

Voice of Iraqi Workers

Nr.4

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In a Heroic Action: Workers of Leather Industries expelled the General Manager 15.1.04



Day by day the workers in Iraq have proved their might to achieve their demands and impose them on the authorities and administrations that stand against the workers interests and attempt to enforce its policies on them. The ongoing wave of protests in many of the factories, plants and companies has been expanded. The workers have been more determined to overthrow corrupted administrations who are still dealing with workers in accordance to the former Ba'athi policies and rules and exercising the worst kinds of defalcation, bribes and plundering. With a heroic and courageous solidarity action, the workers rose against the administration of Leather Industries Incorporation following a lengthy procrastination practiced by the administration and its attempts to

prevent the activities of the Workers' Trade Union founded by the workers and their representatives. The Incorporation security agents, police forces and other gunned patrols have intervened but the workers fought bravely to expel the former manager.

Two of the leaders of the confrontation (Manaf Aati and Sezar) have been wounded when the police intervened. The police fired in the air to scatter the workers but it was in vain. The workers were successful in kicking out the former manager despite the intimidation and assault that were exerted by the police and the manager's gangsters. This is just another proof that the workers unity and their determination to achieve their demands are stronger than any army or any other force. This action proved what the Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq (FWCU) is calling for that the power of the working class implies uniting and organizing its r a n k s .
Long-Live the will of the workers
Long-Live the workers' protest movement
**Federation of Workers'
Councils and Unions in Iraq**

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~~Iraqi People is the Victim of the War of the Terrorists.~~

Join Our Demonstration at 15.2.04 in Baghdad

To: All Workers and Employees of Public sectors; Factories, Establishments, Offices and Companies

Law wages and low purchasing power in general make workers and public servants in Iraq face huge daily hardships and make them unable to ensure decent living standards and even unable to secure the minimum necessities of making living amid current situation where prices are soaring, and rents are unaffordable for the workers who do not own their own houses. The current system of wages has hurt many workers and junior public servants since it has not taken in consideration the harsh living conditions of the workers when it graded job. It also has not taken in consideration the level of risk involved in many dangerous jobs. Therefore it created huge gap between the wages of "senior" public servants and the wages of the vast majority of workers and public servants, as the difference in wages is up to 30 folds. This sharpens the social differences among the population in Iraq and deprives the vast majority of the population from having a decent life for themselves and their children.

The loser in this process is the workers and public servants who depend totally on their wages. This manipulation of the sources of making living for workers by the authorities will help keep them in destitution.

Thousands of workers and public servants protest every day against the current wages grading system and ask for a system, which observe the harsh living conditions faced by workers.

In order to prevent dispersion of workers' struggle in limited protests confined to different working places and since the condition of workers are the same in all industrial fields and in order to impose the willpower of workers in deciding job grading in a way which take in consideration the interests of workers. Also, in order to ensure that the wages are increased, workers have to involve. They have to raise their voice to defend their rights and interests and present their demands. Workers only can intensify the protest to defend the demands and interests of the vast majority of the population and prevent guardianship from above on their affairs.

The Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq - FWCUI calls upon all workers and Employees of the Public Sector, companies and factories to join our demonstration on Sunday the 15th. of February, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

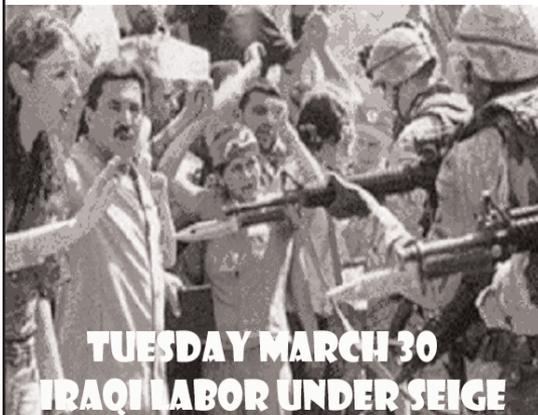
The Demonstration will start at the Federation's head-quarters in Baghdad located at entry of Al - Rasheed Street near Al Matam Al Turki, and advance to the Civil Provincial Authority headquarter, the former Planning Ministry building.

