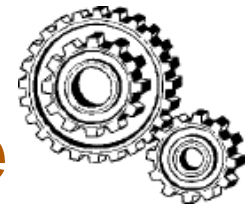




South Bay Labor for Peace and Justice



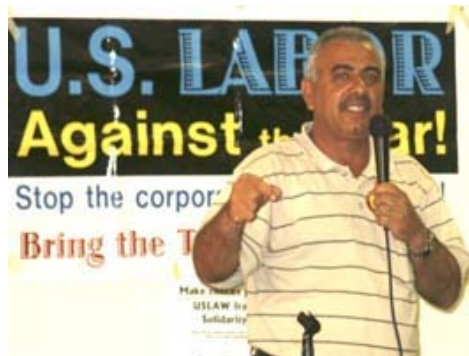
Next meeting:

**Thursday,
July 7**

6 - 8 pm

SEIU Local 715
2302 Zanker
(btwn Brokaw &
Trimble)
(408) 241-2868

New members
welcome!



Oil Workers Faleh Abbood Umara, above,
and



Hassan Juma'a Awad Al Asade, at right

Iraqi labor leaders call for solidarity

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Workers Unite!](#)

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See acclaimed documentary of the takeover of a factory by workers in Argentina. 7 pm Friday, June 24, at Low Income Self Help Center, 525 W. Alma St., San Jose. Free. Info 408-923-7001. Labor Party

As part of a two-week tour in organized by US Labor Against the War. (USLAW), Iraqi labor leaders spoke in San Jose on June 19. Funds raised for the Iraq labor tour San Jose stop stand at \$2667, almost all of which has been remitted to the USLAW DC office already.

Total raised today was \$1010 (\$454 at the door, \$556 from the pitch, including \$150 from a last minute appeal). Sponsors and groups donating funds and effort were recognized for their contributions.

Thanks to everyone for their help and cooperation on this. Look for coverage in Monday's San Jose Mercury. [Oil Workers Fight for Improvements](#) by Becky Bartindale. June 20, 2005

Today's event, held at SEIU Local 715, drew well over a 100 labor and community activists. Guests were accompanied into the hall by members of the uniformed ILWU drill team. Kristy Sermersheim, Executive Secretary of Local 715 welcomed the guests and all to the union headquarters.

David Bacon displayed slides of his recent trip to Basrah and reported on the dedication of Iraqi workers to rank-and-file organizing and their opposition to privatization.

Brothers Hassan Juma'a Awad Al Asade and Faleh Abbood Umara outlined various aspects of their struggle for union rights, recognition, and better wages and working conditions, in addition to their opposition to privatization of the oil sector. For example, their union succeeded in stopping the loss of their livelihoods by striking to maintain their jobs which were being given to foreign contract workers.

The oil workers and other unionists have no doubt that they will be able to solve the problems of security and restoring the oil facilities to productivity once the occupation is lifted.

In Iraq, they imagined (and had no reason to doubt, based on news reports) that all Americans support the occupation. They saluted the audience with raised fists and invited everyone to visit them in the "City of Palms" when peace returns.



Many interesting questions were raised, such as participation of women in Iraqi unions. Brother Hassan reported that a top officer of the oil workers (GUOW) is a woman and 35% of the union members are women. Some asked if Iraq would have a civil war or break down into sectarian chaos if the US withdraws. The Iraqis stated that Sunni, Shia, and Kurds would always know how to reconcile because of the character of Iraqi culture and historical experience.

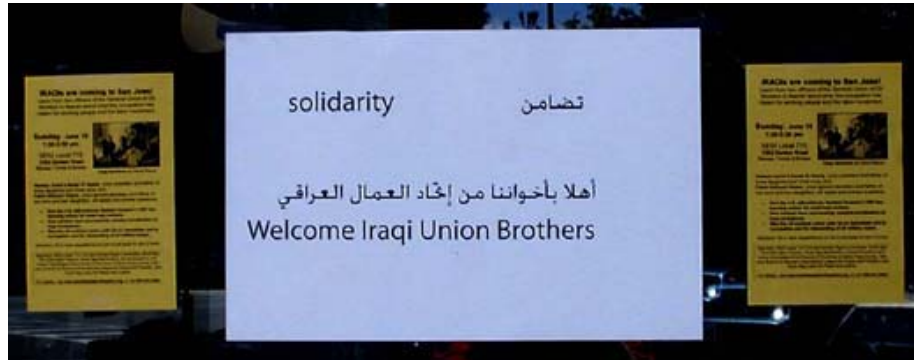
At a meeting Saturday in Los Angeles, Representative Maxine Waters was in attendance. Today, a letter from Representative Barbara Lee welcoming the delegation to Berkeley and calling for an immediate end to the occupation was read to the San Jose audience. (A Berkeley event for the Iraqis followed the one in San Jose).

