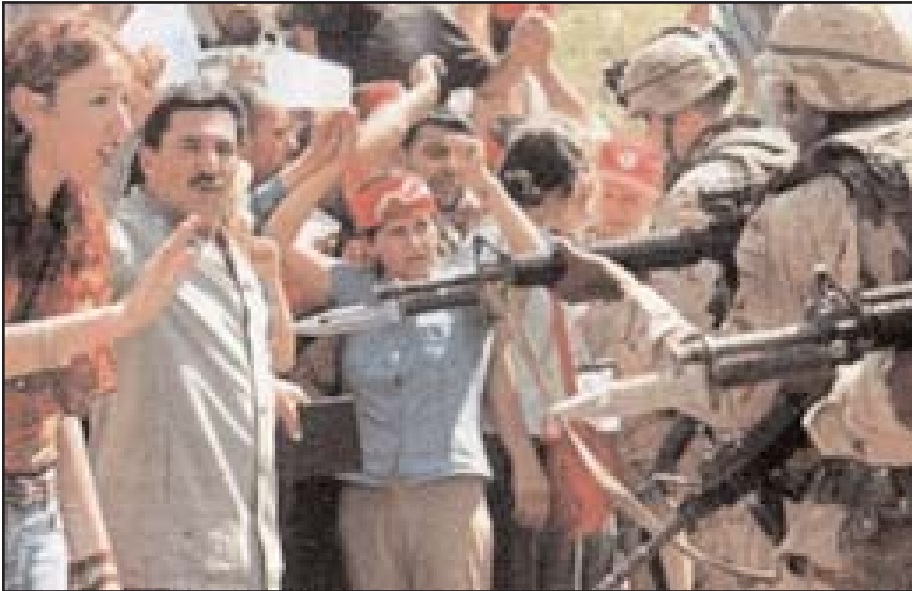


Voice of Iraqi Workers

Nr.1

A monthly Paper published by the Union of Unemployed in Iraq - Representative Abroad - UUI , www.uuiraq.com , 28.November 2003.



Appeal from the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq UUI at 26.Novmeber 2003:

We condemn the arrest of Kasim Hadi, president of the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq UUI and Adil Salih, one of the activists of UUI through the US- Administration in Baghdad-Iraq.

-Today , 28th of November 2003 ,both Kasim Hadi and Adil Salih have been released from the American prisons in Bagdad.

On night 23/24.November 2003 the US- soldiers in Baghdad arrested Mr. Kasim Hadi, president of the union of the unemployed in Iraq and Adil Salih, one activist of the UUI.

It is not the first time that the US-Administration in Iraq arrested the trade union leaders and worker activists. In August 2003 during a Sit-in strike in Baghdad arrested the US-Soldiers in Baghdad Kasim Hadi with 54 striking unemployed persons. This action is against all values and principles of the human rights, democracy

and is a clear violation of the right to organization and political freedoms. For the interest of which group, the US-Administration arrest the worker activists? Is that at the interest of the Islamisten that attacked the peaceful demonstration of the UUI in Nassiriya? Kasim Hadi and Union activists led the protests of the unemployed people in the front the headquarters of the USA in Baghdad for 50 days to achieve their demand: jobs or unemployment insurance for millions of unemployed people and their families. UUI is the biggest union that represents the unemployed people in Iraq. Because of the American invasion in Iraq, millions of people had lost their jobs. Poverty, Deprivation, lack of security, hunger rules the country. **continue on P.2**

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

The Activities of the representative network of the Union of Unemployed in Iraq and Worker Communist party of Iraq against the Arresting of Kasim Hadi and Adil Salih . 26.11

After the arrestment of Kasim Hadi , president of Union of unemployed in Iraq UUI and Adil Salih , member of Worker Communist Party of Iraq and an activist of UUI at 23.11 . 2003 by the US forces in Baghdad, the network of the representatives abroad of UUI have started a campaign for their release

1.Aso Jabbar, Representative abroad of UUI, published a Press release about this incident in German and English languages and sent them through emails to thousands of Addresses of the trade Unions, International organisations, political figures and human rights organisation in Switzerland, Germany and Austria. Among these organizations are ILO international labour organization in Geneva, and the offices of ILO in Arabic countries including Kuwait, Lebanon, and Egypt. Also he sent this News to Amnesty international in Switzerland, Germany and Austria, to the United Nations -Commission for Human Rights in Geneva ,he published also the recent information about their Situation in Baghdad and the policies of US in Iraq .The Reflections of these works were quickly clear through:

-The Internet Page Indymedia in German language in Switzerland has published this Press release on their Internet page in German language.

