Voice of Iraqi Workers July 2 2004

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Complaint to the ILO -Trade Union Freedom Committee

Introduction

The Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq (FWCUI) — of which the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq (UUI) is an affiliate — has been fighting unceasingly to be granted legal recognition ever since it was founded at a national conference held on December 8, 2003 in Baghdad with worker delegates representing workplaces from across Iraq.

The Union of the Unemployed in Iraq was formed in May 2003, when they elected an Executive Council that elected their General Secretary. It has now formed local branches in 7 provinces grouping 150,000 affiliated workers from around the country.

The Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq and the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq attended an ILO and ICFTU seminar in Amman, Jordan, in December 2003 with the participation of other Arab trade unions of the region.

In February 2004, in Baghdad, they had a meeting with an international delegation of labour unions headed by the ICFTU.

On March 15, 2004 the Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq and the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq were received by representatives of the ILO Workers Group at the ILO in Geneva. The purpose of the delegation was to inform the ILO Workers Group of the situation of the labour movement in Iraq and more specifically to inform the ILO that the dispositions of ILO Conventions 87 and 98 are not enforced in Iraq.

This delegation to the ILO Workers Group also included representatives from US Labor Against the War (USLAW), the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions (ICATU), and the International Liaison Committee of Workers and Peoples (ILC). These organisations are participating in the International Campaign Against the Occupation and for Labour Rights in Iraq.

To the question: "What could be done to prevent that Iraq — today — perpetuates the system of official selection and recognition of trade unions that excludes the right to

organise in the union of one's own choosing," the answer from the representatives of the ILO Workers Group referred to the ILO's mechanisms providing for the possibility for any Iraqi union which considered that ILO Conventions are being violated to lodge a complaint to the ILO Trade Union Freedom Committee. Further to the advice given by the representatives of the ILO Workers Group, the Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq and the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq have decided to lodge a complaint to the ILO Trade Union Freedom Committee.

The Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq and the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq will meet the ILO Workers Group again on June 11, 2004. The Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq and the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq call upon labour organisations the world over, and particularly on all the Workers Group delegates at the next ILO yearly assembly, to support their complaint to the ILO Trade Union Freedom Committee. Continue P.2

P.11

P.13

P.20

In this issue:

-Report of the international delegation from the Campaign Against the Occupation and For Lab	our Rights in
Iraq to the ILO Workers Group on 11 June 2004.	P.4
-A public meeting in Torquay-UK.	P.7
Agitating for Workers' Rights in Iraq .	P.9
-UUI Statement Regarding the Announcement of the New Iraqi Government.	P.10
-Federation of Trade Unions in Miqdadyia Joins FWCUI	P.10

-A Report regarding the workers' situation in Iraq .
-Solidarity Message with Korean Trade Unions.

-International Solidarity with the Labour Rights in Iraq . P.15-20

-Nabil Nadim ,Webmaster of UUI Homepage has been killed in Iraq .

Complaint to the ILO Trade Union Freedom Committee

lodged by the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq (UUI) and the Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq (FWCUI)

International Labour Office

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Freedom of Association (LIBSYND), Tel: 0041 22 799 71 22, Fax: 041 22 799 76 70, libsynd@jlo.org

Dear Sirs and Madams

We, the undersigned duly elected representatives acting on behalf of the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq (UUI) and of the Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq (FWCUI), wish hereby to lodge a complaint to the International Labour Organisation's Trade Union Freedom Committee

- Whereas, several trade union organisations were set up by the Iraqi workers themselves after the fall of the previous regime, including the Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq (of which the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq is an affiliate):
- Whereas, the Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq was set up at its founding national conference held December 8, 2003 in Baghdad with worker delegates representing workplaces from across Iraq;
- Whereas, the Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq is now grouping 300,000 Iraqi workers;
- Whereas, the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq was formed in May 2003, when they elected an Executive Council that elected their General Secretary;
- Whereas, the Union of the

Unemployed in Iraq now has formed local branches in 7 provinces recording so far 150,000 affiliated workers from around the country;

- Whereas, on January 28, 2004 Decree No 16 issued by Interim Governing Council President Adnan Pachachi granted recognition to one of the existing trade union federations in Iraq, the IFTU, by stating that the IFTU and its President, Mr Rasem Hussein Abdullah, are "the legitimate and legal representatives of the labour movement in Iraq"; and
- Whereas, at various workplaces such as the Baghdad railway station or Basra Refinery, after the adoption of Decree No 16 of January 28, 2004 Iraqi workers were told by the management that they should join the legalised union, thus implying that the other unions would be illegal.
- We therefore consider that the current situation created by the introduction of Decree No 16 is not consistent with ILO standards and more specifically violates dispositions of ILO Conventions 87 and 98.

Regarding ILO Convention 87

- In its Articles 1 & 2, ILO Convention 87 stipulates that, "Workers and employees without any distinction have the right, without prior authorisation, to set up organisations of their own choosing as well as the right to join these organisations" (Article1), and "Workers and employees' organisations have a right to elaborate their rule book and to elect freely their representatives" (Article 2).

Is there not a contradiction between the fact that the public authorities decided that a trade union was the "legitimate and legal representative of the labour movement in Iraq" and the fact that "workers and employees without any distinction have the right without prior authorisation to set up organisations of their own choosing as well as the right to join these organisations"?

Is it not a violation of Article 1 of ILO Convention 87 when workplace managements instruct the workers on which trade union they should affiliate?

- Article 3 of ILO Convention 87, stipulates that, "Public authorities must abstain from any interference, any act restricting those rights or at preventing the legal exercise of these rights."

Is there not a violation of Article 3 of ILO Convention 87 when the public authorities decree which is the representave union?

We say that by passing Decree No 16 on January 28, 2004, which selects the union to be granted recognition, the public authorities took the right to decide which organisation should be recognised and thus barred the way to the freedom to affiliate to the union of own's own choosing.

Continue on P.3

Complaint to the ILO

It is a clear public interference in violation of ILO Convention 87. It perpetuates the previous system of official selection and recognition of trade unions, excluding the right to organise in the union of one's own choosing.

Regarding ILO Convention 98

- Article 1 of ILO Convention 98, stipulates that, "The organisations of workers and employees must be adequately protected against any mutual interference when for instance company managers threaten to dismiss workers for joining unions which are considered illegal."

Subsequent to the fact that the shameful law passed by Saddam Hussein in 1987 banning the right to strike in all public enterprises has not been repealed, Iraqi trade unionists have been threatened by company managers and attacked by the occupying forces for striking.

Iraqi workers are now being told by management and the authorities that by not affiliating to the only recognised union they are acting illegally. They can be arrested and sent to jail simply for exercising the right to organise in the union of their own choosing, a right which is enshrined in ILO Conventions.

These threats expressed in violation of the dispositions of ILO Convention 98 are made possible because ILO Convention 87 providing for the right to organise in the union of one's own choosing is not enforced.

- ILO Convention 98 provides for the right to bargain collectively.

It is a violation of ILO Conventions 87 and 98 when, by means of Decree No 16 of January 28, 2004 the authorities take the right to decide which organisations should be recognised and in so doing select which union should be granted the universally recognised right to negotiate.

Iraqi workers, with their duly elected representatives, should be allowed to formulate their demands towards the elaboration of a labour law, which can only be written in Iraq by the Iraqi workers themselves.

Hundreds of thousands of workers in Iraq are currently unemployed (70% of the workforce according to recent survey), and there is widespread fear that their economic wellbeing has been taken out of their control and in fact depends on the occupying forces. In the current situation, Iragi workers fear that the decisions made by the occupying forces, particularly in the economic field with privatisation, would continue the plundering of the Iraqi resources by the multinational corporations. It is the people of Iraq themselves who must be in charge of drafting their own Constitution and their own laws, including their own labour law and the dispositions providing for the right to unemployment benefits and full trade union rights provided for by ILO Conventions and more specifically Conventions 87 and 98.

