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Massive Support to the Iraqi Freedom Congress in Italy

(A report about Faris's Mahmood visit to many cities in Italy)



Faris Mahmood

Faris Mahmood, the IFC Executive Board and Central Council member, visited many cities in

Italy on an invitation from various left and labour Italian organizations, including the International Anti-war Committee and the Internationalists league from November 22-26 2006.

Faris held 4 political sessions in Pavia, Torino, Lespezia, and Milano. Many of left, labour and libertarian speakers also participated in those sessions. The speakers voiced their stands, support and sadness towards what is happening in Iraq. They confirmed their opposition to the US militarism. Tens of political activists, socialists, libertarians, and anti-war activists attended the sessions. P3

The Executive Bureau Resolution on the Current Political Situations in Iraq

The complete lack of security, the deterioration of civility, and the deadlock among the pro-occupation powers are a continuation of the same route which IFC anticipated and cautioned against.

The alternatives presented by the US administration to end the cycle of violence do not solve the real problems which are the occupation and the ethno-religious groups that emerged as a result to deepen the tragic situation. Also, the three month period given to Al-Maliki and his cabinet by the US administration to settle their issues and

maintain the US agenda is just more of the same scenario, otherwise the occupation will dissolve the government and form a national salvation government according to US media.

To achieve its strategy for which the Iraqi society is being destroyed, the US administration aims to sustain its legitimacy in Iraq through the ethno-sectarian groups which upheld its agenda.

The US agenda and its repercussions have resulted in new factors that were predicted by IFC one and half year ago. They are: P2

A Massive Reception for the IFC in the US A Conference for the Iraqi and US Trade Unions on May 2007



Samir's Adil speech to the US Labour Against the War, UNSLAW, was received enthusiastically. Samir was interrupted many times with applause. P2

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No to US militarism! End the occupation now!

P1 The Executive Bureau Resolution

1. The deals among the ethnic and religious factions have begun to fall apart which is a miserable failure for the US project. The factions began to withdraw from the original deal by putting forward their agenda in public before the roof falls in on everyone. For instance, the Iraqi flag issue that was raised by Masood Albarazani and its repercussions; the federalism of the south that was put on the national assembly's table by the Islamic Revolution in Iraq Supreme Council president Abdalaziz Alhakeem; the factions that were not convinced of their share in power in the (New Iraq)

P1 Samir attended the conference in an invitation from the USLAW, a coalition of 140 trade unions that represent more than 15 millions workers. This organization has played a major role in the recent American elections and managed to have the Republican Party lose the majority seats in the US congress and Senates. It is worth mentioning that the USLAW, the biggest and strongest anti-war movement, declared on May 2006 its full support to the IFC. This conference is the third of its kind against the war in Iraq. Hundred of workers' representatives and delegates that oppose the US war against Iraq attended the conference. The conference agreed upon many important decisions aiming at strengthening the ranks of the anti war movement. One of these decision states the full support to the Iraqi trade unions and libertarian movement, and the Iraqi Freedom Congress.

The conference lasted three days. On the second day, Samir Adil delivered a speech in front of a massive anti-war demonstration. Samir stressed on the failure of the Republican Party in the recent elections and the role of the labour and libertarian movement in the near future. On the same day, Samir delivered a 20-minute speech, side by side with John Rayne, the executive secretary of the North Trade Union, Claylough Brown, the head of Philip Randeau, John William, the executive of the health sector workers, Dennis Cogene, the US Congressman for Ohio, and Cindy Shihan, the founder of the Golden Star Family for Peace. On the third day, Samir presented a workshop about the techniques and mechanism of the IFC and talked about establishing the Safety Force and the IFC TV satellite and how the IFC is attracting the leaders of the labour movement.

The conference's participants warmly received Samir's speech and they voiced their full support to the IFC. Additionally, Samir attended many meetings about the IFC and the means to support it financially and politically.

Samir also talked in a meeting of the USLAW's leaders. Samir elaborated the conditions of the labour movement in Iraq and the difficulties facing it and the civil war. During the meeting, it was agreed upon holding a conference for the leaders of the US and Iraqi trade unions in addition to the participation of labour representatives from Europe and Asia. The upcoming conference will focus on the unification of the ranks of the labour movement in the two countries, the US-led occupation of Iraq, the means strengthen the support and solidarity, and tackling the difficulties hindering the progress of the labour movement and finding solutions to them. The conference set Amman, May 2007 as the time and place for the upcoming conference. The IFC will play a major role in that conference.