We call upon all workers of public sectors to join us in this demonstration.

**The Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq –FWCUI,
Baghdad - Iraq**

February 9, 2004

**AN IRAQI ACTIVIST SPEAKS OUT ON
THE U.S. REPRESSION
OF IRAQI LABOR STRUGGLES**



TUESDAY MARCH 30

IRAQI LABOR UNDER SIEGE

ISSAM SHUKRI, A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE UNION OF UNEMPLOYED IN IRAQ, WILL SPEAK ABOUT THE LIVES OF IRAQI WORKERS UNDER THE U.S. OCCUPATION & THE IRAQI WORKERS FIGHT FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

75 Varick Street at the AFSME Local 1707 in Room 1404 (Subways 1,9, A & E to Canal Street). For additional information, Contact: Tuck 212 203 1171 or Mahmood Ketabchi mekchi@msn.com

**An Iraqi Activist speaks out on
The US Repression of Iraqi Labor
Struggle !!!**

Iraqi Labor under Siege !!

**Issam Shukri ,a founder member of
the Union of Unemployed in Iraq**

Tuesday March 30, 2004

He will speak about the lives of the Iraqi Workers under the US occupation and the Iraqi workers fight for economic and social justice

75. Varick street at the AFSME 1707 in Room 1404 (Subways 1,9,A&E to canal Street) .For additional information ,contact :Tuck 212 203 117 or Mahmood Kitabchi ;mekchi@msn.com

Union leaders look at Iraqi labor conditions

David J. Ortiz

USLAW Campaign US Labor against the war : [Labor Rights in Iraq](#) , Standard-Times staff writer

DARTMOUTH — Iraqi citizens are either unemployed or they are over-worked and grossly underpaid, and the U.S.-led coalition force running the country is preventing Iraqis from organizing labor unions. That was the message of two American labor union leaders opposed to the war in Iraq who spoke at UMass Dartmouth Friday.

Clarence Thomas, a board member of the International Longshore & Warehouse Workers Local 10 in California, and David Bacon, an independent labor journalist, both represent a coalition of labor workers called U.S. Labor Against the War. They visited the UMass Dartmouth campus at the invitation of the university's Arnold M. Dubin Labor Education Center.

Mr. Thomas and Mr. Bacon spoke of their journey to Iraq last October to investigate the conditions of Iraqi workers and the degree to which their ability to organize labor unions was being allowed by the U.S. occupation authority.

Traveling with two members of a French teachers' union and an Iraqi trade unionist and human rights activist living in exile in France, Mr. Bacon and Mr. Thomas spent six days in the war-torn nation, meeting with factory workers, unemployed Iraqis, union organizers and representatives of the U.S. Provisional Authority.

During the trip, Mr. Bacon and Mr. Thomas said, they discovered a 70 percent unemployment rate and a low-wage, semi-employed labor force, desperate for jobs at almost any price. For months, workers in Iraq have been paid at an emergency level — most workers earn \$60 a month, they said. As a result, there are wide-

spread violations of workers' basic rights under international law and other human rights abuses, Mr. Bacon and Mr. Thomas said. But both said they were most upset by the news in April that the coalition force banned unions in Iraqi state enterprises.

"Iraqis have been pushing for the right to organize labor unions. (Coalition Authority Director) Paul Bremer wrote a letter back ... saying that, according to the Iraqi labor code that existed under Saddam, people who work in factories cannot form labor unions," Mr. Thomas said. "Unbelievable. They found a Saddam law they like."

Coalition forces have cracked down on labor organizers in Iraq with threats and even detentions, Mr. Thomas contended. And yet, even without legal status, the unions are finding a way to operate and win some demands. Just last week, workers for Iraq's Southern Oil Co. won a wage increase from \$60 to \$130 a month after they threatened to shut down the operation, Mr. Bacon said. In October and November, the Al Daura Oil Refinery outside Baghdad experienced three work stoppages, when workers demanded a regular salary at a higher level than the emergency payments, they said. And leather workers from the General State Leather industry factory, the largest shoe factory in the Middle East, marched to the Labor Ministry, complaining about their manager and their wages. Similar protests have been happening at workplaces throughout the country, Mr. Bacon said.