- Whereas, we consider that there can't be democracy in Iraq if the people of Iraq cannot decide themselves the disposition of their resources, their fate and their future and establish their own control over their own economy; if the Iraqi workers are not free to set up the organisations of their own choosing.
- Whereas, we share the views expressed by the ILO's Workers Group that,

"The rehabilitation exercise and support must be provided for all the people of Iraq, especially the poor, the disabled, and vulnerable groups. The Group calls for the immediate resumption of work for all Iraqi workers, with due protection for their wages. It also demands that the oil resources of Iraq be used solely by the people of Iraq and exclusively for their benefit.

"In the new Iraq, there must be, consistent with ILO standards, full freedom of association, guaranteeing the Iraqi workers the right to organise and to bargain collectively; there must be democracy with full civil liberties, permitting trade unions to choose their own leadership independently and without interference; there must be the right to self-determination by the Iraqi people."

We, the undersigned duly elected representatives acting on behalf of the Unemployed in Iraq (UUI) and of the Federation of Workers Councils and Trade Unions in Iraq (FWCUI) affiliating 300 000 Iraqi workers, hereby lodge a complaint to the International Labour Organisation's Trade Union Freedom Committee requesting that the ILO use all its authority and its prerogatives so as to ensure that ILO Convention 87 and Convention 98 are fully enforced in Iraq and subsequently that full recognition be granted to the trade union organisations that were set up by the Iragi workers themselves.

Thank you very much for your understanding

Baghdad - May 15, 2004

Signed/
Aso Jabbar,
Representative of the UUI and
FWCUI abroad and in charge of;

Falah Alwan Hussain , President, Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq (FWCUI)

Qasim Hadi, General Secretary, Union of the Unemployed in Iraq (UUI)

Report of the international delegation from the Campaign Against the Occupation and For Labour Rights in Iraq to the ILO Workers Group on June 11, 2004

A delegation from the Campaign Against the Occupation and For Labour Rights in Iraq, which was initiated by US Labor Against the War (USLAW). the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions (ICATU) and the International Liaison Committee of Workers and Peoples (ILC), met the ILO Workers Group in Geneva on 11 June 2004. The aim of this delegation was to support the complaint lodged with the ILO's Committee on Freedom of Association by the Federation of Workers Councils and Trade Unions in Iraq (FWCUI) and the Union of Unemployed in Iraq (UUI).

This complaint establishes that ILO Conventions 87 and 98 are being breached in Iraq, especially by the publication of Decree No.16, by which the Iraqi Governing Council decided to grant recognition to only one trade union. It has already received the support of hundreds of trade union branches, national trade unions, trade union federations and trade union confederations in more than 40 countries around the world.

ICATU was represented by: Farouq Ben Auf Saad Khadije El Husaini

<u>The Algerian UGTA was represented by:</u>

Tajuq Amar, Textile Union Federation
<u>USLAW was represented by:</u>

Katharine Harer, Co-President of AFT local 1493 in California Neal Bisno, Secretary-Treasurer of SEIU local 1199P in Pennsylvania

The FWCUI and UUI were represented by:
Falah Alwan, President of the

FWCUI

the ILC

Qasim Hadi, General Secretary of the Union of Unemployed in Iraq-UUI

Aso Jabbar, Representative of the UUI & FWCUI Abroad

<u>The ILC was represented by:</u> Daniel Gluckstein, Co-ordinator, ILC

Olivier Doriane, ILC

Marie-Claude Schildower,

Working Women Commission of

Jean-Pierre Barrois, Member of the international delegation to Iraq

Luc Deley, for the Hosting Committee for the Conference in Defence of ILO Conventions (Switzerland).

The delegation held a preparatory meeting at the Geneva Socialist Party office to define its mandate.

Daniel Gluckstein then presented that mandate on behalf of the whole delegation to Dan Cunniah, Secretary of the Workers Group on the ILB Governing Body.

By way of introduction, he was reminded that the international campaign was set up a year ago, in June 2003, in Geneva.

For the initiators of the campaign, the Iraqi people cannot reclaim its sovereignty as long as the occupying troops remain in the country. For us, the withdrawal of the occupying troops is a democratic demand which is inextricably linked to the demand by the Iraqi people to decide its own future, to run its own country and resources. This is one of the conditions that are indispensable for peace in that country, for the reconstruction of Iraq in all its

aspects, allowing the Iraqi people to live with dignity and respect for freedom, democracy and all the rights which flow from this.

Within the framework of our continuing activity for labour rights in Iraq, a first meeting with ACTRAV took place on 15 March 2004. Following that meeting, and acting on the suggestion of the ILO's ACTRAV representatives, the FWCUI and UUI lodged a complaint with the ILO Committee on Freedom Association on 20 May. On 2 June, this complaint was registered as Case No.2348 by the Committee Freedom on Association.

The acknowledgment letter signed by Bernard Gernigon, Chief of the Freedom of Association Branch, says: "In accordance with the procedure in force, the text of your communication will be transmitted to the Government for its observations. The organizations are allowed to submit additional information in support of the complaint within one month. After this, only new evidence is receivable which you would not have been in a position to supply within the one-month period. The substance of the complaint will be examined by the Governing Body's Committee on Freedom Association once the Government's reply thereto has been forwarded to the Office. However, the Committee will proceed to examine the substance of the case even if the Government's observations have not been received after a reasonable period of time."

The official recognition of the complaint by the ILO is very important, as it shows that the ILO recognizes de facto these two.

Continue on. P5

From P.5... Report of the international delegation

organizations as legitimate trade unions. The ILO's rules only allow it to recognize complaints lodged by trade union organizations. Once this point had been underlined, the delegation raised four points.

- 1. On 28 January 2004, the Iraqi Governing Council issued its Decree No.16, which recognizes one of the Iraqi trade union federations, the IFTU, as "the legitimate and legal representative of the labour movement in Iraq". Is this not a breach of the ILO Conventions which state that the workers can organize as they wish without interference from the authorities?
- 2. What replies were given by the ILO to the five questions raised in the Memorandum, listed here, which were presented on 15 March by our last delegation?

Is it not a breach of Articles 2 and 3 of ILO Convention 87, which stipulate respectively that "Workers and employers, without distinction whatsoever, shall have the right to establish and, subject only to the rules of the organisation concerned, to join organisations of their own choosing without previous authorisation" (Article 2) and "Workers' and employers' organisations shall have the right to draw up their constitutions and rules, to elect their representatives in full freedom, to organise their administration and activities and to formulate their programmes" (Article 3)?

Is it not a breach of Article 3 of Convention 87, which stipulates that "the public authorities shall refrain from any interference which would restrict this right or impede the lawful exercise thereof" (Article 3.2)?

Is it not a breach of Article 1 of Convention 98, which stipulates that

"Workers shall enjoy adequate protection against acts of anti-union discrimination in respect of their employment" (Article 1.1) "Such protection shall apply more particularly in respect of acts calculated to: (a) make the employment of the worker subject to the condition that he shall not join a union or shall relinquish trade union membership; (b) cause the dismissal of or otherwise prejudice a worker by reason of union membership or because of participation in union activities outside working hours or, with the consent of the employer, within working hours" (Article 1.2)?

Is it not a breach of ILO Convention 87 when trade unionists are sent to jail because of their activities and when their union offices are invaded by the authorities?

Is it not a breach of ILO Convention 98 when the authorities take upon themselves the right to decide which organizations can be recognized and thereby choose who has or does not have the right to negotiate?

Are there answers to these questions? What does the ILO intend to do? Would it not be possible for the ILO to condemn these violations of its Conventions?

- 3. Within a difficult situation where the UN has involved itself in the situation in Iraq through its vote for our part we note again that democracy demands the withdrawal of all occupying troops and considering that the ILO is an agency of the UN, what does the ILO intend to do currently to ensure that trade union freedoms are respected in Iraq?
- 4. We ask in particular: is it possible for the ILO to circulate the complaint lodged by the Iraqi trade unions during its current Assembly?

Can the Iraqi trade union represen-

tatives address the ILO Assembly?