-Mr. Hiroshi from Japan has translated the press release of Aso Jabbar to Japanese Language.

-Mr. Michael Lessard , Parliamentary Intern for Alexa McDonough, New

Democratic Party (NDP) , Canada, in Ottawa has sent a letter to Aso Jabbar asking for the new information and about the conditions of their arrest in Baghdad.

-Mr. Imad Murtada from the Arabic Indy media has published this Press Release on the Arabic pages of Indy media and they arranged also a Petition per electronic mail to sign it and sent it to Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad to protest against the Arrest of UUI leaders.

-Alencontre, the webpage of the movement for Socialism in Switzerland has published the translation of this press release in French language on the internet page.

2.Sawsan salim in London has called Mr .Saeed Abudoha in the Amnesty international, central office in London to inform him about the arrestment of Kasim and Adil and to ask him for their quick intervention in this regard.

3.Issam Shukri and Toma Hamid in Canada and Australia respectively have published and distributed press releases about the arrestment of UUI leaders by the US forces and sent them to many trade unions, left groups in both Canada and Australia.

4.Dashti Jamal, representative of UUI in UK has also sent the news of the imprisonment of Kasim hadi and Adil Salih to main news agencies , trade union and many leaders and figures of these organisation in UK.After these efforts of Dashti Jamal ,the Communist Party of Great Britain,

Communist party of Germany , the Worker Liberty organisation, in special letters expressed their concern about the release of Kasim Hadi and Adil salih and sent protest letters to US Embassy's in these countries .He also published and organised the translation of the press release in this regard to French language and directed these letters to French trade unions. He made an interview with the radio sda in this regard.

5.In Norway , Kamil Ahmad also informed the ILO branch office in Norway , the news agencies and trade unions about the arrest of UUI leaders. ILO in Norway have expressed their deep concern about their arrest in a letter to Kamil Ahmad and they expressed their disappointment , they were ready to intervene for their release from the prisons and in their visit to Iraq are ready to meet with UUI and intervene for their release .

6. Nadia Mhamoud, Representative abroad of the Organisation of Women's Freedom in Iraq, the Worker Communist party of Iraq -UK organisation and abroad organisations have published press releases and protest letters in this regard.

7.The Worker Communist party of Iraq - WCPI -organization abroad and network of the representatives of UUI abroad were ready to organize protest meeting and demonstration in front of US embassy's in Switzerland, Norway, and Canada ect against the arrestment of UUI leaders .

From P. 1... Appeal from the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq UUI at 26.11.2003:

The US war against Iraq has nothing to do with human right, weapons of mass destruction, and liberation of Iraq and democracy. The daily Experience of the people in the Iraq showed this fact very clearly. The USA wants to impose its New World Order, Dominance and hegemony on the world.

We demand immediate and unconditional release of Kasim Hadi and Adil Salih from the American prisons in Iraq. The U.S- administration doesn't have not only any right to arrest them but also not any right to occupy Iraq and to continue terrorism and warfare in Iraq.

We demand the immediate departure of U.S. and occupying forces from Iraq. They should leave the country for its unions and women organizations and the progressive Iraqi population, who defend their interests.

We call on all freedom-loving people , Worker unions, political parties and human rights organizations Worldwide, to demand from the USA the immediate release of Kasim Hadi , the president of UUI and Adil Salih and to demand them to respect the political freedom and civilian rights in Iraq .

Union of the Unemployed in Iraq-UUI

Aso Jabbar, Representative abroad

Bern , 26. November 2003

Support the Union of Unemployed in Iraq- UUI



Facing widespread unemployment, deprivation, hunger and the indifference of the USA civil administration toward the plight of the masses in Iraq, on May 1, 2003 a group of labour activists founded the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq-UUI. Over 130,000 unemployed people have joined the UUI and its membership is growing very rapidly. The UUI has opened offices in several major cities including Baghdad, Nasiriyah and Kirkuk.

The Union of Unemployed in Iraq Demands:

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

-The UUI is given a role in distributing humanitarian aid, which reach Iraq.

-The UUI is given a role in allocating jobs, which are provided in Iraq.

-The UUI to be officially recognized by the USA civil administration as the representative of unem-

ployed people in Iraq.

