

Voice of Iraqi Workers

Special Issue on UUI - Delegation to Japan

Nr. 7

A Paper published by the Union of Unemployed in Iraq -UUI ,Network of the UUI-Representative Abroad -
www.uuiiraq.org 6.June 2004

Delegation of UUI- in Japan and a solidarity campaign to end the occupation in Iraq



In response to an invitation from ZENKO- National Assembly for Peace and Democracy and the Japanese Movement for Democratic Socialism - MDS and many organizations for peace and against the occupation in Iraq, a delegation of the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq, UUI, have visited Japan from April 23rd to May 3rd, 2004, for the reinforcement of the common struggle with the movement against the war and occupation in Iraq and the building of a civil society. The delegation members were: Aso Jabbar, responsible for the international networks of the Union of the Unemployed of Iraq, UUI, abroad, Amjad Ali Al-Jawhary, UUI Representative in North America, and Haitham Ali the Union Secretary in Kirkuk. Aso Jabbar arrived on Saturday April 23 to Osaka city and was welcomed heartedly by the Japanese comrades and the invitation included the visit to a number of Japanese cities, press conferences, and seminars about the situation in

Iraq in the cities Osaka, Hiroshima, Kyoto, and Tokyo. The invitation included participation in May 1st celebrations as well as the participation in the third conference to the International Criminal Tribunal for Iraq ICTI - and collection of donations for UUI, labour and progressive organizations in Iraq.

Following the arrival of Aso Jabbar on Saturday, April 24, 04 to Osaka city, he held a press conference in one of the city halls and tens of journalists, the television stations and radios and the correspondents of the newspapers attended this pres conference.

Aso spoke about the political situation in Iraq and the conflict of the two international terrorist camps represented by U.S. led coalition and the political Islam and then he mentioned the suffering of the civil populations in Iraq under this dark scenario and then he spoke about Al-Fallujah tragedy which caused hundreds of victims among the citizens by the American forces and the siege around the city and the terrorism of the political Islam and the rests of the fascist Baath loyalists.

He , in-charge-of UUI also condemned strongly the kidnapping of the foreigner hostages which was three Japanese hostages among them. It is worth mentioning that these hostages were from the employees of the humanitarian organizations and Journalsits and were against the occupation which proves that the militant Islamic groups is not working in the interest of the civil population in Iraq then he condemned the American occupation of Iraq and the sending of the Japanese troops to

In this Issue:

- | | |
|---|------|
| -Interview with Mr. YAMAKAWA Yoshiyasu (Representative of ZENKO) and Mr. MORI Fumihiro (Staff member of ZENKO, in charge of international solidarity) | P.6 |
| -IRAQ WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL HELD IN JAPAN | P.7 |
| -WTI-Hiroshima Session Local Execom. held an emergent Iraq solidarity meeting | P.9 |
| -Let's try Bush for the war crimes against Iraq | P.9 |
| -Appeal by 1200 Laywers in opposition in attacking Iraq . | P.11 |
| -UUI Statement Regarding the Announcement of the New Iraqi Government | P.12 |

UUI- Message to All Freedom Loving People and Progressive organisations in Japan

Thanks For Your Solidarity

P.12

Iraq under the pretext of self-defence. In another part of the press conference, Aso spoke about the civil resistance front against the occupation in Iraq which includes the labour organizations and The Organization of Women's Freedom and Organisation to Defend Secularism of Iraqi Society and the Worker Communist Party of Iraq and the civilian resistance against the occupation. He mentioned that this front has an international front in Iraq for ending the occupation, the establishment of a secular government, guarantee of the political freedoms and the improvement of the living situations of the civilians including solution of the unemployment problem and the guarantee of the freedom and equality for women.

Many Japanese newspapers published statements of UUI

this theatre play the brilliant aspects of the struggle of the Organisation of Woman's Freedom and The Union of the Unemployed, and showed their opposition to the implementation of the Islamic Sharia that was proposed to replace the personal civil laws by the Iraqi Governing Council which was known as the resolution 137, and the slogans of the women's movement in Iraq that was demanding a complete equality between man and woman,



representative and showed sections of the press conference on television programs and also broadcast sections of the documentaries about the first conference of the federation of workers councils and unions and the labour syndicates in Iraq, meeting of the textile industry workers in Baghdad for the creation of the textile syndicate which have been shown by the television programs and WebPages of the Japanese newspapers.

Participation in the third conference of the International Criminal Tribunal for Iraq - ICTI public hearing in Hyogo in the city of Kobe

On April 25, Aso participated in the third conference of the International Criminal Tribunal for Iraq - ICTI public hearing in Hyogo. More than 400 people participated in this conference and it started with a documentary film about the last events in Iraq and the crimes of the American forces and their savage bombardment to the residential areas and the terrorism of political Islam in Iraq. Then they presented a play show by a youth group against the war and the occupation in Osaka city. The team was composed of P-VA (Peace = Voice and Action!. It is the name of Youth Action of Kobe City of Hyogo prefecture), Youth Peace Action, and Raabitatun (meaning a link or a connection in Arabic. It is the name of the project team of ZENKO to translate and publish the information of International Occupation Watch Centre in Baghdad and to take actions to end the occupation of Iraq. They showed in



and providing job opportunities or unemployment insurance

A number of newspapers and Osaka television station had interviewed Aso Jabbar about the situation in Iraq, the Japanese hostages' case, the necessity of ending the occupation, and the withdrawal of the alliance forces from Iraq and the Japanese forces among them.