This story appeared on Page A4 of The Standard-Times on February 8, 2004.

Part of a report about the Situation of Iraqi Workers Reports of ILO, ICFTU and USLAW !

Reports from many sources - the International Labor Organization, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, numerous published reports, and an eye-witness account recently issued by U.S. Labor Against the War indicate that a deplorable situation currently exists for the working men and women of Iraq:

" **Massive unemployment, with estimates ranging from 60% to 70% - leaving most employable persons unable to provide for their families.**

" **No system of unemployment compensation benefits or any type of subsistence income - leaving no safety net for persons previously employed but displaced because of the war.**

" **Wages of \$60 per month for the vast majority of those who are employed - a figure clearly inadequate to sustain life , let alone support a family.**

" **Elimination of the bonuses and subsidies for food and housing that formerly supplemented cash wages in Iraq - causing a sharp decline in real income.**

" **No system governing hours of work, health and safety conditions, overtime pay provisions, child labor, and other labor standards for Iraqi workers - thus encouraging exploitation of workers.**

The stated intention of the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) to privatize hundreds of state-owned enterprises which provide the bulk of jobs in Iraq will exacerbate all of these problems, causing additional massive job loss and further deprivation and hardship for Iraqi workers and their families.

Efforts by Iraqi workers to organize to remedy these problems have been discouraged by the CPA, if not met with out-and-out resistance and repression. Leaders of the Unemployed Union of Iraq have several times been arrested and then released without charge. . Most alarmingly, the Coalition Provisional Authority is enforcing a 1987 Saddam Hussein law prohibiting unionization and collective bargaining in the public sector and state-owned enterprises which employ 70% of the Iraqi workforce.

Support the Union of Unemployed in

Iraq - UUI.

www.uuiiraq.org

Iraq's Unemployed Masses Hold Demonstration in Nasiriyah

On January 15, 2004, hundreds of unemployed Iraqis demonstrated in front of the Coalition Provisional Authority's office in Nasiriyah. Among the statements made by the banners and placards held by the demonstrators were, "We demand jobs and the return of social services" and "Dispense our unpaid salaries."

A representative of the unemployed demonstrators in Nasiriyah read a statement demanding that the employees of the public workforce return to their jobs, that unpaid salaries be distributed immediately and that jobs be provided for all unemployed people. Aziz Abdul Shahid, a participant in last weeks demonstration said, "I am disabled and I went to all the parties asking for a job and assistance but no one was concerned about my situation." Adel Turkey said, "I asked the Oil Protection Authority to provide me with a job, however they are asking for a \$200 bribe and I can't afford it." Star Kathim, a former soldier said "I have not received any salary for the last 4 months, since the disbandment of the Iraqi army on May 1, 2003, unemployment in Iraq is sharply on the rise".

Similar demonstrations of the unemployed people of Iraq took place in the southern cities of Omara, and Kut, ending in bloodshed as local law enforcement and coalition forces opened fire on the peaceful protesters.

January 15, 2004

The Employees of al-Nasir Cigarette Company Continue Their Strike

For more than two weeks, workers of al-Nasir Cigarette Company have been on strike demanding higher wage and new job classifications based on the harsh living conditions of workers and increasingly high

prices. They have bravely refused to receive their wages, even though it is their only income.

Workers in many industrial sections have launched protests against the job classifications imposed on them by the US authorities and their hand picked Governing Council. The workers at Carpet Company, Leather Industry, Cotton Industry, public bakeries, Furniture Company, Health, South Oil Company, and many other public companies and institutions have held demonstrations against the new system. Thousands of workers lodged complaints and wrote protest letters against the new system of job grading.