The UUI has organized many demonstrations pressing for these demands and to draw attention to the plight of millions of workers who have lost their jobs as the result of the USA war on Iraq. These included: thousands in Kirkuk on June 12; 7,000 in Nasiriyah on July 3 - this demonstration came under attack by the Islamic groups; thousands in Baghdad on July 3.

After three months of regular protests and a series of negotiations with the USA civil administration the UUI decide to launch a sit-in as the administration had been procrastinating.

-July 29, Baghdad - UUI organized a demonstration where 1000 people marched towards the former Presidential Palace where the American civil administration is currently stationed, demanding jobs or unemployment insurance of \$100 for each unemployed person. At the

end of the march, the protesters staged a sit-in in front of the Palace.

-July 30 - US forces attacked the sit-in protest and arrested Qasim Haadi, the President of the UUI and 18 other members of the Union. The US forces brutally assaulted and beat up the arrestees. Another round of negotiations started. In this meeting, the representatives of the unemployed workers insisted on the immediate release of all arrestees, their right to protest without any coercion or hindrance by the American forces, and assurances that their demands will be met. On the same day, the Americans released all the arrestees.

-August 2 - the USA forces again arrested Qasim Hadi and 54 other members in an attempt to end the UUI's sit-in. Under huge pressure locally and internationally, the USA forces released these arrestees.

-August 7, - the 10th day of its sit-in in front of the USA civil administration's office in Baghdad, the UUI organized another demonstration, where hundreds participated. In further negotiations the UUI delegation demanded that the UUI plays a significant role in allocating the 300000 jobs that the USA has promised to provide across the country by the end of August. The delegation also demanded that it is given a significant role in distributing humanitarian aid. The USA authorities promised to study the demands and reply to the UUI's leadership on August 13.

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From P.3...

Support the Union of Unemployed in Iraq- UUI

-August 12 - To step up the pressure on the USA administration, the UUI organised a rally in front of the USA administration's office (former Republic Palace) where hundreds took part. The response of the USA civil administration was vague and elusive, therefore the UUI's leadership decided to stop negotiation with the USA civil administration and increase pressure on it.

-August 23 - the UUI organized another demonstration in Baghdad where hundreds of men and women participated. The UUI's sit-in continues since 29th July 2003. The UUI plan to step up the pressure on the USA administration internationally through the organizations of the Worker Communist Party of Iraq. The Union of Unemployed in Iraq ended its 45 days of Strike in Bagdad.

-13.September 2003 in a ceremony with participation of hundreds of its members and representative of humanitarian and political organisation and parties. In this celebration, there were also live music and theatre shows.

The struggle of UUI in Iraq needs the support and solidarity of progressive people worldwide. The UUI calls on the civilized humanity, all labour, left and human right organizations and progressive individuals to put pressure on the USA authorities to meet



The Meeting of the Union of Unemployed in Iraq - UUI with the representatives of ILO (International Labour Organisation) in Bagdad at 05.August 2003 .Mr. Walid Hamdan, Chief der ILO in Arabic countries und his Assistant .Mr. Kasem Hadi, President of UUI, Issam Shukri, Coordinator of UUI , Mr. Falih Maktuf, lawyer of UUI, Mr. Moayad Ahmad und Samir Adil, members of the Political Bureau of the Worker Communist Party of Iraq.

the UUI's demands, stop oppressing its struggle and to respect the right of the Iraqi people to establish their own regime by sending letters of protest to the USA civil administration in Iraq. The UUI also calls on all of you to send letters of support to the UUI's and raise fund for the labour movement in Iraq.

Union of Unemployed in Iraq
Email/ info@uui.raq.com

Webpage: : www.uui.raq.com
Mr. Kasim Hadi , President of UUI.

The Union of Unemployed in Iraq Obtains Jobs in Kirkuk.

According to an agreement with the UUI, the ACDI-Voca, a humanitarian organization, will finance the cleaning of the city of Kirkuk and hire 50 workers represented by the UUI. In contrast to the current average weekly wages of 12,000 Dinar in Iraq, the UUI was able to secure 30,000 Dinar a week for each worker. The City Council will provide the machines and equipment needed for this project. Many other humanitarian organizations have already contacted the UUI to negotiate an agreement to provide new jobs for many other workers.