During the course of the conference, Aso Jabbar addressed the current situation in Iraq talking in details about the conflict among the three camps in Iraq, introducing the civil front alternative as a solution for the political chaos that the country is going through and the establishment of a civilized and modern society in Iraq. Then he spoke of the political Islam and its reactionary and terrorism role in Iraq. And finally he assured the necessity of the financial, moral, and political solidarity with the civil front, and the necessity of building a global solidarity to end the war and occupation in Iraq. On questions period, he talked more about Fallujah events, political Islam, international solidarity with Iraq and the civil front, the role of UN, and the role of UUI, its improvement, and its ambitions.

Then a number of activists commented and among them was the Japanese journalist Nonaka who had visited Iraq





recently and talked in particular about the Japanese hostages and the irresponsible Japanese government act towards the security and safety of the hostages, and the deployment of the troops to Samawa city in Iraq. At the end of the conference many gifts were presented to the UUI and an appreciation certificate was submitted to Aso Jabbar to assure the solidarity with the UUI by the conference organizing committee.

The conference had concluded with songs, revolutionary anthems and dances expressing the opposition to the war and occupation, and then a speech was delivered by the band to show the solidarity with UUI. A documentary film was shown regarding the situation in Iraq, and the way the occupying forces are dealing with the opposition movement, and the terrorist act of suppressing the prisoners and detainees.

The conference was concluded with a newspaper interview given to Aso Jabbar as a representative of UUI delegation. It was focused on the Japanese constitution regarding the deployment of the troops to Iraq, the legitimacy of the occupation and the UN role.



A welcome party for the UUI representative

A welcome party was given to the delegation and approximately 60 people of co-founders of peace activists committee in Japan attended, as they assured the necessity of cooperation and solidarity in the struggle for peace and against war and occupation in Iraq. Aso greeted the audience and thanked them for the invitation, and then the audience presented a solidarity certificate to the UUI that

assured the solidarity and support with the Iraqi people and its legitimate struggle for liberation and freedom and the establishment of a secular society.

Later on, Aso was invited to meet with the anti-war and occupation youth movement. There he talked about the situation in Iraq and the UUI means of struggle, groups of youth had raised many banners announcing their support with the Iraqi liberation from occupation and grant a decent life for the people. These banners were presented to Aso as symbolic gifts to the UUI.

A Solidarity seminar in Osaka:

In April 26, at 7:00 p.m. Aso Jabbar participated in a worker solidarity seminar in Osaka, District of Kansai. The seminar was incorporated with a revolutionary song by a folklore band from Osaka to show solidarity with the Iraqi people.



Speeches were delivered afterwards by labour activists, trade union activists, and peace activists regarding the activities of the movement for peace and ending the occupation. Aso Jabbar delivered his speech regarding this matter mentioning the conflict among the three camps which includes U.S. terrorism front and its allies, Political Islam, and the freedom and civil front in Iraq. He talked about the contradicting ambitions that each front presents, the right solutions, and the visions of the civil front to ending the occupation.

A visit to Hiroshima

In April 27, the UUI delegation visited Hiroshima city, which was bombed by atomic bomb in 1945. At train station the local TV was among the recipients who accompanied the delegation until its departure.

The delegation had visited the peace park and the museum, the spot where the atomic bomb was dropped, and the delegation served a minute of silence in respect to the victims of the bombardment. The local TV had an interview with the delegation regarding the situation in Iraq and the dark scenario that is caused by the occupation. Later the delegation talked about the similarities between Halbja, the northern Iraqi city that was bombed with the chemical weapons in 1988 by the Baath regime and Hiroshima, and presented it as an example of the prolifer-

ation of weapons of mass destruction.

On the evening, the delegation participated in a seminar regarding the Iraqi situation, started with Mr. Yoko Yokohara the anti WMD international activist who talked about the ordeal in Iraq and the participation of the Japanese troops in the occupation. Then Amjad Al-Jawhary talked about the situation and the conflict among the three camps. Then he focused on the civil front that represented by the trade unions, progressive women movement, and the Worker Communist Party of Iraq.

In the second period Aso Jabbar talked about the means to strengthen the civil front to end the occupation and establish a secular state that is not religious or ethnic based.

In the following period the delegation had to answer the audience questions that were concentrated on the U.S. pretexts to launch the war against Iraq, and violations of the U.S. army that was committed against the labours and their leaders, and their struggle for a better life.

A visit to Kyoto

In April 28, the delegation visited Kyoto, and met with a delegation of Battery workers and their trade union (Yuasa), Aso delivered his speech to a group of workers formed about 400 participants who showed up to meet with UUI delegation. Aso focused in his speech on the necessity of the solidarity among the workers internationally mentioning the importance of the workers demands for the political freedom, association, wages, and the equality between men and women. The speech was very well received by the audience and they wished the UUI luck in its struggle.

At the same day more than 100 people participated in a seminar held by the executive board of the International Criminal Tribunal in Iraq (ICTI). The UUI delegation gave a lecture about the Iraqi ordeal and the secularism of the Iraqi people as opposed to what the international media try to present Iraqis who in their view nothing but religious fanatics however the reality is showing the Iraqi people absolutely otherwise. Then the delegation spoke of the U.S. corporate and privatization and their role in the post war in Iraq. At the end of the seminar paintings expressing ideas of peace and anti war were presented to the UUI delegation by the children of Kyoto to be delivered to the Iraqi children.

The UUI delegation visiting Tokyo

In April 29, the delegation visited Tokyo to participate in a conference sponsored by the Movement for Democracy and Socialism in Japan (MDS). It is a left movement formed in 2000. Their platform focuses on the struggle against the capitalism, globalization, the establishment of the socialist society, and they always emphasize on the solidarity among the working class against the capital.