**The IFC Media Centre
December 2006**

pushed formation of a committee to amend the constitution; accusations made by the Shiite allies to the former prime minister Ayad Alawi of plotting a coup and his reply of describing them as Iranian puppet; and finally the threats made to the head of Iraq Harmony Front, Adnan Aldulaimi, stripping him of his immunity after recent findings of one of his guards was a terrorist's associate. In response this faction has threatened to pull out from the political process and join the armed resistance.

2. Creating another ground and pushing for converting the sectarian war with an ethnic one to destroy the entire society. Taking advantage of the flag issue, the fractions will disband their old deals and cut new ones.

3. Giving the neighboring countries justification to intervene by sending their troops to Iraq and causing more havoc for the Iraqis. The Turkish government's recent proclamation of having the right to send troops to Iraq, and the Iranian bombardment on the northern Iraqi border are proof of these intentions.

4. The current chaotic situation will jeopardize the safety and security of the people of Kurdistan who live in a relatively peaceful region. In addition, the situation enables the Kurdish nationalist parties to push the people towards an ethnic war.

Because IFC views the current scenario a result of the occupation (which spares no effort to disguise the problem), the IFC believes this tragedy can be ended by:

1. Ending the occupation immediately
2. Sacking the current government and all its associated establishment
3. Establishing a non-ethnic and non-religious government through a convention with representation by all political parties, labor, students, and women
4. The new coalition government must provide security, freedom, and prosperity
5. Dissolving and disarming all militias in the entire country
6. After its formation, the government will set a six month timetable to make preparation for a general election on the national level
7. Make all the financial and logistical resources available for each candidate equally.
8. Invite international monitors to oversee the election and prevent any intimidation or terrorizing the candidates.
9. Facilitate full access to the media personnel to cover the election

Iraq Freedom Congress calls upon the Iraqi people to join its ranks and avoid slipping into the sectarian and ethnic hatred. IFC has initiated the formation of Safety Forces made up of ordinary people who defend themselves and secure their safety. IFC calls upon people to organize themselves and open Peoples' Houses in their neighborhoods and workplaces and raise the flag that defines people as human beings.

*The Executive Bureau
Iraq Freedom Congress
November 3, 2006*



Samir Adil press statement on the new US security plan in Iraq

The latest solutions presented by the occupation are to cover up the failure of the US enterprise rather than salvage the society from the cycle of terrorism and violence

The US administration has recently developed another new plan to salvage its failing enterprise in Iraq and continue its occupation. This has come about because the cycle of violence is escalating and the situation continues to decline on a daily basis. This plan demands that the Iraqi government executes three points: end the violence, dissolve militias, and review the De-bathification law.

The notion behind this plan is to continue the same policy that has resulted in sectarian and ethnic quotas and driven the society toward civil war. The US administration seeks Sunni Arabs and Baath party leaders' approval of the occupation at a time when US casualties are rising and hope for success is growing thin.

The new plan will escalate the current violence among the sectarian factions and among Arab and Kurdish factions over power sharing. The Shiite political Islam as well as the Kurdish nationalist factions do not seem to accept less than their current share, which explains why the Al-Maliki government did not consider dissolving the militia. On the other hand, the US administration demands that the Al-Maliki government

ends the violence while the occupying troops proceeding with it. The occupying troops have created the climate of militarism, martial law, and countless crimes under different pretexts. It is hypocritical and unbelievable for the US administration to ask for an end to the violence. The IFC executive bureau resolution on the current situation in Iraq states that there will be no security and stability without ending the occupation and establishing a non-ethnic and non-religious state through a convention with representation from workers, women, and youth. A government that assures security, prosperity, and freedom is the goal.

The Safety Force Protects Hundreds of Students from Violence

The IFC Safety Force was deployed to protect 800 evening students of the teacher's college in Baghdad on November 15. Abdal-hadi Alfatlawi and Saeed Nima, members of the executive board, were approached by the college director at IFC headquarters. The college director informed the IFC that armed militants had been spotted driving around the vicinity of the school.