Despite the trivial number of jobs, Haithm Ali, the UUI-Kirkuk vice president, hailed the agreement between the UUI and ACDI-Voca as a step forward in the struggle of the UUI in Kirkuk to secure jobs for the unemployed workers. It is the first project among many others waiting to be launched by the same organization and many other humanitarian institutions. Haithm Ali said the recent victories indicated that the UUI is serious in securing jobs for the unemployed and that the workers were increasingly learning from the activities of the UUI that power is in unity.

It is worth mentioning that the Kirkuk branch of the UUI was established soon after the branch in Baghdad. It has organized three major demonstrations in which thousands of workers took part. The UUI-Kirkuk also organized an 11-day sit-in to support the UUI's sit-in protest in Baghdad. The UUI in Kirkuk has been mobilizing unemployed workers to pressure the City Council and the US authorities to create jobs for the unemployed people or provide \$100 a month for each unemployed person as unemployment benefits. The UUI also works with humanitarian organizations by providing and representing workers for various projects.

4.10.2003

Oppression will not make the unemployed People give up their demands. by Rebwar Ahmad, 27.10.03



Five months after the collapse of the Baath regime, the process of break down of the Iraqi society is getting faster. Poverty, unemployed, and high prices tighten the grip on the people's throats. Mere Survival and continuing the miserable life is an enormous problem for millions of families. The demonstrations by the unemployed people, which spread all over the country during the last 6 months is only a tiny portion of the force of the hungry masses in Iraq. Under the situation brought by the USA War, the masses have lost their daily livelihood and their jobs. Hunger and poverty have forced them to flow onto streets. The Union of Unemployed in Iraq and Worker-communist Party of Iraq have organised and led these demonstrations during last several months. However the USA civil administration and its followers feel no responsibility toward the hungry and unemployed masses. Moreover, they do not satisfied with procrastination but they conspire against the unemployed people and oppress them by detaining their leaders and activists.

This is the responsibility of the USA (democratic) civil administration and the (representatives) of the Iraqi ethnicities and tribes toward the issue of hunger and toward the hardships which face the masses. This is the real meaning of the "Freedom" they brought through "Iraq Freedom Operation" as a present for the people in Iraq. For many months, the properties of the Iraqi society is been stolen in thousands of way by the authorized gangs, however the USA administrati-

on does not believe that it's the right of millions of families deprived of jobs as the result of the USA deeds have the right to be paid what keep them alive and cover their basic needs.

The widespread poverty, which increases day-by-day and dramatic deterioration of living conditions, causes enormous suffering for the masses. The oppression will not be able to prevent the army of hungry people from flooding onto streets. Therefore, last week another wave of mass protest spread over most of the Iraqi cities. Again the USA civil administration dealt with them in the same way i.e. not listening to their demands and oppressing their protests. The demonstrations in Baghdad, Basra and many other cities end up in violent clashes and opening fire on demonstrators, which result in the death of two demonstrators in Baghdad and Basra at the hands of the Coalition forces

In its cover for the event, the right-wing media portrayed the demonstrators as guilty, negligent and ungrateful toward the USA favor. Even those who claim that they sympathize with the unemployed people accept the account that (Baath's loyalists sneaked among the demonstrators) and turn the demonstrations violent by starting the clashes, the action which forced the coalition forces to shot on the demonstrators. It must be clear that such account is not only an empty justification for the way the brutal USA forces dealt with the demonstrations but also it is a ready and false excuse to oppress the mass demonstrations in future.

However the issue is very clear. All these are mere empty and deceitful excuses. Those who flood onto streets are the hungry masses that demand nothing more than securing the livelihood to their families. What complicates the situation is the irresponsible treatment for the demonstrators by the USA civil administration more than sneaking of the Baathists among the demonstrators and their conspiracies. It is the result of the indifference toward the living conditions of millions of deprived people. It is the result of neglecting the fair demands of hundreds of thousands of people for whom ensuring the livelihood is a Hercules task. It is the result of the civil administration's attempt to send these outraged people back to their families empty handed. Obviously, even if the remnants of Baath party do not try to hunt in troubled water and turn the demonstrations to violent clashes, the hungry masses have enough reasons to be outraged and not to tolerate sitting calmly on the empty dining tables. Soon or later this anger will burst. The demand of the unemployed in securing their lives by realizing the demand of the Union of Unemployed in Iraq of \$100 a month for each unemployed person is a basic demand for millions of people in Iraq and must be met. The only way to realize this demand is by insisting and continuing the struggle and widening the mass demonstrations. The Union of Unemployed and the Worker-communist Party of Iraq are tools to organize and lead this struggle. Therefore all unemployed and hungry people should mass around them.