The conference was commenced at 1:00 pm, where a brief introduction was presented about the UUI struggle; the US troops behaviour towards the UUI oppositions and

the detention of the UUI leaders including the general secretary UUI Qasim Hadi. Then the delegation explained in details the effects of the workers struggles under the Baath regime and its oppressive ways of confronting the workers oppositions which was represented by guns and firing the workers. Then they talked about the UUI and its ability to register more than 250,000 members in their organisation, and the formation of the Federation of Worker Councils and Trade Unions in Iraq. Then the aspects of the workers stand in Nassiriya against the (Islamic militia and U.S. troops) to keep them away from using their workplaces as a battle zones for their reactionary war. Then an article was read to the audience by the International campaign against the occupation and defence of the labour rights which was presented to the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva.

Later the president of the MDS delivered a speech against the occupation and the role of the international community and the global anti war movement to ending the occupation and to save the Iraqi people from chaos and deterioration. Then he mentioned the crisis that the Iraqi interim government council going through and the resignation of some of its members, also the refusal of the Iraqi army to fight against the armed militia. In addition, he spoke of the U.S. and other western companies who pulled out from Iraq, the withdrawal of humanitarian aid workers, the budget deficit, and the embarrassing position that the U.S. administration is put up with. Also, he mentioned the growing rejection of Iraqis against the occupying forces who committed genocides especially in Fallujah which reminded us of the villages' genocides in the Vietnam's war in 1968 that victimized thousands of people. Then the UUI delegation had a presentation regarding this issue.

At the end of the conference some gifts were presented by some Japanese organisations such as the organisation to defend children's rights that offered a Japanese outfit labelled with "end the occupation".

Haitham Ali in Tokyo

Coming from Iraq, in April 30, Haitham Ali, the secretary of UU- Kirkuk branch, arrived to Tokyo and joined the delegation. At the same day, the delegation hold a private meeting with a high ranking members of MDS including Sato Kazoyoshi, president of MDS, Kotszua Dizo general secretary of MDS, Asai Kinji editor-in-chief of MDS weekly newspaper, and other members. The meeting lasted two hours. Mutual relationships between the two organisations, and the role of the political and financial support to enhance the activity of UUI were discussed. Then Haitham Ali presented a live topic regarding the situation in Iraq, the conflict between the two terrorist's poles, and the role of the international peace movement to end the dark scenario. The meeting was concluded with a very positive outcome that the MDS pledged to stay firm with the UUI struggle by all available means.

Later on that day, the UUI delegation delivered a lecture regarding the UUI activities and the political situation in Iraq.



May 1st in Tokyo

On May 1st, the delegation had participated in many activities which consisted of the participation in the demonstration of the trade unions in Habya Yovoki of Tokyo, where Amjad Al-Jawhary and in response to an invitation from MDS, delivered a speech on behalf of the UUI to an estimated crowd of approximately 6000 people saying:

Greetings and respect from the Iraqi workers and people to the Japanese workers and people in this great day. I came here to deliver a message stating that we the Iraqi workers and in spite of all wars and ordeals however still consider ourselves part of the international working class, and our feelings and agonies are the same no matter what barriers the bourgeois try to plant to divide us such as nationalities and religions. We came from a country that the wars and economic sanctions desperately tried to erase its humane identity; furthermore the U.S. led war and occupation from one side and the political Islam gangs and Baath remnants on the other side to snap viciously at what was left over.

We in UUI demand the full withdrawal of all occupying forces from Iraq without exception and give the people the opportunity to decide their own government without any intervention from any outsiders, and this will not be achieved unless their will be a global solidarity with the Iraqi workers, thus this is what the UUI plea from the Japanese people and workers.

**Again thanks for your listening and happy May Day
Workers of the World Unite**

At the same day, and in response to an invitation from the Anti -Globalization, the delegation of UUI presented two lectures, the first one focused on the UUI role in Iraq and its giant ability to mobilize more than 250,000 unemployed people in its organisation within few weeks of its commencement and how its demonstrations forced the Civil Provisional Authorities (CPA) to come to the negotiation table and discuss its demands. The second lecture was about the media and its passive role in covering the UUI

activities in a desperate move not to promote it as a social power that polarized a massive number of hard working people regardless of their ethnic or religious background.

In May 2nd, and in response to an invitation from MDS in Osaka, the delegation of UUI presented a seminar. It was attended by more than 250 people, and it was focused on the main political powers who attempt to have a major role in drawing Iraqi future such as the powers represented by U.S. and the Interim Governing Council who is allied with, the political Islam gangs, Baath remnants, and the civil front who is represented by Worker Communist Party of Iraq, UUI, Organisation for Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI),

the Defence of Secularism Organisation, Organisation for defence of children rights, and all the freedom-seekers and peace lovers who represent the majority of the Iraqi people. At the end of the seminar the MDS president declared a formation of the solidarity movement with the Iraqi people who are represented by UUI. Then an interview with MDS weekly newspaper was conducted with the UUI delegation concerning the situation of the unemployed people, their life style, and the ability of mobilization in such an organisation, and the types of obstacles that confronted it since its commencement till the present time.

Following that day the delegation returned home delivering a salute and greetings from the Japanese people, workers, and especially MDS movement and its affiliated groups who offered a great hospitality to the Iraqi people.