The delegation pointed out that it was not there to defend one trade union against another, or to get involved in the internal debate within the Iraqi labour movement. It is up to the Iraqi workers themselves to decide freely and without any external interference the paths and means it will deem necessary for defending the workers' interests in Iraq. We intend, moreover, to state most strongly that not one step can be made towards democracy if the workers' right to freedom to organize is not completely respected. The USLAW representatives pointed out before the discussion began that the trade union anti-war movement in the United States firmly supports the complaint by the Iraqi trade unions. The ICATU delegation referred to the joint fight that has been waged for a year, and underlined the need for the Iraqi workers to be free to set up their trade unions.

The FWCUI representatives presented their June report on the situation of the workers in Iraq. This was submitted to the Workers Group representative and to all the trade union organisations internationally, as was the case with the whole of their last contribution. Besides the documents already presented to the ILO, the FWCUI had presented this information to the meeting of the ICFTU in Amman, Jordan, with a representative of the ILO present.

From the replies given to us, we note the following elements:

a) By way of introduction, Dan Cunniah decided to remind us of the procedure which applies to complaints to the Committee on Freedom of Association, which operates independently from the different groups which make up the ILO. It works on the basis of facts and proofs. **Continue on P.6**

From P.5...Report of the international delegation

This led him to explain to the delegation: "You have lodged a complaint. The process regarding this has begun. The more facts and proofs you submit, the better it will be. There are several organizations in Iraq; the complaint that you have lodged will help clarify the situation. Any information you can give will be useful." Notably, he immediately asked for a copy of the statutes of the FWCUI. These were provided and will be passed on to the Workers Group.

Underlining the fact that the representatives of the Iraqi Authority are obliged to respond to the questions raised in the complaint, he informed us that a new meeting of the Freedom Committee on Association will be held in November. However, he informed us that, in keeping with the current procedure, the rules do not allow for the complaint to be circulated officially within the ILO. He insisted again that the maximum number of facts and documents should be submitted to the Committee on Freedom of Association in support of the complaint.

b) After the question "Is not Decree No.16 a flagrant breach of Conventions 87 and 98?" was put to him, the Workers Group representative asked to see the original text of the Decree. This was translated for him and read to him. After the delegation emphasized that this document is in contradiction with the right of trade unions to organize freely, the Workers Group representative did not disagree with that statement. The delegation emphasized that opposition to this Decree was a cen

tral point in the complaint. Is it conceivable that the ILO should for a single instant accept the terms of a decree adopted by the Governing Council which breaches the provisions of its own Conventions? It is the role of the ILO to oversee respect for the provisions of its own Conventions. Nobody can doubt for a single instant that Decree No.16 will be condemned.

c) The delegation pointed out that in all the statements it had made at the international

level, it had always reiterated its support for the statement by the Workers Group in June 2003, which says:

"In the new Iraq, there must be, consistent with ILO standards, full freedom of association, guaranteeing the Iraqi workers the right to organize and to bargain collectively; there must be democracy with full civil liberties, permitting trade unions to choose their own leadership independently and without interference; there must be the right to self-determination by the Iraqi people."

A year later, the delegation therefore asked what the Group's judgement was on the current situation regarding the demands formulated in that statement. The Workers Group representative indicated that, at this stage, the Group had not drafted a specific resolution on Iraq this year, but that he did not rule out the possibility that this could be put up for discussion in a future meeting of the Group.

d) In answer to the request for the FWCUI to address the Workers Group, Dan Cunniah indicated that this could be envisaged. It being understood, however, that this was

in no way a question of promoting a competition between Iraqi trade union organisations, but of helping the ILO Conventions to be respected, especially the provision that workers can freely form the trade union of their choice.

The delegation of the Campaign Against the Occupation and For Labour Rights in Iraq:

Considers that, following the registration of the complaint, this meeting is a further encouragement for all those who in Iraq itself and throughout the world are fighting for the freedom to organise to be respected;

Calls on the whole of the world labour movement to renew the demand for the withdrawal of the occupying troops from Iraq;

Calls for the campaign in support of respecting Conventions 87 and 98 to be developed, a campaign which, in Iraq, must begin with the most formal condemnation of Decree No.16.

Considers that there cannot be democracy in Iraq without total freedom to organise for the Iraqi workers; and

Throughout the world, in each trade union, in all the trade unions, in all the trade unions, in all the trade union federations and confederations, calls for declarations of support for the complaint lodged with the ILO to be heard. Let us build a vast movement of solidarity with the people of Iraq. The right of the workers to organise independently recognises no borders. It is possible to change the course of events.

Please return endorsements to : eit.ilc@fr.oleane.com info@uuiraq.org

For more information about the International Campaign Against the Occupation and For Labor Rights in Iraq, please contact:

- US Labor Against the War, www.uslaboragainstwar.org
- International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, 213 Bagdad Street PO Box 3225, Damascus (Syria). Tel. : (963 11) 445 95 22 Fax : (963 11) 4442 03 23. lcatu@net.sy
- International Liaison Committee of Workers and Peaoples, eit.ilc@fr.oleane.com, http://www.owcinfo.org

A public meeting in Torquay-UK to call for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Iraq and in support of labour rights for Iraqi workers.



A public meeting attended by 30 local trade unionists and labour activists was held at the Belgrave Hotel, Torquay, on Wednesday, 26 May 2004, to call for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Iraq and in support of labour rights for Iraqi workers.

The meeting was organised by Torbay & District Trades Union Council as part of its support for the International Campaign Against the Occupation and For Labour Rights in Iraq, which was launched in June 2003.

The meeting was chaired by Charlie Charalambous, Vice President of Torbay & District Trades Council, who read out messages of support from the journalist John Pilger, and Alan Benjamin, a member of USLAW's leadership council. He also drew attention to the many documents which were available at the meeting, most notably copies of the appeal by US and Spanish trade unionists for an immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Iraq, and the complaint to be submitted to the ILO by the Iraqi trade unions.

He then presented the background to the International Campaign and

spoke of the common issues facing trade unionists in Britain and Iraq. He pointed out that the call to apply ILO Conventions 87 and 98 in Iraq. which respectively provide for the right to join the trade union of one's choice and the right to negotiate collectively without hindrance from employers or the authorities, as well as the other core ILO Conventions. is equally valid in the UK today. For example, the anti-trade union laws passed by the Thatcher government have been kept in place and added to, and the FBU [the firefighters' union] is facing a violation of ILO Convention 98 in the form of the intention of the employers and the Blair government to impose regionalisation and therefore to refuse to negotiate nationally.

He also highlighted the need for the real facts of the situation in Iraq facing ordinary Iraqis to be discussed widely, on the basis of challenging the definitions of "freedom" and "democracy" as used by representatives of the British and US governments. When Blair says "the Iraqis want this", or "the Iraqis want that", we in the labour movement should remember that this is no more

meaningful than saying "the British want privatisation". We should remember that in a capitalist society, there are antagonistic interests at play, that what we want is not what the Blairs and the Bushes of this world want, and that the interests of trade unionists and workers in Iraq are no different to the interests of trade unionists and workers in Britain, in the US, or anywhere else in the world.

The main speakers were Muayad Ahmed, representing the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq (UUI) and the Federation of Workers' Councils and Trade Unions in Iraq (FWCUI), who only last week was in Baghdad, and Jean-Pierre Barrois, a member of the independent trade union delegation which visited Iraq in October 2003 on a fact-finding mission.

Comrade Ahmed explained that despite the appalling conditions which still prevail in Iraq, the FWCUI has succeeded in organising 300,000 members so far. The UUI has registered 150,000 unemployed workers, but for now the registration process has stopped due to lack of resources. The main reason for organising the unemployed workers was the recognition of the need to articulate collectively, on an organised basis. the fundamental demands for unemployment and other social benefits for the 70 percent of the Iragi population who are unemployed.

He emphasised the point that it is precisely the occupation by the foreign troops which is feeding the acts of terrorism by the Islamic militias and giving them greater prominence than they would normally attract.

