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With Solidarity from labour unions worldwide, the workers in Basra held their first open conference

on 26.11.2004

Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq-FWCUI



On 26.November 2004 under the slogan the power of working class is in its unity and organisation und with participation of 350 workers who represented 42 preparatory committees for establishment of trade unions in different industrial and public sectors ,the first open conference of workers in Basra was organised .Many solidarity letters were sent to the conference from the following Organisations; Union of Education workers in France , International Lasion Committee in France, Solidarité Irak France, , Union of Steel Workers in Australia, the union of Harbour workers in Australia, the National Assembly for peace and democracy in Japan(Zenko) , Marxist Comrade Group in Japan, the Confederation of Korean Trade Union

in South Korea, the Union of Railway workers in Japan, Central organisation of trade union in Kenya COTU-K , No Sweat Campaign in UK, Unemployed Workers Centre of TUC from Brighton und Hove in UK, Freedom socialist Party in USA, also delegations from organisations of civil society in Iraq ,delegations of Trade Unions from Suleimania, Erbil and Bgahdad ,University teachers, among the delegates were Nadia Mahmoud, member of political Bureau of WCPI and president of Middle East Centre for Women rights, Yanar Mohammad , president of OWFI, Falah Alwan , president of FWCUI, Qasim Hadi , general secretary of UUI ,Dr. Riyau Asadi, president of the Centre to defend freedom of ideas, Dr. Namir Nazir Alkayat from college of

Literature, Abduljabar Kazim , president of Prosecutors Office in Basra, Muhamd Inwan, Judicial Assistant, Harth Alwazan , Judicial Assistant , Abdulla Al- Maliki, the famous Unionist of Sothern Oil Company - SOC and prominent figure Hasan Al Khafaji.

Falah Alwan, president of FWCUI presented a lecture about the freedom of trade unions, Adul karim Al Sada presented a research about the unity of the working class and Ali Abas presented an assessment about the realities and current situation of the labour movement in Basra. Qasim Hadi, general secretary of UUI made a speech about the unemployment in Iraq after wars and under the occupation, Yanar Mohamad, gave a speech who stressed the support of progressive women movement and organisation of Women Freedom in Iraq to the workers in Basra and this conference. Nadia Mahmoud, member of the political Bureau of the Worker Communist Party of Iraq gave a speech and she said that millions of workers worldwide following the events of this conference which was held in a historical moment where the occupying forces and political Islam confronting each other in a terrorist conflict in Iraq which is the reason of tens of daily causalities of civilian people in Iraq .To P.2

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She also explained the importance of international solidarity with labour movement in Iraq. Mrs. Samira Hassan representative of the Association to Defend Homeless Families-Basra expressed in her speech that FWCUI and the Association to Defend Homeless Families were established to lead the protests for Freedom and Prosperity. Before the conclusion of the conference, the elections of leading committee concluded with 19 candidates to elect 8 members and 4 substitute Members of FWCUI branch office in Basra. The elections carried out in democratic and transparent way in which two ladies got the most votes who are Mrs. Kifah Hassan Ibrahim from the petrochemical company and Mrs. Khlud Mahdi. Their election promoted the participants and they all welcome the female unionists and expressed their great consideration for the position of Iraqi women.

The names of the leadership members of FWCUI in their first meeting on 30.November 2004 are as following:

1. Ali Abas Khafif , president of the branch office of FWCUI in Basra
2. Abdulkarim Abdulsada, primary Vice President

3. Ali Ziyara Ubaid, secondary Vice president

4. Sami Hassan Musa, Secretary of FWCUI

5. Relationship Committee: Auda Abdulnabi Zabun in charge of this committee and with memberships of: A- Khlud Mahdi, B- Kifah Hassan Ibrahim C- Muhamad ZAKI D- Abdulkarim Farhan.

6. Supervision Committee: Faisal Kasim in charge for this committee and memberships of;

A-Raid Mahmud Kazm, B-Akil Mustafa, C- Haidar Abdulla Muslim

7. Publication committee: from Basim Khalil Ibrahim in charge for this committee and Ismail Hussein as a member

8. Admin committee:

A-Fahkir Tryak, B-Karim Juji, C- Maih Jamil

9. Juristic committee: from Nasir Talib in charge of this committee, and Ahmad Mujhar as a member

10. Finance committee: Adnan Hanun

Long live the Unity of Working class Forward to end the occupation of Iraq

FWCUI - 1.12.2004

Demonstration in Defense of the Residents of Falluja

A rally was organized on November 18 at al-Fardoos square in Baghdad by the worker-communist Party of Iraq and the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq. Many speeches were delivered condemning the genocidal operation by occupation forces. Rashid Ismail spoke on behalf of the Workercommunist Party of Iraq. Yanar Muhammad spoke for the Organization of Women's Freedom. Falah Allwan spoke for the Federation of Workers' Council and Unions in Iraq, Qasim Hadi for the Union of the Unemployed in Iraq and Samih Ashoor for the Committee to Defend the Residents of Falluja. All condemned the brutality demonstrated by US forces against the residents of Falluja, Ramadi, Baaquba and Mosul.