The Safety Force surrounded the area and closed roads leading to the school. After shots were fired toward the school, the Safety Force hurried the students into classrooms and protected school staff and teachers. The force located the sniper with his gun who had been targeting people in the street. The students were let go safely after the streets had been secured.

The school director thanked the Safety Force for their amazing job protecting the students. IFC has been asked to lecture the students on sectarianism and human rights.

*Iraq Freedom Congress
November 16th, 2006*

Report: Death Squads In Baghdad

Hospitals

Shiite death squads in Iraq are secretly seeking out Sunni patients in Baghdad's hospitals and targeting them for killings, it was reported Sunday.

Patients are unexpectedly dying without medical cause or disappearing under strange circumstances, with medical records lost or altered, a surgeon at Baghdad's Medical City hospital told The Sunday Times of London.

The doctor said the Mahdi Army, a militia force created by rebel Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr, had infiltrated the hospital's porters and cleaners. He said he was ap-

proached by a porter who offered him \$300 for every patient he would identify from the Sunni provinces of Diyala and Anbar and from Baghdad's Adhamiyah district, the Times said.

The doctor did not accept the offer.

A paraplegic who had just arrived at the hospital from the northern city of Kirkuk disappeared within hours, the doctor said.

"I asked about the patient and his papers and the staff told me that he had left," the doctor said. "I asked them how a paraplegic with a tracheotomy tube could move one step." One of the staff turned to him, stared him in the face and told him to forget it.

pl A report about Faris's Mahmood visit in Italy

Faris Mahmood focused on introducing the Iraqi Freedom Congress, the socio-political background behind establishing the IFC, and its goals and political agenda, its activities in and outside Iraq. Furthermore, Faris stressed on the IFC agenda and alternative to the current situation in Iraq whose core is the black scenario. The IFC aims at pushing aside the tribal, ethnocentric, sectarian, and religious political parties and militias that ruining the lives of the people in Iraq. Faris talked about the dark tunnel the society in Iraq is passing through due the US policies and schemes. He affirmed that the current situation is an immediate consequence to the US policy in Iraq via war and hegemony, and that the US criminal gory record should be unmasked; a record of a decade and half that started with the second Gulf War and horrendous sanctions against the people in Iraq.

Faris stressed it is not possible to talk about freedom without ending the occupation and he elucidated the IFC stand regarding the other terrorist i.e. political Islam and its gloomy role in aggravating the situation and suppressing every single voice of freedom and humanity. He said, "Both terrorists sides, the American and Islamic, feed each other, and the Islamic terrorism is a continuation to the occupation."

Faris refuted the illusions about the Islamic "resistance" and unmasked its reactionary and

tyrannical essence which is against women, men and liberties. He emphasized, "The masses in Iraq are not ready to end the dark scenario to fall into a future no less dark."

Faris Mahmood said, "there is no way out for the society other than the IFC alternative as it is a political power that seeks to organize the people to end the occupation, topple its puppet government in Iraq, leash the bloody political Islam militias, reviving the civility and will to the society.

He affirmed in his sessions that the libertarians in Italy should shoulder their humane responsibilities towards the people in Iraq. And he stressed, "what is happening today is an attack on all the people all over the world, not only on Iraq. And the civil front should support the Iraq Freedom Congress politically and financially, because the liberation of people in Iraq is bound to the IFC only in such a dark tunnel." Faris stressed on the importance of launching the Italy branch of the IFC to promote its experience, goals and achievements, especially forming the Safety Force, and funding it.

Many socialist, left labour and libertarian organizations have agreed upon the points Faris referred to.

The audience admired the role of the IFC and its humane and historical role as the sole libertarian representative for the people in Iraq and the only way out of the this catastrophic situation and confirmed their support to the IFC.

Iraq: A Ray of Hope Amidst Carnage and Chaos!

By Javad Aslani
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Disaster and catastrophe are the words that are being used, even by the White House officials, to describe the situation in Iraq. The extent of this tragedy is yet to be fully exposed and digested. What we hear from eye witnesses in Iraq defies beliefs. The situation is worse than the worst case scenario. All the current players in Iraq are thriving on this nightmare. Criminal gangs, religious fanatics, ethnic and tribal groups seek their survival in the disintegration of the civil life in Iraq. The neighbouring states too are exploiting this situation to advance their own interests.