10 000 USD for UUI -activities in Iraq

On Friday, April 30..04 Mr.Kutsuzawa from the MDS gave the delegation of UUI 10 000 USD in Tokyo as solidarity fund collected in Japan by the welcoming committee of UUI, composed of ICTI (International Criminal Tribunal for Iraq), the executive committee of the public hearing of ICTI in Hyogo prefecture, the campaign for the treaty totally banning DU weapon, Nakama(Fellow workers) Union in the Tokyo metropolitan area, Nakama Union, the group of the plaintiffs of the lawsuit accusing against the Japan Railway Constructing Public Corporation, ZENKO (National Assembly for Peace and Democracy), MDS (the Movement for Democratic Socialism), and Youth Peace Action -National Network. In charge of all members of UUI and its leaders and activist, we thanks the freedom loving people, peace activist and progressive organisations against occupation in Iraq and for a better future for Iraqi people to all efforts and solidarity actions with the UUI in Japan.

Union of Unemployed in Iraq- UUI, May 2004
This report was translated to english by Amjad Al-Jawhry Representative of UUI in North America.

Interview with Mr. YAMAKAWA Yoshiyasu (Representative of ZENKO) and Mr. MORI Fumihiro (Staff member of ZENKO, in charge of international solidarity)

18.May 2004

Interview of the Voice of Iraqi Workers, paper of UUI and FWCUI with Mr. YAMAKAWA Yoshiyasu (Representative of ZENKO) and Mr. MORI Fumihiro (Staff member of ZENKO, in charge of international solidarity) who arranged the invitation of the delegation of UUI to visit Japan from April 23 to May 3.

The Interview was done by Aso Jabber, Rep of UUI and FWCUI abroad

Q; Could you tell us briefly about ZENKO and its goals ?

Yamakawa: ZENKO (National Assembly for Peace and Democracy) is a Japanese NGO which is dedicated to advancing peace and democracy at a grassroots level. Its goal is to oppose globalization which is increasing poverty, unemployment, and environmental disruption globally and to build a peaceful and democratic Japanese society. We can find our perspective in concrete and continuous struggles to change our own region and society through international solidarity.

Q; Why did you invite a delegation of UUI to Japan ?

Mori: ZENKO as well as MDS (the Movement for Democratic Socialism) is one of the founding organizations of the International Occupation Watch Center in Baghdad and is one of its Advisory Board Members. We found the struggle of UUI through the information by OWC. We realized that UUI is leading the struggle of Iraqi people who are demanding withdrawal of occupying forces and are working to realize a peaceful and democratic Iraqi society. The struggle of UUI under the occupation against mass unemployment and deterioration of living is very significant.

Yamakawa: We should pressurize the Japanese government, which dispatched SDF (Self-Defense Forces) to Iraq and now is one of occupiers as well as U.S. and U.K., to withdraw its troops as soon as possible. To achieve this goal, we thought it is necessary to have a face-to-face solidarity with the Iraqi people, beginning from UUI, such as workers, women, urban poor, youth, students, teachers and disabled people, so we decided to invite a delegate from UUI. We believed it is crucial that we should know not only the actual victimization of Iraqi people under the occupation but also the civil resistance of the Iraqi people who are struggling to change the society and we should

be connected to them.

Q; How was the reaction and reflex of the people in Japan and trade unions on the analysis and perspectives of UUI to end the occupation in Iraq through a building a strong civil resistance against the occupation ?

Yamakawa: We think the analysis and perspectives of UUI is right.

Mori: We can find very little news coverage about the civil resistance of Iraq such as UUI in Japan as well as in U.S. and in the western countries. Most of the information about Iraq is random massacre by U.S. and U.K. forces and about armed forces of Political Islam.

Meanwhile the speech by the delegate from UUI in Japan gained sympathy of many in audience. The participants in the public hearing of ICTI (International Criminal Tribunal for Iraq) in Hyogo prefecture, May Day demonstrations, and the meetings of MDS could have the first opportunity to know the civil resistance in Iraq. They could be confident that the civil resistance in Iraq is the only perspective and hope to withdraw all the occupying forces and to realize a peaceful and democratic Iraqi society. One of staff members of ICTI told his impression, 'I felt the scales fell from my eyes when I heard the speech of the UUI member.' A member of Nakama Union wrote 'I was very moved when a delegate of UUI told that we are the partners struggling against the global capitalism.'

Q; The workers and independent trade unions and UUI needs a strong international solidarity, what do you think about this solidarity in Japan to this civil front in Iraq ?

Yamakawa: ZENKO has established the international solidarity committee with resistance in Iraq, together with MDS and other organizations which invited UUI. It is planning a continuous solidarity with UUI, OWFI, organizations of youth and students and is supporting the struggle of UUI to realize the withdrawal of occupying forces and the peaceful and democratic society. It will also invite a delegate from UUI and anti-war organizations in U.S and U.K. etc. to the National Assembly in Tokyo from 29 to 30 July 2004. We hope to discuss and make a plan to end the occupation and withdraw the foreign troops and to get back a genuine sovereignty to Iraqi people.

Support the Union of Unemployed in Iraq
www.uuiraq.org

IRAQ WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL HELD IN JAPAN

<http://sf.indymedia.org/news/2004/04/1692710.php> [Print comments.](#)

by **Brian Covert / Independent Journalist Thursday April 29, 2004**



A citizens tribunal seeking to indict US President George Bush for war crimes in Iraq held its third public hearing in Kobe, Japan on Sunday, April 25, presenting evidence and bearing witness to the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Iraq War Crimes Tribunal Held in Japan

KOBE, JAPAN — A citizens tribunal seeking to indict US President George Bush for war crimes in Iraq held its third public hearing here Sunday, April 25, presenting evidence and bearing witness to the suffering of the Iraqi people.

