

A Paper published by the Network of the UUI & FWCUI Representative Abroad

## Appeal to Labour Unions World wide:

**Iraqi Workers need your Solidarity for the series of Strikes and their demands in many industries and companies in Iraq**

**Broad conference of Workers in Basra demands Immediate and unconditional end of the occupation in Iraq**



### **The statement of the broad conference of Workers in Basra on 26.11.2004 regarding the occupation in Iraq**

Iraq is an occupied country, this has been also declared by UN which determined a time limit to end the occupation. Despite the declaration to end the occupation, and the occupying forces are ruling this country. Until now this policy is working in Iraq. The occupying forces are determining the constitution, the laws and the

structures which rule the lives of millions of people in Iraq.

The occupying forces established a government according to their interests based on ethnicity, tribal and religious system. The result of this reactionary policy was deterioration of the political and security situation in Iraq in general.

Under such situation the role of workers is marginal and inactive. The Iraqi authorities are still implementing the decision and policies of the former regime which violating the freedom of association for workers and preventing workers

from exercising their activities and preventing them publicly to establish their own unions according to their own decisions. It issues its decisions without consultation with representatives of workers and their unions which established by worker independently.

We are gathering here, representatives of workers declare that there will be no any real freedom under such conditions. Therefore we are demanding;

Immediate and unconditional end of the occupation in Iraq through the strengthening of the front of civil resistance against occupation of Iraq. The workers should stand in forefront of this massive movement and they should strengthen it.

The real and active participation of workers in the determination of the structures, labour laws and constitution of the Iraqi future government.

Abolishment of any administration and structures based on tribal system and discrimination according to religion or Ethnicity.

**FWCUI-Basra Branch  
26.11.2004**

#### In this issue:

- Statement regarding the demands of the workers of Chemical and Plastic Industry in Baghdad P.2
- FWCUI Condemns the Bloody Suppression of the Strike of Textile Workers in the Iraqi city of Kut P.2
- Statement of FWCUI on the: upcoming election in Iraq** **P.3**
- Workers of Soft Drinks in Baghdad start a strike P.3
- Response of ILO the Committee on Freedom of Association to the complaint of FWCUI and UUI in Iraq P.4
- \*Workers of Power Station in Nasiryah Begin a Strike P.4

## **Statement regarding the demands of the workers of Chemical and Plastic Industry in Baghdad**

Although there is massive increase of the prices, specially the prices of oil, food resources, transport and other basic daily requirements, the workers are facing a difficult living conditions and they are trying to step forward to reach their demands and to improve their living conditions. However the administration of this company instead to reply to these demands, we realized that they dealing with these demands always with promises, unreasonable excuses and in many occasions with threats or dismissing workers from their jobs or physical persecution.

The workers suffered enough during the power of the former regime and they are looking to improve their situation in a way that they could be able to express their demands freely and to change their miserable living conditions. But the same fascist policies of former regime are still functioning in Iraq including punishment, dismissing, threatening and corruptions which are the reasons of exploitation of workers and confronting them with the violation of their daily simple rights.

The workers in the national company for chemical and plastic industry in Baghdad are demanding the administration to reply positively to their demands. The administration should be serious to reply to these demands;

Rises in the minimum wage will be made proportional to economic inflation. Abolishment of the overtime.

Payment of the salary for these workers who have been punished by the administration and they are 25 workers.

Replacement of the position of the technical assistant because of his mistreatment to the workers and misuse of his position.

Distribution of the yearly Gains of this company to the workers.

Payment of compensation determined for professional safety and work hazards

The Worker Alla Salman should return to his working place.

Prevention of threats against workers in all forms.

**The preparatory committee for the establishment of the Worker's Council of the National Company for Chemical and Plastic Industry in Baghdad**

05.01.2005

## **FWCUI Condemns the Bloody Suppression of the Strike of Textile Workers in the Iraqi city of Kut**

The fascist methods and violent suppression of the Baath regime have again become the way the Iraqi authority uses to answer the demands of workers in Iraq.