Meant, in part, to support Iraqi trade unions, today's moving presentation by brothers Juma'a Awad and Abbood Umara served also to encourage and strengthen us to continue and increase the pressure for an end to occupation and for reparations for the illegal war against Iraq.

John Cunningham, South Bay Labor for Peace and Justice
Photos by Joan Bazar

Endorsers include the Civil and Human Rights Committee of SEIU 715, the South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council, South Bay Labor for Peace and Justice, San Jose Branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Social Education and Action Committee of the Council of Churches of Santa Clara County,

and South Bay Labor for Peace and Justice. To obtain more information, call 408-241-2868 or e-mail South Bay Labor for Peace.



Many questions have been asked about this tour because of the blackout on real news of the labor movement in Iraq, and criticism of the IFTU, one of the three federations represented on this speaking tour. [US Labor Against War](#) has information on the tour and links to some Iraqi trade union sites.

See coverage of **March 20 march to Cesar Chavez Park and rally to BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW; MONEY FOR HUMAN NEEDS NOT WAR**

[South Bay Mobilization](#) and [Peninsula Peace and Justice Center](#)

The Rights of Union Members Called to Active Duty

A resource guide prepared and distributed by U.S. Labor Against the War is available for download at <http://uslaboragainstwar.org/article.php?id=7842&preview=1>

War and the Economy, mini-workshop Further discussion (following on a workshop in 2004) on how to confront the devastation of our families and the economy by the military budget and loss of civil rights and liberties. The same forces that have attacked Social Security and other programs at a national level now have California dead in their sights. Come to learn more about this attack and to discuss how we can best contribute to the fight-back.

For more information, call (408) 241-2868



Photo by David Bacon is posted on www.uslaboragainstwar.org
USLAW Banner at Counter-Inaugural Demonstration, San Francisco, Jan. 20, 2005

Both the [South Bay](#) and [Alameda County Labor Councils](#) in the Bay Area of California adopted similar (but not identical) resolutions calling upon the Bush Administration to immediately end the occupation and bring the troops home, and upon the AFL-CIO to take a strong stand in support of that demand. U.S. Labor Against the War urges every local union, labor council, district council and national union to adopt similar resolutions and to press the demand that the AFL-CIO take a clear, strong, unambiguous stand for ending the occupation and bringing the troops home NOW! Dec. 20, 2004*

Report from U.S. Labor Against War leadership assembly Dec. 15, 2004

Withdraw All Foreign Occupation Troops from Iraq! SBLPJ is an initial signatory of this international call by trade unionists to end the occupation of Iraq. [Read](#), [sign](#), and circulate the call!

For updates on the struggles of workers in Iraq, see the [Union of Unemployed in Iraq \(UUI\)](#) or [Iraqi Federation of Workers' Trade Unions \(IFTU\)](#).

South Bay Labor for Peace and Justice (SBLPJ) is an independent organization of workers, unionists and allies based in San Jose / Silicon Valley, California. We aim to bring the perspective and concerns of working people to the anti-war movement, and to encourage labor unions and workers to support peace and justice.

Since SBLPJ began in September 2002, our work has included a teach-in on the war at home & abroad, joint [rallies](#) connecting labor and peace issues, a rally and leafleting on Tax Day, delegations to members of Congress, support for passage of anti-war [resolutions](#) by the South Bay Labor Council and locals, a regional strategy workshop on "Mobilizing Union Opposition to the War on Iraq", establishment of a [speakers bureau](#), and other [projects](#).

Use the menu on the right to navigate this site and find out more about us.

Part of a Nationwide Movement

More than 250 local, regional, state and national labor organizations across the country - representing more than 5 million American workers - have passed resolutions opposing Bush's war abroad and the related attacks on civil liberties, economic rights and working people at home.

Locally, the South Bay Labor Council, [CWA 9423](#), HERE 19, [UFCW 428](#), [SEIU 715](#), SEIU 250, [SEIU 1877](#), SEIU 535, CSEA, Musicians Local 153, Sign & Display Local 510, Laborers Local 270, Painters & Tapers 913, and [Plumbers & Fitters 393](#) are some of the unions that have come out against the war. Other local labor committees for peace and justice include the Bay Area Labor Committee for Peace and Justice (in the East Bay and San Francisco) and Santa Cruz Labor for Peace and Justice.

On Jan. 11, 2003, trade unionists from 76 labor bodies representing more than 2 million members met to launch a new organization called [U.S. Labor Against War \(USLAW\)](#), to help build coordinated labor action against the war. USLAW held a national Labor Day for Peace on March 12 and continues to engage in education and mobilization efforts to stop the war. On Oct. 24-25, 2003, USLAW affiliates convened a National Labor Assembly for Peace at which they forged an ongoing coalition that will challenge the policy of permanent war and its consequences for working families at home and abroad.