An estimated 350 people throughout the day attended the 3rd International Criminal Tribunal for Iraq (ICTI) Hyogo Public Hearing, which featured direct testimony from a visiting Iraqi labor union leader, firsthand news footage of unfolding events in Iraq by an independent Japanese journalist, and a host of performances by university students and other activists in Japan.

"The Japanese government has offered up Okinawa as a training ground for the US military forces to go and commit massacres in Fallujah [Iraq]," one Japanese activist, a Mr. Nakakuwa, told the audience. "Therefore, the Japanese government, along with the US and Britain, is a war criminal."

That sentiment was echoed throughout the day by the tribunal's organizers, guest speakers and performers. Ever present on the stage here Sunday were also models of the two "defendants" in absentia: Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

The series of tribunals is being organized and supported by a variety of academics, grassroots activists, journalists and citizens groups throughout Japan.

"We need to create a war crimes tribunal of our own making," organizers of the ICTI said in a preliminary appeal in August 2003.

"[W]e need to collect pieces of evidence of war crimes committed by Bush, pile them up, and analyze them. We need to elucidate in light of international law that the war by Bush was nothing but an invasion. This tribunal is a stage for [that] sake."

One of those here on that stage to testify was Aso Jabbar, representative of a labor union called the Union of Unemployed in Iraq (UII), who is currently visiting Japan and raising funds for his organization's activities in Iraq.

Jabbar stressed that the majority of ordinary Iraqi people are now facing two main enemies: the US-led occupation forces and violent Muslim fundamentalists.

"It's true they [Muslim fundamentalists] are fighting the US occupying forces," Jabbar said. "But they are attacking at the same time the civilian people. They are attacking the progressive organizations. And they have the strategy to establish an Islamic government in Iraq."

Jabbar said the UII calls for the "end of the occupation and withdrawal of the U.S. and coalition occupying forces because we regard them as the major source of the insecure situation in Iraq."

Contrary to American military and media propaganda, most Iraqi people do not want the US-led military forces in their country, he said.

"The majority of the Iraqi people do not agree with the occupation and they are against it," said Jabbar, who also represents the Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq (FWCUI).

"They are against the American policies and they have the experience. And they have not the feeling that their lives have been changed," he continued. "Saddam [Hussein] has been removed and the situation is deteriorating: the security situation, the living conditions, the situation of women, situation of the unemployed and the labor movement — everything is deteriorating. So the people have protests and demands, and they want to change their lives."

Also standing in their way of that change, he says, are the dangerous forces of what he called extreme right-wing "political Islam."

"These militant groups, they are so aggressive that the ordinary people, they fear them," Jabbar told the audience. "You see in the interviews that the [Iraqi] people are protesting against the occupation, but they are saying

From P. 7 - IRAQ WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL HELD IN JAPAN

nothing about the military resistance or the Islamic resistance or the rest of the Baath Party” of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. “The majority of them, they are secret organizations,” he said of the fundamentalist groups. “They are working underground and they practice only armed violence. So the normal people, they have angst and fear to speak or to criticize in public their actions.”

The ICTI was created last year to give ordinary citizens in Japan a voice in the events then unfolding in Iraq, amid the Japanese government’s plans to send its Self-Defense Forces to Iraq in violation of Japan’s Constitution. About 550 Japanese SDF troops are now based in Iraq, including in Samawah, an area reported to be highly contaminated with depleted uranium from US military weapons.

One of those who has recently returned from Iraq was independent journalist Akihiro Nonaka, founder and head of a Tokyo-based company, Asia Press International.

“We independently report what the mass media doesn’t report,” said Nonaka. “And the mass media is not reporting the suffering of civilian victims in Iraq.”

Nonaka said he recently returned from a trip to Palestine and Iraq, where he and his crew managed to film the ongoing wars there.

He aired some of his Iraq video footage at the tribunal, including dramatic scenes of enraged crowds of Iraqi people shouting “Down, down Bush!” and “America, no!” as they surrounded US military vehicles with seemingly bewildered US soldiers inside.

“America’s history as a nation was created through the killing of its own indigenous peoples,” Nonaka said. “The US thinks that ‘We are good, and those who are against us are evil.’ Bush himself uses the word ‘evil’.

“What America is doing in Afghanistan and Iraq is like the old Westerns, based on the overly simple idea of good versus evil,” Nonaka added “But the U.S. is ignorant when it comes to Islam. So the anti-US reactions in Iraq are related to this.” He cited the the United States’ defeat in Vietnam decades ago to a lack of true understanding of the Vietnamese people, a pattern the US is repeating now

in the Middle East. “America doesn’t try to understand Iraqi society, Iraqi history, the history of Islam as a religion,” Nonaka said “Because the US thinks its own democracy is so great, it doesn’t hear the voices of the Iraqi people. And the US thinks of Islam as something underdeveloped.”

Nonaka also had harsh words for prime minister Koizumi of Japan, who has taken up the cause of holding the Japanese citizenry accountable to *jiko-sekinin* (individual responsibility), following the return of five Japanese citizens recently held hostage in Iraq.

“The Japanese government keeps saying how it undertook so many actions for the release of the hostages,” Nonaka said. “But that is the job of the government; that’s what we pay taxes for. [I want to say to the Koizumi government] Don’t keep talking about it — just do it!”

Nonaka said the recent US blockade and killing of civilians in Fallujah are a kind of measuring stick for those who call themselves journalists and those who really are ones.

“One of the [five Japanese] hostages, Junpei Yasuda, like some real journalists, tried to go to Fallujah to document what is happening there,” Nonaka said. “I think you can’t call yourself a journalist if you don’t want to go cover Fallujah.”

