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Iraqi Interim Government confirms the Decree Nr. 16 of IGC which means violation of the freedom of trade Unions and ILO Conventions in Iraq.

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On January 28, 2004 the Iraqi Governing Council -IGC passed resolution number 16, signed by Mr. Adnan Pachachi , president of IGC which endorses the executive bureau of the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions-IFTU as the only official and legitimate representative of labour movement in Iraq. This means that all other trade unions and labour organisations, which came as the result of free election by workers, are illegal and unofficial. This decision is in sharp contradiction with the international principles set by ILO, article 87 and 98 of ILO conventions which declare that establishing labour unions is the right of the workers themselves, and that governments must not intervene in this issue.

Unconditional Right of workers of Organisation and strike should be guaranteed in Iraq.

This confirmation of Decree Nr. 16 of the Iraqi Governing Councils by the Iraqi Interim Government is violation of freedom of trade unions and continuation of the same policy which regards accordingly independent labour unions and organi-

zations as illegal and illegitimate. This came while we have been heavily engaged in struggle to establish democratic trade unions and labour organization, which ensure the full intervention by workers and their free elections.

In May 2004 we presented an appeal to ILO demanding full implementation of the ILO conventions Article Nr.87 and 98: (please look to this Address)

http://www.uui.iraq.org/english/Labour_Unions.htm.

At the same time we started an international campaign to defend labour rights in Iraq and until now hundreds of labour unions and activist supported our appeal and demanding full implementation of ILO conventions in Iraq specially freedom of trade Unions.

Here is the translation of the decision of Iraqi interim Government from Arabic language to English with an original copy to many institutions, administrations organisations in Iraq from Mr. Ayad Alwai prime Minister in Arabic.

IFTU's trade union recognition confirmed by Iraq's interim government

In a statement issued on 10 July

2004 the Iraqi interim government confirmed that IFTU is a legal and legitimate body that represents Iraq's labour movement."

Official memo No. 743 sent on 10 July 2004 to state ministries and agencies stated that the former Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) had recognized the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions IFTU as a legal and legitimate trade union movement in its Decree NO 16 on 28 January 2004. The Current Interim Government considers the former IGC's Decree No. 16 is still valid and therefore the IFTU and its president Rasim Al-Awady are only legal and legitimate trade union movement.

We call labour unions and activists and freedom loving people worldwide to support our appeal and to demand full implementation of the ILO convention article nr.87 and 98 in Iraq.

Thanks for your solidarity for freedom of trade unions in Iraq .

**Aso Jabbar
Representative of Union of Unemployed in Iraq -UUI and Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq -FWCUI abroad -16. August 2004**

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For those who have an illusion about the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU)

by Houzan Mahmoud 20/08/2004

In a letter published in the Guardian (18 August 2004) written by Abdullah Muhsen, the "representative" of IFTU in London, he described the invitation of the unelected interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi by Tony Blair to address the Labour Party Conference as "an opportunity for those who honourably opposed the war to extend support to Iraqi democrats who are trying, in the most difficult circumstances, to construct a vibrant civil society".

Whoever has demonstrated one day against the war on Iraq will not allow Abdullah Muhsen to talk on their behalf like this; people who have opposed the war including myself did not oppose it to bring puppets, and agents of the CIA like Allawi and his associates to power in Iraq. While people were "honourably" opposing the war, Allawi and other current members of the Interim government were having meetings and agreements with the USA to attack Iraq and create a bloodbath for Iraqi civilians. This is a shameless insult to all those who fought against this war and its countless victims.

Ayad Allawi is a Ba'athist thug; he is another dictator like Saddam. He wants to implement a law to allow a state of emergency against any gatherings. He wants to bring back the death penalty in order to bring "stability to Iraq". These are the credentials of the so-called "democrat" that Mr Mohsen is talking about; the same kind of democrats who have just shot dead six prisoners in police custody, according to one of Australia's top journalists.

Mr Mohsen says this is the person

who can construct a "vibrant civil society", but I am very sure that it is not Allawi and his fellow gangsters who have been brought to power and imposed against the will of secular and progressive people in Iraq by US/UK governments, who will construct a "vibrant civil society". It is us, the people of Iraq, workers, women, and socialists of Iraq, who will construct a free, egalitarian, prosperous, secular, modern and progressive Iraq. The 'vibrant civil society' will be built by those who have been fighting the war and the occupation and defending people's rights. It will be built by those who have stood up to the ominous rise of the Islamists who want to return Iraq to the religious barbarity of the Middle Ages under the rule of Islamic Sharia. It will be built by workers, women and people of Iraq, and not by upstart despots like Allawi who, from day one, backed by the US military, have been attacking demonstrations for jobs, social security, civil, labour and women's rights.