**Government in Iraq must be Non-Tribal and Non-Religious.
Equal Rights for Women in Iraq.**

Workers of Cotton Industry End a Successful strike. 4.11

The Cotton Industry workers in Baghdad ended a strike that lasted 3 days from Sunday, November 2 to Wednesday November 5. The protest started with a demonstration against the misconduct of the company's manager who refused to pay workers an extra one day wage and emergency allowances and to replace heads of departments in the company.

On the morning of November 3, the representatives of the newly elected union held negotiations with the manager on the workers' demands. As usual, the manager, supported by a group of beneficiaries and opportunists, refused these demand. One of the manager's loyalists verbally abused the union representatives and tried to physically attack them. Outraged by this conduct toward their colleagues, the workers marched and chanted slogans demanding the replacement of the management, the increase of wages, and the election of new heads of departments.

The strikers gathered in front of the general manager's office. The general manager asked to meet the representatives of the workers. In the meeting with the representatives, the manager promised to give an answer to their demands in two days. However, the strike continued through the next day, Monday November 3. Angry workers closed the gates and prevented loaded trucks from leaving the company.

The tension continued until Tuesday Nov.4, the date of the next meeting between workers representatives and the management. On Tuesday, while the workers' representatives were waiting to meet the general manager, some of the manager's loyalists, encouraged by the head of spinning department, organised a demonstration in support of the manager. This demonstration drew 40 people including the security and emergency police. Some women workers were threatened and forced to participate in the demonstration. Immediately hundreds of workers gathered in front of the general manager's office in a counter demonstration asking for the replacement of the manager and an answer to worker's demands.

Soon another round of negotiations was held. The general manager agreed to replace the company's manager through a general referendum, reduce the working week to 3 days in the departments where production had stopped, pay emergency allowances, change the security guards and emergency police, and hold elections to replace the heads of all departments.

The workers refused to wait for the election dates decided by the general manager. They attacked the manager's office and told the manager to leave the office and his job. The protest continued until the manager got in his car and left the company. On Wednesday November 5, all departments but the spinning department number 3 resumed their work. In this department, the workers went on strike asking for replacement of the head of the department who was on holiday. The workers resumed the work when they became sure that both the company's manager and the head of the spinning department left the company.

The representatives of the union decided to pay workers wages from the profit of the company by overseeing the selling of some products. Thus, the workers resumed work after achieving their demands. This strike and protest signals a new course in the development of the workers' protest movement in Iraq.

By the reporter for the Shoayiah al-Omalia (Worker Communism), the central newspaper of the Worker Communist Party of Iraq.

The Preparatory Committee for establish- ing Workers' councils and trade unions in Iraq estab- lishes a branch in Kirkuk.

On September 29, 2003 workers from various industries in the city of Kirkuk and in presence of Saman Karim, the member of Political Bureau of the Worker-communist Party of Iraq and many other WP Iraq's members in the city, opened the office of the Preparatory Committee for Establishing Workers' Councils and Trade Unions- Kirkuk branch. Haitham Ali, the representative of the (PCEWCTU) in Kirkuk addressed the attendees and talked about the necessity of establishing this Committee and its tasks in establishing councils and trade unions in all industrial and service fields in the city. He urged the workers to adhere to councils as a way to organize themselves in their struggle for a better life. Saman Karim delivered a speech and talked about the (PCEWCTU)'s perspectives and tasks. Muhammad Raadi Oraybi talked to the attendees on behalf of the North Oil Company. He emphasised on the importance of organizing workers and the role of the activists in strengthening the workers' organisation. Munshi Jabar Abud talked on behalf of the Iraq Digging Company. He said this is a step toward achieving the real democracy for which working class has given dared scarifies. Majid Muhammad Sadiq on behalf of the North Gas Company, hailed the role of the Worker-communist Party of Iraq in supporting workers. He called for abandoning the Saddam's chauvinism. Jasim Hassan Kamel, the president of the Union of Unemployed in Iraq-Kirkuk emphasised the organic relationship between workers' movement and the unemployed people's movement. The Preparatory Committee consist of 12 members: Sadaa Ibrahim, Osama Samir Abood, Muhammad Raadi Oraybi, Abulkarim Fadween, Ismail Muhammad Ali from the North oil Company, Munshi Jabir Abood, Theaah Abdul Hussein, Zaydan Noama Salman, Satar Muhammad Darwesh from the Iraqi digging Company, Majid Muhammad Sadiq from the North Gass Company and Jasim Hassan Kamel from the Union of Unemployed in Iraq-Kirkuk and Haitham Ali from the Preparatory Committee. Then the Preparatory Committee elected its 8-person executive council, which included Zaydan Nuhman Slman, Mushi Jabir Abood, Osama Samir Abood, Ismail Muhammad Ali, Muhammad Ali Oraybi, Majid Muhammad Sadiq, Jasim Hassan Kamel and Haitham Ali.