Continue on P.8

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www.uuiraq.org

From P.7.... A public meeting in Torquay-UK

In this sense, the occupying troops and the Islamic militias are relying on each other to justify their actions. Besides, the fact of the terrorism practised by such militias is that ordinary Iraqis are killed by it as well as foreign troops. The foreign troops must be withdrawn immediately, in order to allow the Iraqi workers to shape their society on their own secular basis. There may well be chaos in the immediate period after withdrawal, but this would be no worse than the chaos currently being imposed under the occupation, and would be resolved on terms decided by the Iraqis themselves.

Jean-Pierre Barrois spoke mainly about his trip to Baghdad in October 2003 as part of the delegation of independent trade unionists sent by the International Campaign on a fact-finding mission, during which he was able to see for himself that talk in the western media of "reconstruction" is simply false — there is no reconstruction going on in Iraq, least of all by US companies like Halliburton and SSA, who are more intent on repatriating 100 percent of their profits back to the US.

He pointed out that the delegation did not choose who to speak to they spoke to whichever Iraqis wanted to speak to them. In answer to the question "do the Iraqi workers want their own trade unions?", he explained that the first thing the railworkers of Baghdad did after the bombing stopped was to hold a meeting among the ruins of the central Baghdad railway station in order to elect their representative who would speak for them as trade union unionists. The International Campaign is not choosing which trade union to support – it is supporting the fundamental right of the Iragis to choose for themselves which union they want to join, as codified in ILO Convention 87. By preserving the trade union statute introduced by Saddam Hussein in

1987, and by recognising just one trade union federation, the Coalition Provisional Authority and their servants in the Governing Council were telling employers that they could hire and fire any non-member of that union with impunity and could impose any pay and conditions they choose.

As a clear demonstration of the Governing Council's cynical intentions towards the Iraqi working class, it had "asked" a firm of US lawyers to draft a new Labour Code, which no doubt will have nothing to do with working class interests. In contrast, the FWCUI had produced their own draft for a new Labour Code, which expresses working class interests as they see them. The International Campaign defends the FWCUI's right to do so, as an expression of Iraqi self-determination.

After referring to the formal complaint which will be lodged with the International Labour Organisation in Geneva by the FWCUI and UUI in June 2004 – a complaint which details the violations in Iraq of the provisions of ILO Conventions 87 and 98 - Comrade Barrois pointed out that the intention of the occupying powers is to carve up Iraq into three micro-states on ethnic lines (Kurds, Sunni and Shia), which in the first place in intended to carve up the Iraqi working class, and which can only lead to ethnic cleansing of one community by another when they find themselves in the "wrong" micro-state.

A full discussion from the floor followed the main speeches, with questions to the platform and contributions on, amongst others, the relationship of the Islamic religion to state structures, the role of women, the role of the ILO, the role of the Blair government, the trade union traditions of Iraq, the daily economic realities of 70 percent unemployment.

Finally, the meeting voted to approve the following resolution:

Having heard the contributions from the representative of the UUI and FWCUI, from the member of the independent trade union delegation to Iraq and from other participants in this meeting, and having noted that trade union rights are under threat in the UK as in Iraq:

we agree to promote the International Campaign Against the Occupation and For Labour Rights In Iraq throughout the British labour movement:

we support the appeal by US and Spanish trade unionists for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Irag;

we call for the immediate application of ILO Conventions 87 and 98 in Iraq:

we support the FWCUI and UUI complaint to the ILO:

we call on all British trade unions and all British members of the ILO Workers Group to support the FWCUI and UUI complaint; and we call for the application of the Core ILO Conventions guaranteeing trade union freedoms and democracy, which include Conventions 87 and 98, in both the UK and Irag.

The Chair invited financial donations to the campaign and specifically to the costs of the Iraqi delegation to Geneva in June 2004.

He then closed the meeting by inviting those present to travel on the Torbay TUC coach to the annual Tolpuddle Festival in July 2004, to celebrate the memory of the men who set up the first trade union in Britain – a tradition which must be defended in Britain, in Iraq, and everywhere in the world.

Write to: CLRI, P.O. Box 394, Torquay TQ1 3ZR e-mail: labour-rights-in iraq@runbox.com www.torbaytuc.org.uk

Agitating for Workers' Rights in Iraq Where the Livable World Order Begins

http://www.counterpunch.org/moses06042004.html
By GREG MOSES

Wouldn't it be a profound retort to empire if Iraqis led a global movement for worker's rights? Next Friday in fact, June 11, a coalition of labor groups will stand behind an Iraqi appeal for the right to selforganize.

"Workers are in urgent need to build strong and broad-based organizations which are not based on language or religion," says Aso Jabbar, international spokesperson for the Union of Unemployed Iraqis, one of several worker-based groups organized in the aftermath of the recent US invasion.

This June marks the second year in a row that international labor groups are gathering in support of Jabbar and other Iraqi labor organizers as the United Nations convenes its annual meeting of the International Labor Organization (ILO).

Next Friday, Iraqi labor representatives plan to deliver formal complaints to the ILO, protesting the labor policies of provisional authorities in Iraq.

In effect, Iraqi labor organizers accuse US-backed authorities of setting up the national equivalent of a company union, ignoring the rights of workers to organize their own shops and elect their own leaders.

According to materials posted at reputable labor sources, such as Eric Lee's LaborStart, Iraqi labor organizers waded right into the chaos of war and began organizing unions as early as March 2003. At a decisive March 16 conference (in 2003), a dissident labor movement, WDTUM, that had been opposing Saddam Hussein's labor practices since 1980, was folded into an exploratory organization called the

Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU) with newly elected officers.

From May to December, 2003, numerous independent unions were organized under the IFTU umbrella. The organizing campaign was formally announced on May 10, 2003. One of the independ

ent unions that emerged was UUI.

"UUI is a strong organisation of unemployed people that raises the banner of jobs or unemployed insurance to confront the massive unemployment," says Jabbar.

"It was the first union to organize demonstrations to end the occupation in Iraq. As a result UUI organized more than 13 demonstrations and a sit-in strike for more than 48 days in Baghdad and other cities in Iraq, and held more than 13 sessions of negotiation with the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) for the demands of unemployed people in Iraq. Tens of thousands of people joined UUI and internationally it became a well-known union."

The 2003 organizing drive culminated on Dec. 8 with an Iraqi Labor Congress held in Baghdad. At the Baghdad congress (did we hear about this on Fox News?) the exploratory umbrella group was formalized into an organization called the FWCUI or Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq.

"They elected the leading committee and Falah Alwan as general secretary of FWCUI," says Jabbar. "Alwan published the first independent workers newspaper named 'Workers Council,' depending only on the energy and donation of workers themselves. In a short time this paper became a well known source of news about workers' struggle and strikes." UUI is one of the member unions of FWCUI.

But this worker-organized movement was shoved aside by provisional authorities who announced their own top-down leadership, drawing on labor leaders who had served under the old state-run system

On March 15, 2004, an international delegation of labor representatives joined Jabbar in delivering a memorandum to the ILO office in Geneva.

Says the memo in part, "the reconstruction of Iraq and the introduction of democratic self-rule will only succeed if the Iraqi people themselves exercise their sovereignty to develop the reconstruction process as they see fit.this is especially true with regard to Iraq's workers, most of whom are currently unemployed and who fear that their economic well-being has been

taken out of their control and in fact depends on the occupying forces."

The memo goes on to argue that the ILO should enforce the right of Iraqi workers to organize themselves, elect their own leaders, and in effect, begin to connect the dry bones of Iraq's democracy.

Meanwhile, Jabbar argues that the structure of the emerging Iraqi government, "based on ethnic and religious considerations is an obstacle in the face of building strong and wide-boarded labour unions which would not recognise people according to their ethnicities or religious identities."

"I will summarise the practical meaning of democracy

of Bush in Iraq," says Jabbar.

Continue on P.12

UUI - Statement Regarding the Announcement of the New Iraqi Government

In one of US tragic play's chapters, a placement of a new government was announced. This announcement considered as a US extension policy and its efforts to take over the region and the world. That's after the military government try-out who was about to declare the Marshal Law during the months of April, May, and June last year 2003 under Jay Garner leadership which failed miserably, the formation of Civil Provisional Authorities known as (CPA) headed by Paul Bremer, which in turn formed The Interim Governing Council known as (IGC), through all these chapters the US administration failed to come back with proper solution for the society's dilemmas – and because they didn't plan for it at all-they didn't gain the sufficient legitimacy to handle the situation in Iraq.