They also condemned groups of political Islamists for turning residential places into battlefields. A large number of Iraqi police cordoned off the area. CNN, Reuters, Associated Press and radio BBC were there and covered this rally.

Protests and strikes of the Workers in the Electricity Power Station in Nassiriya city

The workers in the electricity power station in Nassiriya which regarded one of the biggest electricity production stations in southern part of Iraq organised a protest action and strike for three days against the policies implemented by the administration in this electricity station. The workers declared their strike against the policies of the administration which were announced by workers as dictatorial and bureaucratic policies against workers there and they accused the administration for corruption and criticised their attitude toward the workers despite the extraordinary working energy invested by workers to supply Iraqi cities with Electricity. The Union of Electricity workers in the Power station published a press release announcing that, until their demands been responded positively by the administration they will continue their strike and they warned the administration to give up from treating workers according to reactionary policies and anti-workers policies of Baath regime. The Announcement also demanded to offer the city of Nassiriya a fix amount of electricity in order to keep security and the interests of people of this city. The administration threatened to crack down this strike action and to use security forces.

We in FWCUI support your strike action and all your demands with all political means and we appeal to the workers to join your Federation, federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq. This progressive step of workers in Nassiriya proves that the power of working class is in its organisation and unity. We appreciate this step of workers in Nassiriya to improve living condition and to step forward for a progressive and modern labour law in Iraq.

FWCUI- 22.12.2004

Labour Activities of UUI and FWCUI in Basra

Meeting of FWCUI activists with Workers in Basra

During our activities to establish independent labour unions, the preparatory committee for the establishment of Federation of worker councils and unions in Iraq-Basra branch, delegations of the committee have visited several working places, local committees and labour unions which have been established in different sectors in Basra including

The Union of the health workers

The Union of the engineering workers
Union of the Engineers

The Company for distribution of the Oil products

Southern Gas Company

Preparatory committee in the Company of the Iraqi harbour workers

The representatives of these Unions and preparatory committees have signed the Compliant of FWCUI and UUI against the Iraqi Interim government to ILO- freedom of Association committee to defend implementation of ILO conventions 87 and 98 regarding freedom of trade Unions in Iraq and they expressed their support for the international campaign against the occupation and to defend labour rights in Iraq

On the other side a delegation of the preparatory committee led by Faisal Kasem have visited the Southern Oil Company and met with the head of union committee Mr. Abdulla Al-Maliki and Sabah Muhamad member of the union committee. Both side had constructive discussions on different demands of workers in Iraq nad draft of labour laws proposed by FWCUI also they met with union of Engineering workers.

All labour activists and representatives of these Unions stressed the active role of FWCUI and promised to join all activities of FWCUI.

November 2004

Oil workers Force Management to Make Public a letter by Minister for Oil

A number of workers who belong to the Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in the South Oil Company discovered an official letter issued by the Minister of Oil dated October 10, 2004 attached to a table on workers' allowances. The administration has tried to conceal the letter.

The members of the Federation faced up to the financial manager who announced he would form a committee from the heads of various departments to study the letter and come up with specific recommendations on the steps requested by the Minister in the letter. However the workers, through the Preparatory Committee of the Federation of Workers' councils and Unions refused this suggestion and asked for an open forum to be held for all workers to discuss the contents of the letter and to give their opinion about it in defence of their interests. In face of the insistence of the Committee, the financial manager agreed to their demand. The forum was held on November 5, 2004 where workers gave their opinion and their comments were documented. This was one example of gains made in the struggle by the members of the Federation and their preparatory Committee in the South Oil Company.

FWCUI-October 2004

UUI –Branch Office in Basra succeeded to obtain Jobs for 200 unemployed persons

200 unemployed persons have obtained jobs in the Al Hawer Town in Basra as a result of an active intervention of UUI Branch Office in Basra which sent an official letter to the city

council in this Town to demand them to offer jobs for unemployed people. The letter was written by the members of the UUI branch Office in Basra. UUI struggles for Jobs or unemployed insurance since its establishment in May 2003. Its useful to mention that until now UUI succeeded to obtain jobs for hundreds of unemployed workers around Iraq.