**Support the Union of
Unemployed in Iraq**

the Ceremony to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Vegetable Oil Workers' Strike...

5.11.2003

The Preparatory Committee for Establishing Workers' Councils and Trade Unions in Iraq commemorated the November 5, 1968 strike of the Vegetable Oil workers. The Fascist Baath regime brutally suppressed the strike. This was first time that Iraqi workers were celebrating this day. The interaction of the audience with the activists who were involved in that strike and with the activist and political leaders who delivered speeches at the ceremony was extraordinary.

Delegations from many parties including the Worker Communist Party of Iraq, the Arab Socialist Movement and the Iraqi Communist Party, attended the ceremony. Many workers who led the Vegetable Oil Workers' strike were also present at the ceremony. Abid Jasim al-Saadi addressed the audience on their behalf.

The ceremony was opened with a speech by Falah Alwan, the head of the Preparatory Committee for Establishing Workers' Councils and Trade Unions (PCEWCTU). He said the aim behind this celebration was not to mourn for the past. He added that the activities of the Workers' Councils and trade unions are the continuation of the revolutionary traditions of the working class, which has expressed its will for decades through demonstrations and strikes. Falah Alwan said that the sacrifices of the past helped the current generation of workers uphold the revolutionary traditions of the working class. Majid Sahip also delivered a speech on behalf of the Vegetable Oil workers. He reviewed the history of Baath fascism and the political conduct of the Baath Party toward the masses and

emphasised the necessity of celebrating this occasion annually.

Abid Jasim al-Saadi talked in detail about the strike and its political dimensions. Many other workers who participated in the strike shared with the audience their memories of the event. Al-Saadi said that that period characterized the prevalence of the left. He emphasised the necessity of establishing free workers' unions without guardianship from anyone.

Then Shamal Ali, the member of the Political Bureau of the Worker Communist Party of Iraq who headed the largest delegation in attendance addressed the attendees. The success of the crack down on the strike and the setback for the workers' movement was not only due to the shooting of the strikers and use of force against them but also because of the political illusions, which tried to make the masses to rally behind the "national" bourgeoisie, and urged them to give up their demands. He called for the establishment and strengthening of the workers' councils and trade unions on a large scale and turning them into an influential force in the political struggle.

The representatives of the Arab Socialist movement and the Iraqi Communist Party also delivered speeches and urged for workers' unity. The atmosphere of the event generally reflected the fact that protest is an essential feature of the working class in Iraq and that it is linked to communism and the Left. It reflected the fact that the working class was always present in the political fore for decades and was not a marginalized or unshaped class as some claim.

From Page 8....

The Union of the Unemployed is a fighting tool in the hands of the workers in Iraq.
Issam Shukri

Supporting this organisation is an urgent and pressing task before the Worker Communist Party of Iraq. In Baghdad and other cities, the party does its best to provide all kinds of support for this independent workers' organisation in order to achieve the objectives of the unemployed people in ending starvation, deprivation imposed on the masses and providing a more secured life for them.

The Worker Communist Party of Iraq believes that the struggle of unemployed people, will not only achieve economic gains for the toilers in Iraq but it is a political answer to the current situation. Achieving the above mentioned demands will elevate the expectation of the masses, prevent the reactionary forces like nationalists (Baathist) and Islamic groups from exploiting the suffering of the workers and splitting their ranks and will improve security and political stability and therefore will give the people a chance to return to their jobs. The struggle of the Union of the Unemployed will help with coming to the fore of the masses to decide their future after decades of staying in periphery.