The US administration was neither able to convince the international public opinion nor the Iraqi street to accept to let passing their political agenda in Iraq, and the plan seemed to be moving towards a formation of different shapes of governments each one try to let pass those policies and give it constituent form of absolute control "the New World Order" and the announcement of the new government is nothing but a continuation of these sequentially fallen one by one chapters. That is neither Jay Garner nor Paul Bremer were able to diagnose and solve the Iraqi hitch. In addition the IGC failed miserably to represent the people aspirations, thus each of those chapters was full of tragedy.

During those chapters the crisis of the society were aggravated in a way that seeing its end is way far from

over progressively. The unemployment crisis and the ongoing threats of the privatization aftermath, insecurity and instability, the terrorists conflict that threatens the civility of the society of being deteriorated and prepare the ground for all kinds of terrorism, power outage crisis, Electricity crises and water pollution, in another word the life, security, and safety of the people are entirely vanished with the presence of the US troops.

At this point the Iraqi people are encouraged to express full rejection towards the continuation of this plan, which intend to vanish them from the political stage, and deprive them from deciding their own future. Besides the unemployed people (the greatest majority of Iraqi society) will not stand still waiting for the governments -under guardian- following one another to get away from their currently unsolved crisis. In addition to state that if the US administration intends to lead the country to the chaos, we will lead the struggle to drive the US forces out of Iraq and to down fall the new government and all prepared tactics to take over the people fates and treasures. As well as delivering a clear message to the US administration and whoever is circling around its orbit stating that "no way of deep rooting the bizarre religious or ethnic tendency in the Iraqi civil society".

The Leadership BoardUnion of Unemployed in Iraq June 2.2004

www.uuiraq.org, Email: info@uuiraq.org

Federation of Trade Unions in Miqdadyia Joins the Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq

In the town of Miqdadyia, a series of meetings and negotiations were held between the Federation of Trade Unions and the Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq. The groups discussed many issues in relation to unionist struggle, the policies of the FWCUI, and other organizational and structural issues. The Leading Committee of the Federation of Trade Unions in Miqdadyia decided to join the FWCUI and regard their organization as one of the branches of the FWCUI. The Federation of Trade Unions in Miqdadyia has 300 members in different factories and institutions in this town.

The meetings took place at the office of the Worker-Communist Party of Iraq in Miqdadyia. Samih Ashoor, the representative of the FWCUI, and Smnako Aziz of the WP Iraq attended these meetings. The delegation of the FTUM consisted of Fathel Shokr, the head of the federation, and Zaki abdulla, Hamza Ali, Abdulsalam Razoqi, Sadiq Jomaa Askar, and Nawzad Hamid Ali, members of the Leading Committee of the FTUM.

We congratulate the workers of Miqdadyia for joining their new representative, the FWCUI, in the struggle toward building a better future in Iraq.

Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq June 2004 11th Meeting for the Defense of ILO Conventions and for the Freedom of Unions

A Report regarding the workers' situation in Iraq under occupation and the installed government

(Note: The following report was presented by Falah Alwan, president of the Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq, to the 11th Meeting in Defense of ILO Conventions, organized by the International Liaison Committee, in Geneva on June 13, 2004.)

Because the labour movement has being suffering from many difficulties, organisational or living-wise, some parties consider it as an issue for their own interests not to represent and defend the labour rights, but to use these solely for their own propaganda. Apparently the powers are distributed behind the people's backs, without labour participation or even going back to request their opinion or declaring a free referendum.

The workers are deprived from forming their own independent organisations, and kept away from doing their daily living business by a government that excludes labour, "the majority," from any role in the Iraqi political future. In the same way the government was installed, the Iraqi Trade Union was formed too, and considered as an official representative of the Iragi labour movement -in opposition to the idea of the mandatory participation of labour in building the new state. We believe that the new labour organisation in Iraq should have a dual role to play:

- 1. Annihilate all fascist acts that make the labour organisations part of the state machinery, which is being reproduced currently. It is known as a totalitarian characteristic and a solid breach of all international standards.
- 2. The trade unions should be in the workers' hands and should participate practically in forming the politi

cal regime and establishing the rules and laws that broaden the labour rights and freedoms.

We, as a trade union federation, have achieved a lot, and confronted many difficulties as well. Throughout our presentation we will try to spotlight the core problem in Iraq, that is, the obstacles to forming a union independent from the state unions and removed from political conspiracies. Even if we tried to talk about the formation of the unions, profession-wise, we could not avoid the political analysis of the situation in Iraq. Our union federation, together with the affiliated Union of Unemployed in Iraq, which still pressurizes the authorities to create more job opportunities and most of the time has managed to find jobs for a massive number of unemployed people (a detailed report will presented later on), initiated a call for the workers to elect their representatives freely and voluntarily. We have accomplished our trade union work on many sites, such as railway workers, textile factory, leather industry, northern oil company, oil production transportation, public transit, electricity, public services, hygienic occupations, electrical bulbs, construction workers, and brick industry in Baghdad and many other cities.

A pleasant commencement to a new era of forming unions had just begun; it did not last long, however. An official order was publicised stating that "the state-owned enterprises are still included in the civil employees system, and formation of any union is prohibited." Also another official order had come up in the Pachachy presidency period stating that "the Iraqi Trade Union is the only officially recognized union." This, in

turn, meant blocking the way to any unionized activity, which was now considered illegal. This has meant a continuation of the fascist traditions with a new, different face -- taking advantage of the forcibly built previous labour habits in taking and responding to the Baath fascist orders and resolutions, and the lack of experience in practising trade union activity. Not only the above mentioned issues had a major impact on the workers, but depriving the labour movement from forming an organisation that defends their rights made them face the most difficult times and phases they have ever seen in their lives. ...

We have denounced this scandalous conduct in our statements and newspapers, and instigated the workers to pressurize the authorities to ending such conduct. However the threats made by the employers and management are still a crucial barrier to the progress and the improvement of the labour movement and to the enhancement of the freedom to unionization.

Some of the union leaders and activists on behalf of their organisations have contacted our organisation to establish a line of communication with us -- especially the south electricity trade union, the southern oil trade union, the port workers, the teachers' the federation in Basra, and the Shahr Ban trade union in Baguba. In response to that we have prepared to hold a conference to include all these groups and individuals. But the deterioration of the security situation in the south of Iraq, especially in Basra during the past few weeks, has delayed this conference from being held. This is one reason. Continue on P.12

A Report regarding the workers' situation in Iraq

The other is the financial difficulty.In addition to installating a new government, the U.S. occupation authorities have installed a trade union that claims the official representation of Iragi labour. We understand fully that this will deprive the workers from the opportunity of forming their own unions, which as a result will mean repeating the same old methods in the union work. This will conclude with the failure of the workers' endeavours to get rid of the statecontrolled unions. This means that what is happening in Iraq is nothing but formal democracy.

All of what has been said has had the following effects:

- 1. The authorities' conduct has affected our independent union work passively and delayed our projects. Actually it has even paralyzed our activities in many fields, and diverted our efforts from organising the workers in active unions to oppose the dominated old traditions, and to confront the authorities' resolutions. All this will take more time and work: though it is a part of the serious effort to educate the workers about their unions and their own interests, also explaining that these unions are the representatives of the labour movement, not of the government.
- 2. This situation has made many

- union activists join the officially recognised union instead of working towards the formation of an independent union.
- 3. The situation has kept the labour movement from taking any initiatives, and kept them relying on the government's resolutions and legislation.
- 4. It has deprived the labour movement from any intervention in the formation of the political regime, as they are official representatives in a union considered part of the installed government.
- 5. The presence of another group which calls itself the Iraqi Trade Unions which was the state owned and controlled union sowed confusion among the workers and made them wait for the outcome of that conflict.