The rising protests are intended to prevent the authorities from enforcing arbitrary resolutions which oppose workers interests. Workers of many industries are preparing to hold more demonstrations against this system. The daily struggles for reforms are the only way workers can impose their will on the authorities and repeal all resolutions taken without worker consultation and consideration of workers' basic rights and interests.

Long live workers' struggle!

Federation of the Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq - FWCUI , February 8, 2004

Workers Strike at North Gas Company

The employees of the North Gas Company in Kirkuk went on strike on January 31, 2004. This strike came after workers warned the authorities to meet their demands. The employees demanded the replacement of the company administration, still in existence since the Baath era. In addition, they demanded higher wages and equal division of rewards among workers.

All the employees of the company participated in this strike. A negotiation meeting was held between the administration and the representatives of the employees. It was agreed that four department directors, including production, engineering, accounting, and management, would be removed. The administration also agreed to change the job classifications, which result in huge wage reductions and meet all other demands presented by the workers.

We Condemn the Practices of the American Administration and the Central Bank of Iraq towards Banks' Employees

In a serious precedent, the Central Bank of Iraq has sent warning notices to banks' treasurers and cashiers ordering them to pay millions of Iraqi Dinars to it in reparations for unpaid money as the bank claims. The bank also accuses the employees of replacing the new currency with a forged one, leading to despotic arrests of 7 women employees from Al-Rashid Banks.

The Worker Communist Party condemns these baseless arrests and threats against the treasurers and cashiers of different banks and branches and holds the occupation authorities and the Central Bank fully liable for this financial embezzlement. The occupation authorities and the Central Bank of Iraq have failed to organize the Currency Exchange procedure, not to mention the total negligence of forming any committee for counting and sorting the currency, which would have helped supervise the whole procedure. They shamelessly throw the burden of their failure on treasurers and employees, through arbitrary arrests or threats of arrest if the employees fail to pay the money.

The Worker Communist Party calls for the immediate release of women detainees and calls for the immediate end to the false accusations and threats towards the employees of the banks, and to halt all procedures pertaining to this issue. At the same time, the party will be at the forefront to defend the employees and escalate their protests so as to impose their demands on the American administration and the Central Bank of Iraq. In this regard, we announce our support for the demonstration which took place on Sunday, Feb, 15th 2004.

The Worker Communist Party of Iraq - WPIraq Feb. 15, 2004

The Unemployed Union and workers movement are in an urgent need for your solidarity and financial support.

**Trade Unions,
All parties and supporters of workers' rights.
Freedom loving people.**

The workers' movement and workers' organizations in Iraq are in an urgent need for your support and solidarity more than ever. The workers in Iraq need such solidarity in order to play a role in getting the society out of the ordeal of war, hunger, and unemployment and to establish a government in which freedom and workers' rights are recognized in a ruined society of war time, hunger, and massive unemployment after the fall of Saddam's regime. The Unemployed Union of Iraq (UUI) set up in May 2003 in Baghdad. It is a genuine representative of the protest of the unemployed and destitute people. Through the demands of job or unemployment benefit the UUI wants to make a difference in the lives of the workers and save the lives of thousands of unemployed families who are under the threat of hunger and unemployment. The UUI has 130,000 members until now and it has established its branches in seven provinces in Iraq. The UUI has held tens of protest actions so far in front of the US Provisional Authority's headquarter in Baghdad and other cities. It has organized a 45 days strike in front of Paul Bremer's office. Consequently the secretary of the UUI (Qasim Hadi) was arrested along with 55 members of the UUI by the US forces. The UUI has managed to find 600 work opportunities for unemployed people and provide workers with free medical services as a result of its protest actions. The workers in different sectors such as power, water supply, hospitals, laboratories, rail ways, transportations, and petrol are members of the UUI. The struggle and achievements of the

UUI have worried the US officials, the Governing Council, and the allied political parties. Therefore, the political parties in the Governing Council, the remains of the Ba'ath regime, the communist party of Iraq, the Higher Council of Islamic Revolution in Iraq, National Accord Movement, and Arab nationalists are trying to defeat the UUI's struggle and to annex it to the US civil administration and to set up a puppet union in the name of Iraqi workers.