The current series of Iraqi tribunals follows in the footsteps of a similar tribunal in Japan last year — the International Criminal Tribunal for Afghanistan (ICTA) — which, after a series of public hearings, found Bush guilty of war crimes in Afghanistan.

Noting that Bush and other world leaders are unlikely to be tried in any national or international court, ICTI organizers last December adopted a statute that outlines the tribunal’s jurisdiction concerning Iraq. It includes trying persons for crimes of aggression and genocide, as well as crimes against humanity and crimes of war.

The ICTI will hold several more public hearings throughout Japan this year prior to its scheduled final judgment in December in Tokyo. A related body, the World Tribunal on Iraq (WTI), is scheduled to render its own final judgment in March 2005 in Istanbul, Turkey.

From P.11 - Appeal by 1200 Lawyers in Opposition to Attacking Iraq

Motoya Ishikawa, Former President , the Japanese Lawyers for Freedom(JLF), Masanobu Inoue, Lawyer Seikichi Ueda, Former President of the Japanese Lawyers for Freedom(JLF), Nao Ugajin, President of the Japanese Lawyers for Freedom(JLF), Masatoshi Uchida, Lawyer Kenji Urata, Professor, Waseda University Yoshihiro Eto, President, Japan Lawyers International Solidarity Association(JALISA), Nobuyuki Enomoto, Former President, the Japanese Democratic Lawyers Association(JDLA), Kenichi Ohkubo, Secretary General, Japan Association of Lawyers against Nuclear Arms(JALANA), Satoki Odanaka, Former President, Law Section of the Democratic Section(MINKA), Michiatsu Kaino, President, Law Section of the Democratic , Akio Kioi, Lawyer, Hirohisa Kitano, President, the Japan Democratic Lawyers Association(JDLA), Akihiko Kimijima, Professor, Hokkai Gakuen University, Tomofumi Kinoshita, Professor, Kobe Gakuin University, Shigefumi Goh, Vice President, Japan Lawyers International Solidarity Association(JALISA)

WTI-Hiroshima Session Local Execom. held an emergent Iraq solidarity meeting

WTI-Hiroshima Session Local Execom. held an emergent Iraq solidarity meeting on 27 April at Aster Plaza, Hiroshima city. The hall for the meeting was packed by participants.

In the meeting, two guests from UUI (Union of Unemployed in Iraq) made enlightening speeches and gave us a clear image of what is happening in Iraq under occupation.

Following an opening remark by Mr. Yokohara, one of eight co-representatives of our committee, Mr. Amjad Al-Jawhari, representing North American branch of UUI, gave us a lecture on present internal situation in Iraq, and showed us their political analyses of Iraqi resistance against occupation.

After explaining about the three camps confronting in Iraq at the moment, - 1st one the US-led coalition occupiers, 2nd Muslim fundamentalist groups (what he termed, "political Isams") fighting against each other for more of the power share, and the 3rd camp is civil, humanitarian resistance standing firm against both violent camps and based on non-violent humanitarian anti-war, anti-occupation movements of the people in and out of the country - he stressed that the main source of insecurity and destitute of Iraq at the moment is of course the US-led coalition occupation forces, but at the same time, Iraqi people are now under threat from the second camp of violence.

Next, Mr. Aso Jabbar, representing UUI abroad, lectured to us on UUI's struggles against occupation and for restoring human rights and labor rights in Iraq. He explained their five goals that UUI, together with other progressive organizations in Iraq, is struggling to achieve;

1) the end of occupation and withdrawal of all the occupying forces, 2) restoring security in the country, 3) securing all the basic human rights including all the political freedom, 4) improving living conditions and basic human need, 5) constructing a truly democratic society based on secular, non-ethnic, and non-religious government.

Then, we moved on to Q&A session where two speakers answered some of the questions raised from the floor. After this, Mr. Asai made a report of WTI-BRussells Tribunal which he attended together with other two ICTJ delegates. He showed us the Japanese translation of the full text of conclusions issued by the commission of inquiry and told us about how the tribunal was organized and run.

Finally, Mr. Okuhara, a member of the local committee secretariat, proposed a basic plan for the WTI-Hiroshima Session which will be held 10-11 October 2004, at Hiroshima YMCA International Hall and Hiroshima West Ward Culture Centre, dealing with illegality of Iraq war and occupation including Japanese involvement in it, and criminality of the use of Uranium weapons in the war especially DU weapons. He added the importance of fund raising campaign and welcomed any amount of donation to financially support our project.

HINADA Seishi , WTI-Hiroshima and ZENKO Hiroshima

Let's try Bush for the war crimes against Iraq An appeal to establish the International Criminal Tribunal for Iraq

On March 20th, 2003, the US/UK allied forces bulldozed their way into attacking Iraq, overthrew the Hussein regime, and today, still continues the de facto military occupation of the country. President Bush and Prime Minister Blair schemed to make the UN security council adopt a war resolution, but as soon as they failed to do so, changed their reasons of justification for war one after another, and eventually forced their way into war.

On the contrary, France and other nations in the security council clearly pointed out there was no reason for attacking Iraq and blocked the war resolution. Voices and will against Bush's aggression realized huge internationally coordinated anti-war demonstrations unprecedented in the history of human being.

Nevertheless, Bush and Blair started Iraqi invasion with the hyper aggressive air raid named 'shock and awe' ,

massacred thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians, and destroyed the cities.

After the collapse of the Hussein regime, the US/UK forces have continued their de facto military occupation.

