Iraqi MPs.

Yet most Iraqis firmly believe that oil production should remain in the public sector. The law is opposed by all of Iraq's trade unions, by over 60 senior Iraqi oil experts (including former ministers) and by other civil society, political and religious groups.

JOIN US in insisting that the oil in Iraq belongs to the Iraqi people, and that companies like Shell have no right to profit from the suffering of Iraqis. Here's what you can do:

- **Tell Shell what you think:** write to Jeroen van der Veer, Chief Executive, Royal Dutch Shell, Shell Centre, London SE1 7NA.
- **Ask your MP to sign Early Day Motion 1180**, calling for the UK government to stop interfering in decisions about Iraq's natural resources. Write to House of Commons, Westminster, SW1P 0AA or email via www.WriteToThem.com

For more details on these and other actions, and to download a fuller factsheet on Shell's attempts to grab Iraq's oil, go to www.HandsOffIraqiOil.org