Our major and main task as a union is to end these odd situations in Iraq, so as to enable the workers to form their own unions. Thus we present our draft resolution, which calls for:

- 1. Not recognizing any union as the only official labour organisation. The right of trade union organisation and strike should be recognised to all Iraqi workers.
- 2. Giving all unions the opportunity to work and meet with the workers.

lay down their platforms and plans so the labour activists will be introduced to the workers in a clearer image.

- 3. Opening training sessions and workshops sponsored by ILO to graduate union leaders. Further, training them on the international labour standards, union labour charters, and thereby enhancing their skills.
- 4. Mutual visits between the unionists and the international organisations and organising training sessions for the Iraqi workers in the countries where the unionist traditions are deeply rooted among the workers so they will have a handson knowledge about the international trade union movement.
- 5. Consolidating the unions that don't enjoy the government support in Iraq.6. Monitoring the labour elections and their representatives by international labour organisations, so the workers will form the steering committee of the unions from among the workers who were elected, not members of the parties that the government installed, so the election will be from the labour activists and leaders.

Falah Alwan,

President of the Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq,

June 13, 2004

From P. 9... Agitating for Workers' Rights in Iraq

"It is occupation of Iraq, establishment of a puppet government with the ethnic and reactionary Islamic groups, unconditional support of US government to Israeli aggression in middle east, 13 years of economic embargo and killing as a result of sanction more than 1.5 million people in Iraq. The double standard of US democracy has removed any illusion about that calling for democracy in Iraq; it's only war propaganda, and has nothing to do with real democracy and freedom for Iraqi people. Even today we must determine and redefine democracy because of the abuse of this word. For us freedom is the main objectand not a democracy."

There you have it. Bush's campaign for democracy in Iraq has ruined the very term democracy as a tool of progress. Next Friday in Geneva, the movement continues. Can the ILO enforce the rights of Iraqi workers against the forces of OIL? Can workers of the world...

Solidarity Message with Korean Trade Unions Statement of UUI and FWCUI regarding the Opposition of Korean Trade Unions to the Deployment of more Korean troops in Iraq

Dear Friends in Korea
Dear Friends in KCTU and Labor Unions
of Korean Air and Asiana Airlines

The Workers in Iraq welcome the opposition of Korean Trade Unions to the plan of Korean Government to dispatch more troops in Iraq.

The labor unions of the nation's two airliners, Korean Air and Asiana Airlines, declared Thursday June 24 .2004 that they refuse to transport anything related to the troop dispatch to Iraq, including Korean soldiers to be stationed in Iraq along with armor and related equipment. The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions - KCTU demands on June. 23rd 2004 cancellation of the plans to dispatch troops to Iraq, as one of its main demands for the first half of this year, in order to avoid sacrifice of further lives. We demand that the Korean government not play puppet to the foreign policies of the US and that it take a firm stance again it, and that it protect the rights and the lives of its citizens.

War and occupation of Iraq diverted the Iraqi society toward instability, chaos and battle fields of a terrorist conflict between political Islam and US -led coalition.. In short, untold misery and suffering have been imposed on the people of Iraq. The U.S. government has placed Iraq on the verge of total collapse and within arm's reach of dreadful scenarios like, civil war, religious sectarianism, ethnic cleansing, and tribalism. The invasion of Iraq brought terrorism not only to people of Iraq but also on the global scale. Democracies, freedom of Iraqi People from the fascist government of Iraqect were only war propaganda. Iraq War was one of the steps establish its New World Order and to implement its hegemony and Dominance over the World at the same time the political Islamic groups in Iraq have transferred Iraq to a battle field of their terrorist actions. Terrorism, insecurity and violence against the human rights, labour rights and women rights are the prominent features and part of the daily lives of the people of Iraq. People of Iraq became the victims

of the war of terrorists both state terrorism of USA and Islamic terrorism. The workers in Iraq suffered on one side from the aggression of Saddams regime for 35 years and on the other side from the economic embargo for 13 years, war and occupation of USA-led coalition on Iraq.

Last year on February 15, millions of people and workers worldwide opposed to the war on Iraq and demanded to stop the aggression and war crimes of USA government to launch war on Irag. Thousands of trade Unions and workers organisations along with freedom loving people protested until now against the occupation in Iraq and demanded immediate withdrawal of the occupying troops from Iraq. We the independent labour unions in Irag have launched an international campaign to end the occupation and for labour rights in Iraq since March 2004 and until now labour leaders and unions from more than 40 countries have supported the demands of this campaign and an appeal presented by us to ILO for full implementation of ILO conventions Nr. 87 and 98 in Iraq confronting the oppressive steps of the US- civil administration and Iraqi Governing council in violating the labour rights in Iraq.

The UUI is a genuine representative of unemployed workers. The UUI, along with the Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq-FWCUI, is striving to end the occupation in Iraq and pressing all governments who sent troops to Iraq to withdraw them from Iraq, struggling for a secular government, for political freedoms, for improvement in the security situation in Iraq, for improvement in the living conditions of Iraqi people and put forward a democratic labour law as alternative labour legislation which guarantee unconditional freedom for Iraqi Workers to organise and strike and full implementation of the ILO conventions in Iraq.

We hope that you will be successful to prevent intervention and military involvement of the Korean - Government in Iraq because the result of all these Conflicts are only more blood sheds of the millions of innocent people in the war of Terrorists and we express our full solidarity in your actions against the deployment of Korean troops to Iraq and for withdrawal of not only Korean troops but also all occupying troops from Iraq.

We call all labour organisations and Unions worldwide and specially in USA and UK to join

From P. 13... Solidarity Message with Korean Trade Unions

this action of Korean trade unions to end the occupation in Iraq and for immediate withdrawal of all troops from Iraq and for a better future for Iraqi society and the working people of Iraq.

Long live freedom and equality.

Long live Willpower of the Labour Movement

Aso Jabbar

Representative abroad of Union of Unemployed in Iraq and the Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq

June 28 2004

Korean Airline Unions Refuse to Transport Troops to Iraq

The labor unions of the nation's two airliners, Korean Air and Asiana Airlines, declared Thursday that they refuse to transport anything related to the troop dispatch to Iraq, including Korean soldiers to be stationed in Iraq along with armor and related equipment. The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions -KCTU demands on cancellation of the plans to dispatch troops to Iraq, as one of its main demands for the first half of this year, in order to avoid sacrifice of further lives. We demand that the Korean government not play puppet to the foreign policies of the US and that it take a firm stance again it, and that it protect the rights and the lives of its citizens. The Association of Airline Unions, founded by both the national airlines and the employees of Incheon International Airport and Kimpo Airport, said Thursday that in accordance with the policy of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions [see KCTU text & link below], that they are against sending more troops to Iraq and will launch an all-out struggle against the deployment. The association said, "Both Korean Air and Asiana Airlines should not sign contracts with the government to transport troops to Iraq... If they sign such contracts, the security of our union members cannot be guaranteed as they may become a target of terror during operation... Also, in order to show our rejection to a war of invasion, we will suspend all flights." In response to the unions,

the two airlines pointed out, "We haven't been asked by the government to transport troops to Iraq," and "unconditionally rejecting something before even negotiations have begun is going to far."

(Lee Wee-jae, wjlee@chosun.com)

KCTU STATEMENT

<u>Korean Trade Unions Oppose Iraq</u> <u>Deployment</u>

Plan to deploy troops to Iraq has taken away an innocent life of Kim Seon-II. Stop Deployment Now!The sacrifice of Kim Sun-II was expected, as long as the government was to push for dispatch of troops to Iraq. However, the government did not fulfill all that it could have done, and we now consequently face a tragedy. We cannot but be angered by the act of killing innocent lives. At the same time, we are adamant in our denouncement against the dispatch of troops to Iraq by the Korean government, an act that has brought about this tragedy. There is no national interest that is greater than the lives of a country's citizens. Whatever justification the government may use for the deployment of troops, the events that are actually taking place are drawing citizens into the war that US implemented. It is inevitable that sacrifice of young Korean soldiers and of innocent citizens continue.