These puppet unions were all in the trench of the war and the US economic sanctions. They are against the demands and wishes of the people of the world and Iraq. They supported the front of the US war. Therefore, the puppet unions do not represent the workers of Iraq and they do not have any legitimacy.

The UUI publishes a paper inside Iraq called " The Workers' Councils" (Al-Majalis Al-Ummalyia) in Arabic and a paper in English called " The Voice of Iraqi Workers" in order their voices to be heard by the public opinions.

The UUI along with other trade unions and councils are striving to put forward a labour law in order to be put down in the next Iraqi legislation. Simultaneously, the UUI has established a representation network in Europe, Australia, and Canada to get an international support for the workers in Iraq, and so far it has gained a lot of supporting letters from hundreds of trade unions, political parties, and well-known figures.

The workers' movement is looking forward to hear from your support. I am calling upon you to support the UUI financially as far as possible.

Dashty Jamal
Rep. of UUI in United Kingdom
February 2004

Network of UUI abroad

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Jobs or US\$100 a month as unemployment insurance for every unemployed person

Southern Oil Company Workers Win in Iraq

Report by Ewa Jasiewicz, Occupation Watch, Occupied Basra Published at 06/02/04

SOC Workers Win Their Fight for Higher Wages! Bremer's Orders Defied! Across the Board Rise for Public Sector Workers Expected

Southern Oil Company workers won their three month struggle, underpinned by the threat of an armed strike, for higher and fairer wages this month. All oil sector workers in Iraq will now be receiving the SOC's negotiated wage table. The unity, solidarity and support of oil sector workers in the central and northern fields in Kirkuk, Baaji and Baghdad's Daurra was key in achieving this victory. Plus the fact that the CPA/GC is heavily dependent on oil production and export from SOC, Iraq's biggest and most lucrative oil company, following the inoperability of Iraq's northern fields due to continuous attacks on pipelines and stations. The only Oil Companies exporting crude oil from Iraq right now are SOC and Basra Oil Company.

In December, union representatives told Occupation Watch that they had been telling workers since last month to save some of their wages in the event of strike action. When SOC workers saw that their wages were being decreed by the Occupation Administration (OA) as signed by Paul Bremer III in Order 30 on Employment Conditions of State Employees and that the wages were lower than the emergency payments the OA had been paying post regime fall, they decided to form their own wage scale based on market prices - including the price of fuel, gas, rent and foodstuffs, work location, and level of risk. The OA's wage table slashed all family, risk and location payments workers survived on under the regime. In every workplace OW visited, workers were frustrated with their low, late and fluctuating wages, as well as the axing of all their 'survival' payments and subsidies which sustained workers and their families.

The SOC union's wage table demanded the minimum wage for an Iraqi oil worker be set at 155, 000 ID (\$100) per month - more than doubling the Occupation set 69, 000 (currently worth \$50-55) and a rise of 84, 000 ID. SOC's table also cut out two whole levels and 20 positions of the CPA's 130 position, 13 level wage table. The Union persuaded their management and General Director to support their demands for the homemade scale following two days of meetings last month. The union reinforced their demands by declaring that workers would join the armed resistance if their demands were not met. This prompted the minister of oil to travel to Basra himself and begin negotiations with union reps immediately.

The result was that the lowest minimum wage for the generators of Iraq's wealth, the heart pumping its' economic lifeblood, is now 102, 000 ID per month - a rise of 33, 000 ID. The whole wage table now starts at level nine and all those meant to receive level nine wages will now be moved up to level eight, which starts at 120, 000 ID (\$85) and ends at 155, 000 ID (\$110). The maximum level an unskilled worker can earn is 328, 000 ID (\$250) per month - the end of level five. Five upwards deals with technicians and workers with diplomas. Level four refers to workers with over 30 years of experience and upwards is reserved for senior technicians and engineers and management.

