

Mr. Paul Brenner
US civil-Administrator in Baghdad
Through US-Embassy in Switzerland
Jubiläumsstrasse 93
Postfach
3001 Bern

Zurich, 11th september 2003

Swiss union GBI condemns the arrest of Iraqi labor leaders and requests the full respectation of ILO conventions and democratic rights in Iraq

Dear Mr. Brenner

As the Swiss biggest union, we condemn the illegal arresting of 54 Iraqi leaders and members of the Union of the Unemployed of Iraq (UUWI) on August 2 in Baghdad, who were peacefully exercising their democratic right to demonstrate for better conditions in Iraq.

We are informed, that the unionists were only released after the intervention of representatives of the United Nations, even though they were neither armed nor in any other way violating the law, but were only engaged in a peaceful 5-day sit-in protest of the treatment of unemployed Iraqi workers by occupations forces in Iraq.

We demand of the U.S. and other occupation forces to fully respect and honor the ILO conventions on labor rights including the right to organize and to protest treatment and conditions.

Especially after having launched this war in the name of democracy and welfare for the Iraqi people, we request the U.S. and any other occupation forces, not only to respect fully the democratic rights and all the rights guaranteed by the ILO Conventions, but also to enhance the living standard of Iraqi citizens, employed and unemployed, and to meet that country's humanitarian needs immediately.

Yours sincerely



Vasco Pedrina
President of the GBI



Rita Schiavi
Vice-president of the GBI

Copy to: Union of Unemployed of Iraq, Bagdad, Mr. Qasim Hadi, General Secretary