The working class in Iraq and indeed in the world are faced with an historic challenge. We must show the humanity that the working class in this era is the only force that its survival and interests and advancements requires it to have a safe, secure, free and equal society. What bounds working people together overrides all other ethnic, religious and gender divisions. Can the working class defy all the odds and emerge as force capable of delivering the Iraqi society from this tragedy? All other forces have failed. The workers, the communists, socialists, women and youths and all the progressive people in Iraq need to present their plan to rescue Iraq and stop it from further slipping towards an abyss. The recent activities and developments within the Iraqi labour movement is a welcome development. The Iraq Freedom Congress has been instrumental in uniting the working class around the need to end occupation and terror. The following two statements are indicative of the kind of efforts that the labour activists are making to salvage what is remaining from the civil life in Iraq. In these difficult times the Iraq Freedom Congress is the only hope for the people of Iraq. They need to be congratulated for the heroic work that are doing at the moment and deserve our full support.

Final Statement of the Third General Meeting of the IFC Central Council

The IFC Central Council held its third general meeting November 17, 2006. The meeting commenced with a minute of silence to com-

memorate the victims of war, occupation, and terrorism. Samir Adil opened the meeting with a speech mentioning the role and position of IFC amid the current situation in Iraq. Saeed Nima then presented the Executive Board report which included a positive evaluation of IFC activities in the past period.

The meeting included a thorough analysis of the current political situation. The political crisis in the current government is deepening, and the disagreement among the factions in power is widening

as the occupation is falling short of achieving any success. This failure makes it easy for neighboring countries to intervene and cause more havoc in Iraq. Meeting participants also discussed the implications of the defeat of the Republicans in the recent U.S. mid-term elections and the impact of the political equation in the near future. It was agreed that IFC should work more effectively to intervene in an effort to prevent the society from plunging deeper into a wider civil war. This can be done through the expansion of the Safety Force; expansion of the secured regions; the formation of a media establishment including Satellite TV, newspaper, and a publisher to present and strengthen alternatives; building and empowering branch organizations; and finally building a strong financial foundation to eliminate all barriers.

The Safety Force was discussed in great detail and suggestions were made for upgrading and expanding the Force and its influence on the region. Qasim Hadi, director of the satellite TV station (Sana), described development and plans for the studio, trial broadcast, and suggested programs.

Attendees agreed unanimously to hold the first IFC convention within six months and appointed the Executive Bureau to take all necessary steps toward holding the convention. The Central Council agreed to expand its membership to include prominent and hard working individuals in the society, including:

Hassa Klildar: General Secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions - Iraq

Abdulahadi Alfatlawi: Editor-in-Chief of *Maan* (in English *Together*) newspaper

Jasim Alwan: IFC organizer in Alaskari neighborhood

Tahseen Mohammed: IFC organizer in Aladamyia and Sulaikh neighborhoods

Subhi Albadri: President of the Municipality Employees Association

Ibtisam Abdalrazaq: President of Alduaa Humanitarian Association

Abbas KAdhim: President of the General Union of the Mechanical

and Print Workers

Moayed Jasim: Head of IFC in Alexandria

Naeem Moosa: President of the Thermo-Power Employees Association in Musayeb

Adil Aljabiri: Member of the Administrative Board of the General Union of Oil Employees in Basra

Amjad Aljawhary: IFC website coordinator

Abdlkareem Qasim: President of the Mechanic Trade Union in General Union of Oil Employees in Basra

Raid Salih: Head of the Safety Force in Baghdad

Talib Mohammed: President of Leather Employees Trade Union

Jamal Hamid: Vice President of the Press Association in Basra

Salih Falih Hassan: Dean Aid of the Maritime Faculty

Council members also decided to send an appreciation letter to Movement for Democratic Socialism (MDS) and ZENKO for their tremendous efforts in supporting IFC and the satellite TV.

An executive bureau of 14 members was elected to pursue IFC goals in the coming period.

***Iraq Freedom Congress
The Third General Meeting of
IFC Central Council
November 17, 2006***

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Branch Sort Code: 60-22-27***

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