Building the protest against the miseries imposed on the masses in Iraq by the allied forces should be a priority for the trade unions and progressive organisations in the West which should pressure their governments and the governments of the countries which have participated in occupying and running Iraq. Informing these organisations about the suffering of the masses and the struggle of the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq includes among other things urging them to send protest messages to their governments and the governments of the USA and UK, to the army and civil administration ruling Iraq, to send financial and other material support to the Union of the Unemployed, and to send delegates to see by themselves the miserable situation of the masses in Iraq.

Contact the Union of Unemployed in Iraq - UUI:

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A reply to labour Ministry

**by Kasim Hadi , the UUI -President
23/10/2003**

Noori Jafer, the Labour Ministry spokesperson, stated that the dismissal of the army and police force and cancellation of information ministry are the reasons behind unemployment in Iraq. We opined that we should reply to the spokesperson statement. We think it is an attempt to wrap the issue with generalizations. The dismissal of the army, police force and the employees of the former information ministry is a tiny reason of the crisis and is not the direct or main one. The ministry tries to justify the current situation and deny any responsibility toward this situation. It is widely known that the policy of the fascist Baath party and the previous wars have resulted in widespread unemployment, however the last war, the destruction of the infrastructure, and the lack of seriousness in the US plans and the practices of the labour ministry are main direct reasons that have aggravated the crisis and left it unsolved. The other reasons for unemployment are the black outs of electricity and its unstable intensity in addition to the fear of insecurity which the US administration has not dealt with seriously. The US administration secured the protection for its troops, the institutions that serve the occupation and its local allies only. As for the security of the masses, it, for the US, seems *deferrable*.

Instead of barrages of public statements and false promises, they should have endorsed the unemployment allowance until suitable jobs are found, which will not be available in the short future. Instead of using the budget deficit to justify the lack of action, they should have declared the outcome of oil sales and the revenues gained from contracts finalized

previously. The Americans and their allies should have known that the cost of a military campaign is not only a mass massacre but also the reconstruction and rehabilitation of what have been destroyed by their campaign which was supposed to bring freedom and democracy. The cost of one helicopter starting with manufacturing, shipping to equipping it with the missiles that claimed the lives of thousands and destroyed their homes and their living resources is sufficient to secure paying the unemployment allowance to thousands of the unemployed. The approach of labour ministry and Baghdad municipality regarding the issue of unemployment and what is called (consecutive employment) is a naïve attempt to redistribute unemployment among the unemployed. These temporary weak tranquilizers cannot be steps to solve a crisis, which is considered one of the biggest dilemmas the Iraqi society is facing.

We affirm that no one can hide from such an immense crisis behind shallow pretexts and trivial solutions. Those who are hungry cannot wait and should not. The steps toward solving the crisis of unemployment are clear and simple: paying the unemployed compensation as an employment allowance no less than \$ 100, raising wages to a level that help workers lead a decent life so that they do not have to look for a second job, the prohibition of child labour, reducing working hours, endorsing a progressive labour law and social security system and creating suitable conditions for reconstruction and rehabilitation of economy infrastructure.

**Jobs or 100 US Dollars
monthly as unemployment
insurance for each unemployed
person .**

**The Union of the
Unemployed is a
fighting tool in the
hands of the workers in
Iraq.**

Issam Shukri

The widespread destruction and the USA occupation of Iraq have made the condition that the vast majority of the Iraqi people live under unbearable. Their life is full of miseries, deprivation, and uncertainty. Millions of people in Iraq are now suffering because they are unemployed, as the result of the collapse of the economy due to the sanctions and the war. The closure of working places, disruption of electricity, absence of petrol and demolishing working institutions by the USA bombardment have all contributed to the widespread unemployment.

The Insecurity and chaos that have prevailed in the aftermath of the war have forced many factories and plants to close their doors. Unemployment and rising prices have resulted in a huge declining in living conditions of the people in Iraq. The majority of workers have joined the unemployed army therefore gaining food to keep themselves and their children alive has become a Hercules task.

In the face of this enormous material pressure on the masses, a group of conscious jobless workers have decided to form a union for the unemployed people, which is the first organisation to be formed by the Iraqi working class interpedently and away from the influence of the collapsed Baath regime.

The Union of the Unemployed in Iraq defends workers in general and aims to unite the ranks of the unemployed workers and turn them to a huge mass force able to pressure the occupation authorities. It aims at achieving their fair demands, which include providing jobs or paying unemployment benefit and making 100000 Dinners the minimum monthly wage in Iraq. This organisation has organised many demonstrations against the USA civil authority, however it has so far not achieved its demands due to procrastination by this authority. **To Page 7**