It is the workers who are organising and mobilising themselves in the Federation Workers Councils and Trade Unions in Iraq (FWCUI) and the Union of Unemployed of Iraq (UII) and women's rights activists of the Organisation of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI) who have been fighting against occupation and political Islam, who have put the real foundation of a civil, modern and secular society, and not you or your union, nor your "democratic" Allawi, who are part of the US government's dark agenda and serving its interests in Iraq.

In his letter, Mr. Mohsen goes on to defend Allawi's history of Ba'athism. He says: "Allawi is crit-

icised for having been a Ba'athist, but many decent people joined the Ba'ath party". Those decent Iraqis that Mr Mohsen is talking about are workers and women in Iraqi society who were forced or often sentenced to long prison terms, or even execution, if they did not join the Ba'ath party. So in order to protect their own lives and the lives of their families, they had to join. But a top official like Ayad Allawi, who has been involved in killings and crimes against the people of Iraq, that is a different story. Allawi was voluntarily committing crimes against the people and for his party and Ba'athist friends, such as Saddam Hussein. These are two entirely different things.. Fortunately, you cannot reverse history, as we are the witnesses and victims of the dark history created by the likes of Allawi.

Some people, including unfortunately some among the left groups, who had been supporting Mr Mohsen's union, IFTU, have been disappointed and outraged by what Mr Mohsen had written in the Guardian. But for me this came as no surprise at all. This is the true nature of IFTU, which we have been warning about since the beginning of the occupation. We told you which camp they represent and what their aims and agenda are.

Today Iraq is a battleground for Islamists and forces of the New World Order, but the third force is the secular and progressive front, which have a very different standpoint and represent different interests. This camp is promoting secularism, modernity, equality, welfare, freedom and humanity in Iraq in the midst of the chaos created by the US occupation. **Continue on P.3**

Solidarity Message to Flipino Workers Party and the People in Philippine regarding the Kidnapping of the worker Angelo De La Cruz - July 09.04

Dear Friends in Philippine

Dear Mr. Edgar

Edgar P. Bilayon

Deputy Secretary General

Filipino Workers Party

We received your letters regarding your great concern about the fate and the life of Angelo De La Cruz who is a driver working with Saudi companies in Iraq and has been kidnapped by the Islamic group Al Khaled army corps in Iraq and they threatened to behead him if the Philippines Government did not withdraw its troops from Iraq. We are in the Union of Unemployed and Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq following the news with great concern and we will do our best in order to release the hostage from the hand of these groups who has no any relation with the human lives and did not care about the safety and wellbeing of people. We think

that kidnapping these workers only serves the aims of these Islamic groups and the aim of the US government to prolong its occupation under the pretext of fighting terrorism in Iraq. Beheading of Angelo De La Cruz will serve also the goals of Philippines Government to insist in the deployment of more troops in Iraq and this will not force the Phil. Government to withdraw its troops from Iraq. We know that war in Iraq diverted this region to a battle field of international conflict between the terrorists.

I informed my colleagues in UUI and FWCUI in Baghdad and they will publish press releases on this issue and we will do our best to release this worker. You know that these Islamic groups not fighting for equality, freedom, building a civil society, human rights, a better life for Iraqi people and labour rights and end of the occupation in Iraq, and the whole perspectives of these groups directly and indirectly serve the perspectives and strategies of USA in the

region. It's extremely inhuman to bring innocent people as hostages and to threaten them to be beheaded for political deals and pressure and to reach political demands and the Islamists know also very well that the Philippine Government will not reply to their demand and through these inhuman and terrorist actions the occupation will not be ended. In Iraq we are opposing both these two poles of international terrorism namely US terrorism and terrorism of political Islam and we are representing the front of civil humanity worldwide against aggression, occupation and terrorism in Iraq.

We hope that our efforts will succeed and pressurise these groups to releases these innocent hostages.

Looking forward to hear good news.

Thank you

Aso Jabbar

Rep. of UUI and FWCUI abroad

9.07.04

From P2...For those who have an illusion about the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU)

It stands purely for workers', women's and people's rights, for full and unconditional equality, and it is represented by the Union of Unemployed, Federation of Trade Unions and Workers' Councils, Organisation of Women's Freedom in Iraq, organisation in defence of secularism in Iraqi society and above all by the Worker-communist Party of Iraq. For those who have opposed the war and are opposed to the occupation of Iraq and its imposed interim government in Iraq, it is time to lend support and to show solidarity with this third camp, the people's camp, who are the only alternative for getting out of the catastrophe that the Iraqi people have been subjected to. This camp is the real hope and the only humanitarian solution to the war, occupation, poverty, religious reaction and lack of rights.