Their slogan of 'liberation of Iraqi people' is nothing but fraud; in reality, however, order has not been restored in Iraq, rocket bombs are flying and pipelines are burning, and resistance seems to continue against the US/UK military. Though Bush condemns this resistance as terrorism, and is intensifying the counterinsurgency operations, this resistance by the people of Iraq connotes their opposition against the illegal invasion and occupation by the US/UK military.

France and others still continue to claim that the war was an unjust and illegal war waged by Bush, but they will not necessarily strengthen their criticism against Bush any further.

To P.10

From p. 9 - Let's try Bush.....

The international community seems to engage in the post factum measures taking the occupation by the US/UK for granted.

Some in the anti-war movement are calling for an action to try Bush and Blair in the International Criminal Court. The necessity is recognized to try them for war crimes of the invasion of Iraq and civilian casualties by their air raid. But unfortunately, we cannot try Bush in the ICC, for the US has not ratified the ICC code, neither has Iraq.

An action is also proposed to apply the Belgian law to punish violations of the international humanitarian law and indict Bush and Blair for their war crimes at Brussels local court. However, the Belgium government, in complying with the pressure from the US government, vastly restricted the application of the law, and the indictment of Bush turned out not to be impeached.

Thus, the institutional courts to try Bush exist neither at an international nor at a national level.

Therefore, in order to try Bush, we need to create a war crimes tribunal of our own making. The tribunal, unlike the courts of the national and international institutions, does not have an enforcing device nor such power, so it cannot take the suspect into custody nor imprison the accused. However, if no court of national and international judiciary institution can try Bush for his war crimes and the international community remains silent, then it follows that the Bush's arbitrary invasion and war crimes are connived by us all.

In order never to allow invasion and war crimes, and to prevent the next war from happening, we need to collect pieces of evidence of war crimes committed by Bush, pile them up, and analyze them. We need to elucidate in light of the international law that the war by Bush was nothing but an invasion. The tribunal is a stage for those sake.

The tribunal movement is an anti-war peace movement to thoroughly accuse Bush for his war crimes based on facts and observing international law. It tends to be thought that international law belongs to the states or the UN. and seems far away from people. But as in the case of International Covenant of Human Rights or Convention of the Rights of the Child, not only the states and the UN but also NGOs and individuals are gaining ground in the field of international law. It is essential for people to speak out and keep an eye on the states to comply with international law, when the states do not comply with it as in the case of war crimes of Bush.

International law is not a perfect law system, for it has been created through agreements among nation states. But nevertheless, it is obvious that what Bush did arrogantly is nothing but an invasion and war crimes. It is also necessary to make the states comply with international law that human race has created after so many years? efforts, if we want further development of international law.

The global anti-war movement to stop the war before it starts could not unfortunately prevent the eventual outbreak of Bush's war. But we should not get weary nor

should we give it up. We must keep the flag of anti-war and peace aloft. Silence before Bush's lawlessness means a defeat of anti-war peace movement.

Let's advance the tribunal movement to try Bush for his war crimes, and prevent another war from happening. We call for establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for Iraq to try Bush's war crimes in Iraq.

1 August 2003

Advocater(1 October 2003)

Mr. ABIKO, Seijin (Editor of Monthly Review for Masscommunication, Japan)

Mr. ASANO, Kennichi (Professor of Doshisha University, Japan)

Ms. BUFFA, Andrea (Global Exchange, USA)

Mr. FUJITA, Yukou (Associate Professor of Keio University, Japan)

Mr. GALAN, Paul (MAPALAD KA, Phillipine)

Mr. HIROKAWA, Ryuichi (Journalist, Japan)

Mr. Honda Katsuichi (Jornalist,Japan)

Mr. ITOH, Narihiko (Emeritus Professor of Chuo University, Japan)

Mr. KAUFMAN, Chuck (ANSWER, USA)

Ms. KIKUCHI, Yumi (Global Peace Campaign, Japan)

Ms. KUMAR, Corinne (Asian Women Human Rights Council, India)

Ms. KURITA, Yoshiko (Associate Professor of Chiba University, Japan)

Ms. LEE, Hee-Ja (Korean Council for Redress and Reparations for the Victims of WWII Atrocities, Republic of Korea)

Mr. LEE, Song-Min (Labor People Council, Republic of Korea)

Ms.LEUREN Moret (Scientists For Indigenous People, US)

Mr. MAEDA, Akira (Professor of Tokyo Zokei University, Japan)

Mr. SATOH, Akio (Emeritus Professor of Waseda University, Japan)

Mr. SATOH, Kazuyoshi (Movement for Democratic Socialist, Japan)

Ms. SANCHO, Nelia (Asian Womens Human Rights Council, Phillipine)

Mr. SAWAFUJI, Toichiro (Attorney at law , Japan)

Mr. TAKEDA Takao (Priest of Nihonzan Myohoji-Temple,Japan)

Ms. TAKAHASHI, Jamira (Association of Islamic Japan, Japan)

Ms. TAKASATO, Suzuyo (Member of City Counsel)

Ms. TOMIYAMA Yoko (Chairperson of Consumers Union of Japan)

Ms. TSUCHYA, Noriko (Global Peace Action, Japan)

Ms. UTSUMI, Aiko (Professor of Keisen University, Japan)

Mr. YAMAUCHI Tokushin (Past The Chief of OKINAWA-Yomitanson Village)

The International Action Center(IAC,US)

The Stop The War Coalition(SWC,UK)

Legal Action Against War(LAAW,UK)

Appeal by 1200 Lawyers in Opposition to Attacking Iraq

<http://member.nifty.ne.jp/jalisa/index-e.html>

We oppose an attack against Iraq and support the use of peaceful means in resolving the problem of weapons of mass destruction.

