

# U.S. LABOR AGAINST THE WAR



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### **Iraqi union leaders bring eyewitness accounts of occupation's hardships to Bay Area** *An unreported tsunami for working people*

Since the U.S. invasion, unemployment has spiked to 70 percent in some parts of Iraq while planned privatization will likely displace thousands more. Wages have fallen, the cost of living has skyrocketed, public services still have not been restored, and unions aren't allowed in most workplaces. Two Iraqi union leaders will bring these stories of the occupation's seismic impact on ordinary people's lives and workers' resistance to it to the Bay Area in several appearances June 19-21, including a public event at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Berkeley at 6:45p.m Sunday, June 19 and a press briefing Monday, June 20.

Hassan Juma'a Awad and Faleh Abbood Umara from the General Union of Oil Employees (GUOE) will come to the Bay Area as part of a larger tour organized by U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW). Six Iraqi union leaders, representing three of Iraq's major post-Saddam labor federations, will visit 25 U.S. cities between June 10 and 25, starting in Washington, DC with meetings with members of Congress and leaders of the AFL-CIO. It is the first such delegation to visit the U.S. since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

They will explain why their organizations are fighting privatization of Iraq's public enterprises; why they want an end to the occupation of their country; and why continued occupation can not bring either democracy or an end to conflict.

**WHO:** Hassan Juma'a Awad Al Asade, Chief of the Executive Bureau (President), GUOE  
Faleh Abbood Umara, General Secretary, GUOE

**WHAT:** Iraqi Labor Leaders Public Community Forum

**WHEN:** 6:45 p.m., Sunday, June 19, 2005

**WHERE:** St. Joseph the Worker Church, 1640 Addison St., Berkeley

**ADMISSION:** \$5 or greater donation suggested, no one turned away

**PRESS BRIEFING MONDAY, JUNE 20, 11A.M. LOCATION TBA**

**CO-SPONSORS:** U.S. Labor Against the War; the Alameda, Contra Costa & San Francisco County Labor Councils; Global Exchange; Pride at Work; Code Pink; Vanguard Public Foundation; Bay Area Labor Committee for Peace & Justice; Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee

**ENDORSERS:** Middle East Children's Alliance; National Lawyers Guild; Million Worker March Movement; Letter Carriers Local 214

For more information visit [www.uslaboragainstawar.org](http://www.uslaboragainstawar.org)

U.S. Labor against the War (USLAW) is a national coalition of 112 labor organizations representing more than four million union members.

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