But why the concession for the lowest paid? Why not push for the 155, 000 minimum? 102, 000 is barely a life supporting wage. The lowest rent in Basra is 25, 000 per month (most people's is 50, 000), that leaves just under 20, 000 per week (approx 3000 ID per day) to spend on food, school books, gas, fuel, car maintenance, clean water, cigarettes and any other unexpected necessities. A full UN plastic 4-5 litre carrier of drinking water costs 250 ID. A small chicken costs 3, 500 ID, 1 kg of apples or oranges (6) is 750, potatoes (6) is 500, a bag of bread (5 pieces) is 250, tomatoes (6) is 500 (in Baghdad due to transportation costs up from the more fertile if DU radiated south, a kg is 2000 ID); a canister of gas is approx 2000 ID. A pair of adult leather shoes is 20, 000 ID, a pair of socks 500 ID, cheapest family shampoo 750 ID. A family can just about survive eating basic simple, rations bulked food, but it is nearly impossible to save or find the money for a gift or journey or new item of clothing. Life is hand to mouth for the vast majority of Iraqi people and that's just for those lucky enough to have work - the estimated 70% or 10 million unemployed have even more of a struggle on their hands.

According to the occupation wage scale over a third (35%) of the Iraqi public sector workforce is on 69, 000 to 155, 000. 10% - managerial and administration levels receive 574, 000 to 920, 000.

So why the compromise? In fact it's not. Risk and location payments have also been taken into account and a further 18-30% payment is included on top of the tabled figures. This means that all the wages detailed on the table are potentially 30% higher according to a worker's location, i. e. desert, remote area, dangerous position. Whether North Rumeilla,

contaminated by Depleted Uranium during both Gulf Wars is included as a risky location is yet to be seen but the danger presented to workers breathing in the tons of radioactive nuclear waste used by invading US/UK troops is immediate, severe and life-threatening.

Of the victory, Hassan Jum'a, Head of SOC Union said: 'This is something we were sure of. Our sector is the most organized in Iraq and we were elected by the workers themselves'.

On the effect of the victory on the swelling struggle in the Electricity sector, Jum'a said, 'It's the oil section first, then the other sectors will follow, soon, soon, it will change, the influence will be felt'. Samir Hanoon, Vice President of the Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions said he was thrilled by the result and that it was 'all good' and was already having a positive impact on the electricity unions' negotiations for higher wages. 'Soon we'll be next. Our negotiations have been helped by this and they are going well' he told OW. The rise for Iraqi workers means a cutback for the exploitative ambitions of the Occupation Administration and a blow to the logic and regularly heard corporate boast of Iraq now possessing some of the cheapest labour in the middle east.

The regional Occupation Administration, CPA South, claimed ignorance of the wage table, confusing SOC workers' new wage table with the September CPA Ordered one now printed up in December into colour booklets for workers to read and understand why its natural for them to be paid slave wages.

All in all, the courage of Iraqi oil workers in recognizing and affirming their power as the sector capable of commanding GC ministers to attend to their demands and breaking the perceived 'last word' authority of the Occupation Administration, shows that social resistance to the occupation and its dictates is alive and on fire and ready to strike for justice in Iraq. Noone is taking this as a final result, but as a first win in a journey of many, making up for the decades of silencing, violence and murder by the Baath dictatorship. And it's also the first move in a social battle waged more than anything to raise the consciousness and confidence of workers, so broken by the Baath, to realize that they themselves are a weapon against the injustices and exploitation of the Occupation.

International Solidarity with Worker Movement in Iraq is our Task

Report of the activities of UUI - Network

February 2004

We continue our campaign for political and financial support for UUI and workers in Iraq - abroad . The network of UUI abroad had many activities in this regard. Here is a short report about them;

- **The organisations Haidhausenbkollg and Anarch Stammtisch** in cooperation with the organisations ASTA and GUS have organised a seminar at February 7.2004 in the city of Muchen in Germany for Aso Jabbar, Rep. of UUI abroad and Tahir Hassan ,member of Political Bureau of Worker Communist Party of Iraq under the Title (Occupation and resistance, two faces of one reactionary medal) They discussed the Following subjects:

1. The political and social situation in Iraq and the conflicts between the two poles of international terrorism
 2. Our Statement on the military resistance in Iraq
 3. The resolutions of WCPI and UUI on the political situation in Iraq
 4. The perspectives of the antiwar movement and the ways to support the workers organisations, unions, UUI and the progressive women movement in Iraq.
 5. Unveil the campaign (10 Euro for Iraqi resistance) which is supported by the Anti-imperialist coordination AIK in Austria and some left organisations in Germany
- The discussion lasted about 3 hours and about 80 persons attended in this discussion including many figures and activists of political parties and left organisations in Germany .Many newspapers and leaflets of WCPI, UUI and OWFI have been circulated among the attendees.

-**Aso Jabbar** ,UUI Rep. abroad was interviewed by the left newspaper (Jungle World) in December 2003 in Germany .He answered several questions about the political Situation in Iraq, the worker and unemployed movement ,policies of the Worker Communist Party of Iraq and the progressive women movement in Iraq. Especially he criticized the reactionary campaign (10 Euro for Iraqi Resistance).

- **Aso Jabbar** , UUI Rep. abroad was interviewed by the fortnightly Magazine (Strassen magazine Surprise) which is published in Switzerland in about 25 000 issues .He answered several question about the political situation in Iraq and the perspectives of the workers and unemployed movement.

- **Aso Jabbar**, UUI Rep. abroad was interviewed by the newspaper (Gsoa Zeitung) paper of the famous organisation (Group for Swiss without army-Gruppe Schweiz ohne Armee) which is published in German language in 25 000 issues and he discussed the political Situation in Iraq and the perspectives of WCPI, UUI and worker movement in Iraq.

- **Aso Jabbar** ,UUI Rep. abroad, participated in an international Conference at 17.January 2004 in the city of Zurich in Switzerland organised by the Coordination for Other Davos under the Motto :Resistance against Globalisation of Capital and the alternatives (Globalisation of Violence, Imperialisms and global expropriation) against the yearly organised sessions of World Economic Forum , held in Switzerland in Davos region. The speakers of this discussion were, Aso Jabbar ,UUI Representative aboard , Lindsey German from the Stop war coalition England , Lars Stein , from Antiwar movement in France ,and sebastian Zehetbair from the Peace movement in Germany and Christian Zeller ,from the antiwar coalition in Switzerland .The main subject of this discussion were international mobilisation against the occupation the political and social situation in Iraq .

Lateran Aso Jabbar made a short in interview with the French newspaper in Switzerland LE COURRIER.

- **Aso Jabbar** ,UUI Rep. abroad, was invited from the Friedenaktion in Baden city in Switzerland at January 29. 2004 to participate in session on (Irak wie weiter -Iraq and perspectives) .The Speakers of this discussion were Aso Jabbar from UUI , Ralf Stocker ,Responsible for the humanitarian works of the Schweizerische Arbeitshilfswerk - SAH and Werner Vangent a journalist and correspondent of Swiss medias.

-**Dashti Jamal** , Rep. of UUI in UK and Moayad Ahmad member of Political Bureau f WCPI met with Mr. Kiev from the national unemployed centre in England and Wales in January 2004 .They discussed how to support the UUI and workers movement in Iraq. This national unemployed centre decided to send a letters to all Workers Unions in UK and Wales in this regard.

-At the same time Dashti Jamal received support letters from many political and workers and trade organisations in UK for UUI.

-**On January 20.2004** , Dashti Jamal and Prshing Ahmad participated in the meeting of 1 May Committee which includes many workers unions from TUC .They explained and spoke about the workers and women movement n Iraq.

-In a seminar organised under the title (Workers Unions and Human Rights in Iraq) in Manchester City-UK , **at January 21..2004** in which some figures of Baath Regime and rep .of the Iraqi governing council tried to show themselves as representatives of workers in Iraq and to legitimate their existence in Iraq, our friends in UK participated in this session and criticize the role of such yellow unions in their policies against workers in Iraq and explained the policies and demands of UUI and independent workers unions in Iraq and how these anti-worker groups tried to re -organise the Baath organisations under the pretext of occupation of Iraq and with the support of Iraqi governing council. As a result many participants left the session.