While thousands of workers of Textile Industry in the Iraqi city of Kut have been asking for their danger allowances which are trivial and not in proportion with the real risk they face at work due to poor safety standards, the administration resorted to procrastination, lying and threatened to sack and imprison the workers and eliminate their activist.

The workers were asking for 12000 dinars (Iraqi currency) as danger money but the administration was trying to reduce this amount even further.

The workers organized a protest against these measures and asked the manager to be sacked who was the key person behind the administration's misconduct. The manager in cooperation with governor of the city called upon armed groups to suppress the protest. Groups of armed and masked men, allegedly from the National Guards raided the place and started shooting on unarmed workers wounding four workers and then arresting another 11 workers who were later release after interrogations.

Such incidents happen while the Ministry of Industry bans workers from establishing labour organization and the Minister of Industry issues resolution, which bans union activity.

Instead of bringing the manager Mr. Abdulla Alrawi to justice he was transferred to the ministry's headquarter. By banning union rights in Iraq, the ministry and the current authority bring in the fascist methods of suppression and denying people's freedoms used by the old regime while their rhetoric about democracy and election deafens people's ears.

We call on labour organizations and human right organizations worldwide to support the workers of Iraq and support their organization- FWCUI, which is considered by the authority illegitimate and unlawful organization and threatens to imprison its activists. The response of workers to this suppression will be broadening the protest to impose their demands on the puppet authority appointed by the occupation.

FWCUI stands in the forefront of workers' struggle for their fair demands. It calls on workers to broaden and escalate their protest against the authorities, which understand no other languages.

**Longlive workers' protest movement**

## Statement of FWCUI on the : Upcoming Election in Iraq

The Iraqi authorities backed by the occupation forces in Iraq declared January 30, 2005 a date to hold the elections in Iraq, insisting that these elections would be the first elections in over half a century.

Holding election is one of the basic rights of people to elect their representatives. Nevertheless, election is to choose among different alternatives, therefore people participating in election should be well informed about all alternatives and familiar with their political programmes and perspectives. This has not happened in Iraq. Moreover many territories in Iraq are under the control of various militias, which prevent their political opponents from practicing any apolitical activity. This means that people are unable to know the agenda and political programmes of each party. Above all, most of the political parties and organizations involved in this election have not presented any agendas or programmes but some slogans and promises only.

On the other hand, the lists of candidates submitted by various political forces are based on dividing the population on basis of language, religion, sect and ethnicity and thus the sectarian, ethnic and linguistic differences are to be incorporated in constitution and become part of human beings' identity. Thus, the Iraqi society is pushed toward ever deepening religious and ethnic divisions.

Most important is the fact that this election is to take place in a country where there is no constitutional and legal system and the assembly, which would be elected, is to enact the constitution. This means

that the constitution will be determined according to current balance of power based on chaos, lack of security, occupation and absence of civility.

The mass of people are marginalized in the whole political process in the society and therefore workers have no political forces which directly represent them in this election independent of the forces which divide workers under the name of sect and ethnicity.

Workers in Iraq should gather around their own objectives and perspectives and not participate in an election where they have no representative but forces, which pose as defenders of masses of people and use the deprivation of people to achieve objectives and goals completely irrelevant to the objectives of people.

Let's stand in the forefront of the civil resistance to end the occupation in Iraq and impose the willpower of the Iraqi people to elect their real representatives outside the political equation dictated by occupation and pro-occupation forces.

The objectives of workers will only be achieved by the progressive movement of workers who stand in the forefront of the protest movement of the civility, freedom and equality-seeking masses of people in Iraq.

**Longlive workers'  
willpower**

**FWCUI-26.12.04**

## Workers of Soft Drinks in Baghdad start a strike

The Workers of soft drinks in Baghdad started a strike, which halted all lines of production. The workers ask for their unpaid allowances and for a wage rise in proportion with the sharp increase in the prices especially in petrol prices, which makes the living condition of working families very difficult.

The representative of the FWCUI stands in the forefront with striking workers and regards this strike a step forward to achieve the demands presented by the FWCUI to improve the living and working conditions of workers, and force the authority to raise wage rate and dispense workers allowances.