Meeting of FWCUI-Basra with the labour union committees of the general company for Petrochemical Productions

A delegation of FWCUI in Basra visited the general company for Petrochemical Productions and they met several labour union committees in this company. The main subject of the discussion was about the draft of labour law proposed by ILO and the statement of FWCUI in this regard specially the rejected articles by FWCUI of this draft and they discussed also the draft of labour law proposed by FWCUI

Seminar of the Workers of the Company of the Oil projects in Al-Waziriya

The representatives of workers in this sector held a seminar including all elected representatives of the elected Unions there and a number of workers of this company on 17.10.04. The main subject of the discussion was about the draft of labour law proposed by ILO and the statement of FWCUI in this regard and they discussed also the draft of labour law proposed by FWCUI. The labour activist Afi Mazi led the discussion.

Voice of Iraqi Workers

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No for warning notices, no for eviction of homeless families , A decent accommodation for homeless families is a human right

To the masses in Basra

To freedom loving people and defenders of human rights and dignity.

Nobody including the government officials deny the fact that the deposited Saddam's regime had fought poor and deprived families and turned their sons to fuel for his aimless wars and among many other things deprived them of accommodation. Therefore thousands of the most disadvantaged citizens were left without accommodation. After the fall of the Baath regime and for many reasons specially mass unemployment, sharp increase in the rate of rent and the return of many citizens who left Iraq escaping prosecution by former regime thousands of families have resided in the ruined governmental buildings, military camps and offices of security forces which lacks the minimum standards of a decent accommodation.

The Association to Defend Homeless Families, from the day it was founded on October 30, 2003 has led the protests and demonstrations of these families. It opposes evicting these families before providing decent alternative accommodations for them. The CDHF has held many meetings with occupation authority and Iraqi officials to secure the right of these families to be provided with decent accommodations, as they are victims of the former regime. The CDHF also condemned and organized massive demonstrations against insults by the

occupation forces against these homeless families and forced these forces to apologize for their aggression.

We, along with these homeless families expected that after the so-called authority handover to the Iraqis, this issue would be studied and appropriate solution provided over a certain timetable, which fits with the capabilities of the state, the size of this problem and fairness of the demand. However unfortunately this problem is now in the bottom of the list of priorities of the Iraqi authorities. Many notices have been so far issued asking the homeless families to evict these building. Moreover the authorities have issued arrest warrants against homeless families living in governmental buildings and even the buildings used previously by the dismantled Baath party. The masked police have many times terrified these families. Is this acceptable? This is a question directed to the officials in this city.

We have been assured by the most senior decision making officials in this city that these families would not be harassed before alternative accommodations are provided for them. What is going on now is in sharp contradiction with the reassurance by those who claim they defend the dignity of poor people.

Our association is saddened by this behavior and calls on the officials in this city to stop any measure, which can harm these families. Sending

them onto streets will make the problem worse and will undermine the stability and security in the city. Those who like troubled water and who cannot tolerate any change will use this problem to cause more damage against our people.

Feeling responsibility toward these families our association calls on decision makers in this city to find a humane and proper solution to this problem before the eviction of the homeless families and sending them onto streets. As the representatives of these families, we announce our readiness to discuss all proposals, which aim at solving this problem, and to help solve it.

We also unequivocally announce that our association reserves the right to organize demonstration and peaceful sit-ins to protest what is happening now and in case if any of these families is evicted from its current place of living.

**Association to Defend Homeless Families-Basra
October 18 , 2004**

**UII and FWCUI support the demands of the Association to Defend Homeless Families-Basra
Aso Jabbar, Rep. Abroad
November 2004**

Hinadi, the star dancer of "el- Portoqala" was killed by Islamists

Hinadi, the star dancer of "el- Portoqala" was killed by Islamists while visiting her family in the Iraqi southern city. Islamic groups posted images of Hinadi, the singer Alaa Saad and other members of el- Portoqala on walls calling on people to kill them. Immediately after el-Portogala's song was released, Islamic groups threatened to kill all members of the singing group. The slain artist Hinadi (real name Ghedaa Saad Hassan) was born in Basra in 1977. Her group el-Portoqala sings modern songs, which outraged some Islamists who said the songs were pornographic, liberal and "alien to conservative Iraqi society". In reality the songs merely showed women dancing and posing as lovers. Both supporters and opponents see the songs as bold in that they define the reactionary values and traditions which Islamic groups intend to impose on Iraqi society. These groups see in el-Portoqala and its move away from the traditional motionless, single-gender style of singing a challenge for their bid to control Iraqi society. Many Islamic groups issued killing threats against all members of this group and against the star dancer Hinadi and the singer alaa in particular. The remaining members of the group were forced to leave Iraq and now live in the UAE. Hinadi was killed in Basra during the Month of Ramadan in Iraq.