Including the 100,000 troops deployed in Kuwait, the United States has already assembled a force of 150,000 troops in the Persian Gulf region and is conducting war training. This year alone the US has conducted 10 bombing runs in the no-flight zone over southern Iraq.

Asserting that Iraq is a member of an "axis of evil," President Bush claims that Iraq's President Hussein intends to launch another invasion of nearby countries with weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Under the pretext of a preemptive strike in self-defense, President Bush declares that the US will not rule out the use of military force to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and overthrow its government.

But a preemptive strike clearly lacks any justification under international law, and using military force to overthrow a government violates Article 2.4 of the UN Charter. War brings the greatest harm to the innocent people of a country, and it was in profound contrition over this fact that the United Nations gave precedence to the use of peaceful means for resolving threats to peace, and in principle banned the threat or use of force by sovereign nations.

It is inexcusable that UN Security Council Resolution 1441 runs counter to this trend. WMD inspections that began with Iraq's agreement yielded a report which was submitted to the Security Council on January 27 and which found no nuclear weapons development or clear evidence that Iraq is developing chemical or other weapons. Despite instances in which Iraq has refused to cooperate, this would call for a conclusion that continuation of inspections is necessary, not itself provide grounds for an armed attack.

Nevertheless, President Bush suggested in his State of the Union Address of January 28 that the US might strike Iraq at its own discretion. But even if Iraq does have WMD, peaceful means should be used to dispose of and eliminate them because current international law does not allow the arbitrary use of force against a sovereign nation. The UN Charter approves the use of force only in self-defense, and only until the UN Security Council takes the necessary measures. The Security Council should not make light of its responsibility to fully use every peaceful means embodied in the UN Charter.

If the US government uses force against Iraq at its own discretion, it will surely be censured for mounting an invasion, which is a crime under international law. If force is used against Iraq, the International Criminal Court (ICC) would be the only international body that could fairly and independently try the war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide that would arise from the use of force, and preparations for the ICC's establishment are now underway in The Hague. Yet, persistent efforts by the US government to hobble the ICC give priority to military force, go against the powerful tide of international law, and violate the obligation to resolve conflicts peacefully.

There is no telling what might happen if a force of over 200,000 troops is assembled. If the forces now arrayed are not withdrawn, it is possible that even an "unintended" use of force could occur, and once an act of force is committed, it will surely result in carnage including civilians, and in heavy environmental damage. It is clear that this is the worst choice as a means "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war," as stated in the Preamble of the UN Charter. What is more, plans by the US to use nuclear weapons in an attack against Iraq are in violation of international law as confirmed in an advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice, and therefore must be c e n s u r e d .

Japan's government shows that it is prepared to cooperate with a US attack on Iraq by taking actions that include sending an Aegis-equipped warship to the Indian Ocean, but because the Bush administration's war policy violates international law, cooperating with that policy makes Japan a party to an illegal war. Japan's government should instead make active diplomatic efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution, and take the initiative in demonstrating that the wisdom of the sun is superior to the force of the north wind. Certainly now is the time for Japan to take creative action in confirming "that all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want," as stated in the Preamble to Japan's Constitution.

War is not the answer.
February 12, 2003

S p o n s o r s :

Msa Hiro Igarashi, Professor, Kanazawa University
Masanori Ikeda, Vice President, Japan Association of
Lawyers against Nuclear Arms (JALANA), To P. 9

UUI- Message to All Freedom Loving People and Progressive Organisation in Japan

Thanks For Your Solidarity

10 000 USD for UUI -Activities in Iraq

On Friday , April 30.04 Mr.Kutsuzawa from the Movement for Democratic Socialism - MDS gave the delegation of UUI 10 000 USD in Tokyo as solidarity fund collected in Japan by the welcoming committee of UUI, composed of ICTI (International Criminal Tribunal for Iraq), the executive committee of the public hearing of ICTI in Hyogo prefecture, the campaign for the treaty totally banning DU weapon, Nakama(Fellow workers) Union in the Tokyo metropolitan area, Nakama Union, the group of the plaintiffs of the lawsuit accusing against the Japan Railway Constructing Public Corporation, ZENKO (National Assembly for Peace and Democracy), MDS (the Movement for Democratic Socialism), and Youth Peace Action -National Network. In charge of all members of UUI and its leaders and activist , we thanks the freedom loving people, peace activist and progressive organisations against occupation in Iraq and for a better future for Iraqi people to all efforts and solidarity actions with the UUI in Japan.

In Charge of UUI and FWCUI ,alle members and leadership of UUI , Iraqi workers and unemploed people ,we express our great appreciation for this fund which has been collected and given to our delegation in Japan and we assure you that with your political and financial solidarity , we strengthen the progressive civil front against the occupation in Iraq and for a better life. In Iraq there is not only occupying forces and their allies, there is not only militant Islamic gangs and political Islamic groups. These are the two international reactionary front of terrorism (USA and political Islam) which made from Iraq a battle field for their inhuman conflict and struggle on power. In Iraq there is a progressive front , which struggles to end the occupation, for political freedoms, for security of civil population, for improvement of the living conditions of people there and for a secular government .This front needs solidarity and support of all freedom loving people all over the world in order to succeed in Iraq . Thank you again for for your solidarity.

Aso Jabbar, In Charge of UUI-Union of Unemployed and Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq-FWCUI abroad - June 2004

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 pro-

gressively. 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 Board of Union of Unemployed in Iraq
June 2.2004**