IFTU has been acting against the interest of the working class and is a tool in the hands of the imposed interim government to violate the rights of workers in Iraq.

IFTU is this era's version of state-made, anti-labour Ba'athist unions. They should be denied any kind of support. Workers in Europe should refuse to ally with them, for their opposition to worker rights in complicity with the interim government.

IFTU enjoys the backing of the US/UK governments, as well the recognition and support of Allawi's interim government. Any support or recognition offered to them will be a direct support for the government of Allawi and against the interests of the workers and people of Iraq.

Houzan Mahmoud

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**Join our Campaign to End the Occupation and for Unconditional Right of
 Organsiation and Strike for Workers in Iraq**

No to Banning the Side Walk Vendors

Under the shadow of the dark situation that the Iraqi people live, under the shadow of one of biggest problems that smash the people on daily basis which is the unemployment, the resolution issued by the local government in Kirkuk to block the means of daily living of the people in this city by banning the side walk vendors from doing their business. The pretext is the city beauty and the traffic regulations. We tell the local government that the beauty and the traffic regulationetc. are modern and civilized issues which we supported all along,

and we as a union worked towards its achievement where the best proof is the participation of the UUI in the cleaning of the city campaign in cooperation with the city municipality and some other foreign organizations. However when the beauty and regulations is not accomplished unless by sacrificing the lives of thousands of vendors without any consideration to how their future will be, which will in turn means the increase of unemployment and put the people situation into big crisis more than ever. We also say that this act will not bring security and stability but instead it is an attempt to suppress these people and throw them into the unemployment market.

Dear hard working people

The first act after transferring sovereignty is banning the vendors from going about their business. These on going attempts conducted by the local officials in charged in Kirkuk to chase the vendors without offering them any job opportunity or paying them employment insurance are unacceptable and this decision is illegitimate and must be eliminated.

The UUI demands the unemployed people and the side walk vendors to stand firm against this resolution until it is cancelled.

Haytham Ali
UUI secretary/ Kirkuk
July 2, 2004

UUI Activities / Kirkuk Branch

-In May 5, 2004 a delegation of UUI of Haytham Ali, Samir Noory, and Hisham Mehdy. Visited the Iraqi Human Rights Institute and met with the principle in charge in this office (Mohammed AL-Juboory). The delegation explained the UUI goals and the best ways to solve the unemployment problem in Kirkuk. The principle and his assistants have well receipted these ideas and declared their full support and promised to having another round of meeting to discuss the ways of supporting the UUI. It is known that the IHRI have previously participated in one of UUI demonstrations and the last year sit in as well.

-In an agreement with a group of excellent doctors, teams formed by the executive committee of UUI monitored by Haytham Ali (UUI secretary in Kirkuk) have held a wide campaign to provide free medication to the unemployed people and their families. This contained on going check up and medications free of charge. This campaign has been going on since May 10th, 2004.

-In May 19th, 20th, and 21st of 2004 the UUI executive committee/ Kirkuk held a wide campaign to put Saddam Hussein and the other Baath regime leaders in a mass and public trial. This campaign was received very well because of its expression of the people will towards this matter.

-In response to an invitation, a UUI delegation of (Haytham Ali, Samir Noory, and Hisham Mehdy) visited the RTI organization head office, the Civil Discussion Department in May 23rd, 2004. The meeting was about the interim government, and the formation of the Iraqi army. and the discussion went very well.

-In May 27, 2004 a UUI delegation of Haytham Ali, Samir Noory, and Hisham Mehdy visited the office of the New Life organization to explain the UUI platform and the practical policies in a certain period of time and these policies were well received and have got full support by the mentioned organization.

-In May 29, 2004 Haytham Ali visited the CPA office in Kirkuk met with Mrs. Helen, Mr. Paul's assistant the CPA principle in Kirkuk. The discussion was about the employment agency and how they mislead the unemployed people. She showed her understanding to this regards and replied positively.

-In June 1, 2004 the UUI executive committee launched a large campaign in Kirkuk to defend the civil rights and the methods of building the civil society, and the return of civil rights to the people including the rights of employment, employment insurance, freedom of expression, freedom of press, freedom of association strike, and demonstration, in another word to secure the enforcement of the civil society foundations. Many speeches were delivered by the executive committee members in different regions in Kirkuk.

-In May 12, 2004 the UUI Executive Committee formed traveling teams to register the disabled people in Kirkuk who are estimated in thousands to deliver their messages and to pass their voices to whom in charge in the government in order to provide them with the most possible services