We call workers of all other sectors including industrial and social service sectors to support workers of soft drinks in their strike and to broaden the protest to impose their demands on the authority.

This brave stand by the workers of soft drinks in Baghdad prove for people in Iraq and worldwide that the Iraqi Working class is a social pole independent of the puppet authority and have no illusion in the propaganda of employers and the government about developing the industry and social services and so on. They have proved they are an independent front in resistance against the occupation and its puppet authority.

Broadening the struggle is the only guarantee to achieve the urgent demands of workers in Iraq.

**Long live Worker's struggle for reforms**

**FWCUI -22.12.2004**

**Voice of Iraqi Workers**

**Editor in Chief ; Aso Jabbar, Email;asojabbar@yahoo.com**

**Address: UUI,P.Box 8553,CH-3001 Bern , Tel:0041 78 882 55 89 ,**

**[www.uui.org](http://www.uui.org)**

## **Response of ILO the Committee on Freedom of Association to the complaint of FWCUI and UUI in Iraq**

New answer of ILO the Committee on Freedom of Association on 8. December 2004 from Mr. Bernard Gernigon, chief of the Freedom of Association Branch, International Labour Standards Department to Mr. Aso Jabbar, Representative Abroad of FWCUI Regarding the Complaint of FWCUI and UUI against the Iraqi Interim Government which violated through the decree Nr. 16 in 2004 the freedom of association for Iraqi workers and ILO conventions Nr. 87 and 98 by recognising a labour group named Iraqi Federation of Trade Union-IFTU

which is a pro-governmental federation backed by Iraqi interim government and US forces in Iraq. In that complaint, FWCUI demanded full implementation of ILO convention 87 and 98 in Iraq and recognition of rights of workers in Iraq for organisation and strike without intervention of the government.

In the letter of ILO dated on 8. December 2004, Mr. Bernard Gernigon, chief of Freedom of Association branch, International Labour Standards Department to Aso Jabbar, Representative Abroad of FWCUI stated ( At its

meeting in November 2004, the Committee of Freedom of Association examined the complaint submitted by your organization of infringements of trade union rights in Iraq - case No.2348-. The Committee decided to adjourn the examination of the Case No. 2348 since it had still not yet received the Government's observations.

**Aso Jabbar**  
**Representative Abroad of FWCUI**

**3. January 2005**

### **Workers of Power Station in Nasiryah Begin a Strike**

Workers of many sectors of industry and social service in Iraq launch protests these days demanding improvement in their living conditions.

After the protests by workers of Soft Drinks, Textile and Electricity, the workers of power station in Nasiryah, the largest power station in the country, started a strike demanding improvement in their living and working condition. They also ask to improve the performance of the station as the residents of this city suffer from severe shortage in electricity.

The protest of workers to improve their living and working conditions will continue and all oppressive resolutions in force can not put an end to it.

The working class has practically proved its capacity to challenge the resolutions, which deny workers the right to strike and hold gatherings and consider workers in public sector public servants. These resolutions were passed by the Baath regime and are today used by current administration whenever the daily struggle by working class intensifies.

By asking for their unpaid allowances the workers of electricity in Nasiryah put the authority before its responsibilities and force it to meet their demands.

FWCUI stand in the forefront of the protest movement by workers and regards the strike by workers of Nasiryah power station and their demands the continuation of the demands presented by the FWCUI. The draft of labour law proposed by the FWCUI is the right answer to workers' demands and by struggling to implement it; workers can impose their objectives on the current authorities.

**FWCUI-22.12.2004**

### **Donations for the Conference of Workers in Basra-FWCUI:**

- No Sweat Campaign in UK ;525 Pounds
- Brighton & Hove TUC UNEMPLOYED WORKERS CENTRE ;200 Pounds
- Freedom Socialist Party -USA ; 50 USD

### **Donations for UUI:**

- 370 Pounds from Mr. Ben Anthony on behalf of the Southville Stop the War ( Peace)-UK