-**At January 21.2004**, the NOSWAT campaign which is a international workers solidarity campaign in UK held their session in Nottingham city in UK, Jasim Ghafoor , in charge of WCPI in this city and Said Sidiq have participated in their meeting. Jasim spoke about the situation of workers in Iraq and the struggle of UUI all over Iraq and he explained the necessity for solidarity and support for the UUI and worker movement in Iraq .After his intervention the meeting decided to ; publish a short history of the establishment of UUI to international workers unions, and to open a bookshop in centre of the city from SWIT for UUI, and to send a letter to UUI and workers unions to strengthen direct relationship with them ,and to write appeal to NOSWAT to visit Iraq and inform about the situation of workers in Iraq.

The network of UUI tries its best in all European countries, Australia and Canada to strengthens the relationship and achieve political and financial support to worker and unemployed movement in Iraq.

Worker Rights At Home and Abroad

Friday, March 19-Saturday, March 20

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church , 4501 Walnut St.
Kansas City, MO ,USA

Conference web site: <http://workernet.org/workerrightsconference.htm>



Ed Bruno is a leader of US Labor Against the War (USLAW)



Amjad Al-Jawhary, Representative of the UII and FWCUI in Canada

Worker Rights In Occupied Iraq

Saturday, March 20, Noon

Introduction: Ed Bruno

In addition to his Labor Party activities, Ed Bruno is a leader of US Labor Against the War (USLAW) since its founding. He has helped coordinate USLAW's campaigns against the US corporate invasion of Iraq and in defense of worker rights for Iraqi trade unionists.

Special Guest Speaker ; Amjad Al-Jawhary

Speaking on behalf of:

**The Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq-FWCUI
Union of the Unemployed of Iraq (UII)**

Conference PO Box 30127 Plaza Station Kansas City, MO 64112

**Initiated by Cross Border Network for Justice and Solidarity,
Kansas City Labor Against the War, Kansas City Labor Party
Why We Call This Conference**

On the first anniversary of the war in Iraq we will shine a light on our government's attack on the labor rights of Iraqi workers. Halliburton and other corporations, backed up by our military might, are now exporting their American brand of union busting. At a conference on March 19-20, we'll explore union busting in the global economy - at home and abroad. The U.S., Mexico, China and Iraq: Labor Rights and Wrongs.

Endorsers (list in progress) All Souls Social Justice Committee, Greater Kansas City Fair Trade Coalition, Greens of Kansas City, Kansas City Iraq Task Force, Kansas City PeaceWorks, kclabor.org, Kansas City National Lawyers Guild, UMKC National Lawyers Guild

For a progressive

Labour Law in Iraq

1. Full and unconditional freedom of worker organization.

2. Complete and unconditional freedom of strike. Strikes do not need the prior permission of the state or any state authority. Full payment of wages during the period of strike. Equal right of access to the media for strikers to put their case and respond to the claims of the state and employers. Banning strikes under any pretext such as "national and patriotic interests", "state of emergency", "war", etc, would be illegal.

3. Prohibition of employing strike-breakers or police or army personnel to replace strikers, in all enterprises, state or private.

4. First of May to be a public holiday, as the International Workers' Day.

5. . A minimum wage, set by workers representatives and determination of the minimum annual rise in wage levels by collective bargaining at the national level between representatives of workers' organizations and representatives of employers and the state.

6. Equal pay for women and men for similar work.

7. Adequate unemployment benefit, according to the last pay received, for every unemployed person over 16 who is ready for work. Adequate unemployment benefit and other necessary allowances for all those who for physical or psychological reasons are unable to work.

8. Ensuring a safe and healthy workplace and minimization of work hazards, without regard to cost, by applying the most advanced facilities and resources in use throughout the world. Regular medical observation and check-ups against occupational hazards and illnesses, by medical establishments independent of employers, and financed by employers and the state.

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