This has to stop. Plans to dispatch troops to Iraq must be completely re-examined. The KCTU demands cancellation of the plans to dispatch troops to Iraq, as one of its main demands for the first half of this year, in order to avoid sacrifice of further lives. We demand that the Korean government not play puppet to the foreign policies of the US and that it take a firm stance again it, and that it protect the rights and the lives of its citizens. We strongly reaffirm that the KCTU and all its members will stand at the forefront of the struggle to cancel plans to deploy troops to Iraq. 23rd June, 2004

Korean Confederation of Trade Unions - KCTU

Thanks For Your Donations To UUI ;

Ewa Jasiewicz in London - UK Charlie Charalambous Torquay-UK Mustafa Dogän Solibar Reitschule in Bern- Switzerland UUI Sponsors in Australia

1000 Pounds

50 Pounds,

100 Swiss Franks 279 Swiss Franks

... _ .

198 Pounds

International Solidarity with the Labour Rights in Iraq

The following labour leaders and unions demand that ILO

Conventions 87 and 98 be fully enforced in Iraq and supported the complaint of UUI and FWCUI to ILO

(Complaint lodged to the ILO trade union freedom committee by the Federation of Workers Committees and Trade Unions in Iraq (FWCUI)and the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq (UUI))

Luiz Gomes; diretor CUT Alagoas Josenildo Vieira, diretor CUT Pernambuco João Batista Gomes, diretor CUT São Paulo

Initiators of the campaign

US Labor Against War (USLAW)
International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions (ICATU)

International Liaison Committee of Workers and Peoples (ILC)

Afghanistan

Afghanistan Socialist Association (ASA)

Algeria

Union Générale des Travailleurs Algériens (UGTA) Takdjout Amar, UGTA, Secrétaire fédéral, Fédération textiles

Australia

Mullen Tony Trade Unionist SSTUWA

Bangladesh

Bangladesh Jatiyo Sramik Federation (BJSF) Tafazzul Hussain President Zakir Hossain Secretary BJSF.

Benir

Confédération Syndicale des Travailleurs du Bénin (CSTB)

Azoua K Gaston

Assogba Innocent, Secrétaire aux relations extérieures ;

Burkina

Confédétation Générale du Travail (CGT-B) Sagnon Tolé, Secrétaire général –

Union Syndicale des Tavailleurs du Burkina Faso (USTB) Nama Mamadou

Brazi

Jorge Luís Martins, diretor executivo da CUT Nacional

Julio Turra, diretor executivo da CUT Nacional Walter Matos, diretor CUT Amazonas Gardênia Baima, diretora CUT Ceará João Bosco, vice-presidente CUT DF Roberto Cupolillo, diretor CUT Mina Gerais Carlos Recacho, diretor CUT Paraná Maurício Rosa, diretor CUT Santa Catarina

Burundi

Confédération des Syndicats du Burundi, (COSYBU) Hajayandi Pierre -Claver, Président

Canada

B. Ross Ashley Service Employees' International Union, local 1

Chad

Union des Syndicats du Tchad, Djibrine Assali Hamdallah, Secrétaire général

Cote d'Ivoire

SYNASEG, Yao Kmadio François, Secrétaire général; Yassine Céline, Secrétaire générale adjointe SYNASEG,

France

Fédération des Personnels des Services Départementaux et Régionaux FO

Fédération Nationale de l'enseignement FO

Syndicat CGT-Mines de Fer Syndicat National CGT-ADME

Union Départementale FO Paris

Union Départementale FO Val d'Oise

Union Départementale FO Aisne Syndicat CGT PTT Eure et Loir

Syndicat FO des personnels e organismes sociaux de la région Parisienne

Syndicat SNUDI-FO Val d'Oise

Syndicat SNJT -FO Trésor Paris

Syndicat SNFOLC Rhone Syndicat SNFOLC Moselle

Syndicat SNFOLC Paris

Syndicat Action Sociale FO Haute Savoie

Syndicat SNUDI-FO Isère

Syndicat SNFOLC Académie de Grenoble

Syndicat SNPREES-FO Isère Syndicat SNUDI-FO Vaucluse

Syndicat Dépatemental FO sécurité Sociale Haute Garonne

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FO REP - Group Exxon Mobile

CGT CHS Saint-Ylie USDASS-CGT Saint -Ylie CGT-SP-FTI Issy les Moulineaux FERC-CGT Sup Bordeaux 2 FO Hopital Vinatier Lyon

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SCECOSS AFRP FO Paris SNADGI- CGT Paris-Centre UNSENRIC-FO Saclay SNUDI-FO Montreuil

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Mennecier Jean syndicaliste CGT Mignet alain syndicaliste FO

Mignot Roland syndicaliste retraité SDEN-CGT

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Moro Michel syndicaliste CGT

Mourre Bernard syndicaliste SNFOLC Mourre Odile syndicaliste enseignante

Moutot Dan, PT;

Mulak Pierre syndicaliste CGT Naïm Amina syndicalise commerce Paris Jacques, syndicaliste enseignant; Pepers Véronique, chimie, Syndicaliste;

Plantiveau syndicaliste SNFOLC Poupard Alain syndicalise CGT Proutière Colette syndicaliste CGT PUY Pierre syndicaliste FO

Ray Bernard syndicalise SNUDI-FO Redon Claudine syndicaliste SNUDI-FO

Regis Christian syndicaliste FO

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Schoonaert Bernard syndicaliste CGT Simonnin Michèle, Syndicaliste ; Singer Claude syndicaliste SNFOLC-FO

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Germany

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Frey Henning, SPD, Verdi, Mitglied Fachbereichsvasstand 5. Verdi

Besirk Bochum;

Schüller Klaus, DGB, Secrétaire ; Schuster Heinz -Gerber, SPD, Verdi –

Ernst Neweling Gewerkschaft Erzielung und

Wissenschaft

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Great Britain

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Torbay and District TUC

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Mark Wood, Regional Council Officer, UNISON- West Midlands;

Phil Chadwick, Secretary, CWU -South West 1;

Charlie Charalambous, Vice-President, Torbay & District TUC, Chair, TGWU 2/441

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Peter Flack Assistant Secretary, City of Leicester NUT

Ruth Byrne President, City of Leicester NUT

Ruth Byrne President, City of Leicester NU I Munro Ross, UNISON Convener, Highland Branch;

Bob Askew, NATFHE Branch Chair, Manchester

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David Halpin FRCS;

Stefan Cholewka, TGWU, Rochdale CLP and editor of The Link;

Sami A Joseph;

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Marian Pallister, NUJ;

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S.Boardman, CWU;

Mark Richardson, CWU:

Richard Bradbury, AUT:

Karen Johnson, GMB

Aberdeen Anti-War Coalition;

Andy Rees, Chagford Peace Group;

Claire Robinson, Chagford Peace Group;

Helen de Castres, Chagford Peace Group;

Jane Smith, Coalition Against War;

Guadeloupe

Union générale des travailleurs de Guadeloupe (UGTG), Gauthierot Raymond, secrétaire général –

Apatout Serge UGTG-BTP

Boulate Antonin UGTG-Dockers

Clavier Gaby UGTG

Cornelie Guy MPTPG

Fabert Victor UGTG-ANPE

Lapitre Jocelyn MPTPG

Lendo Charly UTHTR- UGTG

Maret-Mercier Arthur UGTG-BTP

Samuel Jacques UGTG-BTP

Thomias Harry UGTG-EDF

Hong Kong

Michael Siu Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions Hong Kong Christian Industrial Committee

Indonesia

Wicaksono Bayu The Alliance of Independent Journalists

India

Mahadevan H., General Secretary All India Trade Union Congress,

N. Vasudevan, Convenor Trade Union Solidarity Committee and General Secretary, All India Blue Star Employees Federation, Mumbai,

Franklyn D'Souza, Hindustan Lever Employees Union, Mumbai, India

C.G. Chavan, Nicholas Employees Union, Mumbai,

H.I. Poojari, Otis Elevator Employees Union, Mumbai

Y.V. Chavan, Sarva Shramik Sangh, Mumbai

Vicky Tavadia, General Secretary, DHL Employees Union, Mumbai

Ramesh Nair, General Secreary, Voltas Employees Union,

Mumbai

Nilesh Parmar, General Secretary, Gujarat Working Class Union, Bharuch, Gujarat

Anant More, General Secretary, Mukand Kamgar Union, Mumbai

Uday Masurkar, General Secretary, Supreme Industries Employees Union, Mumbai

Iraq

Union of the Unemployed in Iraq (UUI) Qasim Hadi General Secretary

Federation of Workers Committees and Trade Unions in Iraq (FWCUI) Falah Alwan President

Organisation of Womens Freedom in Iraq

Federation of Iraqi Refugees Swiss Branch.

