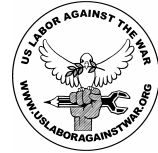


U.S. LABOR AGAINST THE WAR



Iraqi Labor Delegates and Their Organizations

These trade union leaders from Iraq's most important union federations have been invited by U.S. Labor Against the War to speak in the U.S. in June.

IRAQI FEDERATION OF LABOR (IFTU)

The IFTU grew out of an underground workers' organization, the Workers' Democratic Trade Union Movement (WDTUM), that resisted Ba'athism. The WDTUM publicized Hussein's crimes from exile until the collapse of his regime. Shortly after the collapse, the IFTU was formed. The IFTU now claims 200,000 members from a variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds, representing Iraq's core industries.

Adnan al Saffar, Executive Officer, Union of Mechanics, Printing and Metals Workers, is an executive member of the IFTU and the editor of the union paper Workers' Unity. He was a member of the WDTUM and was active in Syria where he lived in exile with his family. He returned to Iraq soon after the fall of Saddam Hussein and worked with other brothers and sisters in the WDTUM to form the IFTU.

Abed Sekhi, IFTU executive council and member of Agricultural Workers' Union, was a former leader of the General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU) in 1970. He remained in Iraq after being expelled from the GFTU and was a founding member of the IFTU.

FEDERATION OF WORKERS COUNCILS AND UNIONS OF IRAQ (FWCUI)

The Federation was founded after its first conference on December 8, 2003 which included representatives of several syndicates, elected councils, and preparatory committees in several plants, enterprises, and factories. The Federation's goal is to build workers' organizations in Iraq that are independent, democratic, and free of governmental control. Furthermore, they seek to build unions free of religious, political, gender, and ethnic discrimination.

Falah Awan, President, is a trained engineer who refused to sign a Saddam loyalty pledge and was subsequently barred from practicing his trade. He was an underground union organizer in factories and the construction trades during the Ba'athist regime and the first Gulf War. After Saddam's regime fell, he began working with the Union of the Unemployed and then founded the FWCUI in December of 2003.

Amjad Ali Aljawhry, Representative of the FWCUI and Union of the Unemployed in Iraq (UUI) for North America, was born in Baghdad in 1966. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology at Mosul University in 1989. Because of his political views, and organizing among sewing workers, he was blacklisted by the regime and was unable to find employment in any state enterprise. With his family, he fled to Turkey in 1995 and was active among Iraqi refugees there. Since 1996 he has lived in Toronto, Canada where he has spoken widely on Iraqi issues and has been active in the anti-sanctions and anti-war movements. He was invited to deliver lectures and hold conferences in Japan, France, United States, and Iraq regarding the labor movement before and after the US led war on Iraq. He is currently the FWCUI's official representative in North America.

GENERAL UNION OF OIL EMPLOYEES (Basra)

The GUOE is an independent, secular union representing 23,000 oil workers in Basra, Amara, and Nassirriyah. The union grew out of the South Oil Company Union and now encompasses ten trade union councils in nine Iraqi oil companies.

Hassan Juma'a Awad Al Asade, Chief of the Executive Bureau, was born in Basra, Iraq, in 1952. He lives in the Jhounouria neighbourhood with his wife, three daughters and three sons. He was an opponent of the Ba'athist regime, a human rights activist, and unionist who was imprisoned by the Ba'athist regime three times for "subversive" activity. He has served for thirty-one years as a technician in the Basrah Petroleum Company, the National Oil Company, and the Southern Oil Company. He is a founding member of the Oil Sector Union, and was elected its Chief Executive in July of 2004. This year, he traveled to Britain to meet with labor unions and British PM's.

Faleh Abbood Umara, General Secretary, is 46 years old. He is married with two sons and two daughters. He is a founding member of the oil workers union and worked for the Southern Oil Company in Basra for 28 years. He is also a member of the local council in the Al-Hadi district in Basra. In 1998, he was detained by the Hussein regime for his activities on behalf of his coworkers. He as served on the union's negotiating team with both the Oil Ministry and British occupation authorities to defend the rights and interests of oil industry workers in the post-Saddam era.