Aso Jabbar Representative of the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq abroad

Reza Hasan, International Federation Iraki Refugee – Swiss branch secretary

Italy

Chieffa Antonella, CISL, Syndicaliste ;Defeudis Rita, CISL scuola, Syndicaliste ;

Varaldo Lorenzo, UIL -Ecole, Syndicaliste –

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Ahmed Jaradat Jordanian Writers Society

Korea

Yong-sangu-Saegye-dong Vice President Korean Metal worker's Federation Jung Sikhwa KMWF

Lebanon

El Husaini Khadije, Comité des femmes arabes travailleuses. Présidente

Madagascar

Galy Jean Raphael

Malaysia

Socialist Party of Malaysia

Mauritania

Union des Syndicats Libres de Mauritanie USLM, Kane Moktar, Secrétaire général –

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Roberto Aguilar Morales, miembro de la dirección del SUTAUNICAH

Ma. Lucina Pérez Gómez, miembro de la dirección del SUTAUNICAH

Edil Vázquez Ovando, miembro de la dirección del SUTAUNICAH; jorge A. Gómez Martínez, miembro de la dirección del SIDET CECYTECH

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Sandra Luz Samayoa, Macario, miembro de la dirección del SIDET CECYTECH

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Heliodoro Ivarez Tereso miembro del comité ejecutivo seccional de la sección 22 SNTE-CNTE;

Fidalma de los Santos Castellanos, miembro del comité ejecutivo de la sección 50 del SNTSa,

Gustavo Grajales Robles, miembro del patronato de la sección 40 del SNTE-CNTE;

Paulina Velásquez Picaso, miembro del comité ejecutivo de la sección 35 del SNTSS;

Luis Vázquez, miembro del Comité de seguimiento de la Conferencia de Sao Paulo contra el ALCA; STUNAM,

Misael Palma y Gustavo Santana, miembros de la sección 7 del SNTE;

Juan Carlos Vargas Reyes, miembro de la coordinación de Juventud Revolución;

Humberto Martínez Brizuela, redactor del periódico El Trabajo.

New Zeland

Mike Williams Maritime Union New Zealand Luci Highfield Service & Food Workers Union

Niger

Confédération Démocratique des Travailleurs (CDTN)

Pakistan

All Pakistan Trade Uion Federation (APTUF)

Philippines

Philippine Railway workers Union (BKM-PNR-ITF) Bilayon Edgar General Secretary Philippine Railway workers Union (BKM-PNR-ITF)

Portugal

Pegas Fernando, SINDEL -Sindicato Energia, Dirigeant -

Senegal

Sow Bayla Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs du Sénégal – Force de Changement (CNTS-FC)

Serbia

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Andjelkovich Jovan , EC Trade Union of Education Workers of Serbia « Independence », Belgrade

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Vlaisavljevich Theresa, Independent Trade Union « Vital ». Vrbas

Vranich Sendo, Independent Trade Union JP « Komunalac », Tchatchack

Spain

Ocaña López, José Manuel, responsable syndical UGT banque

Calzada Doladé, Josep, responsable syndical UGT caisses d'épargne,

Ayala Roqueta, Jordi, syndicaliste UGT Fonction publique,

Andrés Pérez Subirana, avocat du travail

Campabadal Solé, Àngel, responsable syndical UGT caisses d'épargne

Sudan

Ghanour Ibrahim Sudan Workes Trade Union Federation

Switzerland

Gottret Schenk Députée Grand Conseil

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Alain frank Secrétaire syndical SSP

David Scheffre syndicaliste SSP

Hofer Daniel, PSS, Membre du comité cantonal Neuchâtel .

Anor Alexandre, PSS, Membre comité directeur PS genevois ;

Zaja Magdalena syndicaliste SSP

Deley Luc, PSS - SSP;

Jaussy Rudy, SSP, présidente du groupe SIG;

Vincent Leggiero Présidnt syndicat SEV-TPG

Anor Catherine, SSP, enseignante;

Anor Albert, UCPO:

Casagrande Marco, UCPO, membre;

Gindrat Michel, UCPO;

Girodo Simone, Comm. Femmes EIT;

Herranz Sylviane, comiédienne, Journaliste ;

Iseli Claude, UCPO, membre ; Iseli Pierrette, UCPO, membre ;

Robert Max, SSP -enseignement, Syndicaliste;

Madi Rania, Collectif Urgence pour la Palestine -

Nabil Nadim ,Webmaster of UUI -Homepage has been killed in Iraq near the Border of Syria

On May 19 2004 Nabil Nadim the Webmaster of UUI- Homepage has been killed in an accident near the Border of Iraq-Syria. Nabil returned back to Iraq in April 04 for political activities and to make films on the labour movement in Iraq. On May 19 on his way to leave Iraq , he has been killed in a car accident because of military fighting between US- Soldiers and armed resistance in Iraq, a panic situation has broken out among the civilian who were in a colony of cars to travel to Syria. Nabil was from Baghdad and he lived in Switzerland and did not returned back to Iraq for 30 years .We would like to express our deepest condolence to the family and friends of our comrade Nabil and we held

the US occupying forces directly responsible for the killing of Nabil and creation of an insecure situation in Iraq in which daily hundreds of civilian became victims of the terrorist conflict between US and political Islam.

We received Letters of Condolence from the following friends and we express our thanks and solidarity to their statements.

-MORI, Fumiihro,Staff member of ZENKO in Japan -Nadia Mahmoud Rep. of Orgasniation of Womens Freedom in Iraq -OWFI abroad

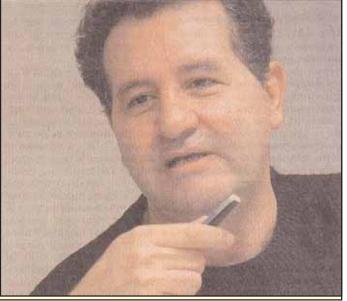
-Qasim Hadi ,General screteary of UUI

Faris Mahmoud, chief Editor of the newspaper ILA AI AMAMM.

-Moyad Ahmad Editor of the newspaper ,Worker Communism ,a weekly arabic paper of Worker Commnuist party of Irag -WCPI

-Swiss Committee of Workers Communist Party of Irag - WCPI

Falah Alwan President of FWCUI



From P. 19.... International Solidarity with the Labour Rights in Iraq

Syria

Farouk Saad, ICATU / CISA, Secretary International Affairs

Togo

Ameganvi Claude, PT -Togo, Secrétaire chargé de la coordination

Thailand

WIMTEC (women & wortkers independent media and training center)

Turkey

KESK, Confederation of Public Employees Trade Unions - Mustafa Ecevit, Secretary for International Relations, BIRLESIK METAL-IS, Metalworkers Union of Turkey (affiliated to DISK)- Selcuk Goktas, General Secretary, of Gebze branch of OZ CELIK-IS, Metalworkers Union (affiliated to HAK-IS)- Serafettin Koc, President, Istanbul 3. branch of BELEDIYE-IS, Municipality Workers Union (affiliated to Turk-Is)- Huseyin Ayrilmaz, PresidentFedayi Istanbul branch of LASTIK-IS (affiliated to DISK)- Öztürk, President,

Istanbul IETT branch of BELEDIYE-IS, Municipality Workers Union (affiliated to Turk-Is)Sadettin Yildirim, President Erol Pinar, ISGI Kardesligi

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Kulik Vitaliy, Union "Borotba", secretary Nishyn Andrey, Union "Borotba", secretary

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USLAW

Gene bruskin USLAW

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Voice of Iraqi Workers

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