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## 'Solidarity tour' brings 2 Iraqis to St. Paul

June 15, 2005 LABOR0615

WASHINGTON, D.C.

-- Two Iraqi labor leaders will visit St. Paul Thursday to promote workers' rights and to urge an end to the U.S. occupation. They are part of the "Iraq Labor Solidarity Tour," launched Tuesday in Washington and bound for 20 U.S. cities.

Falah Awan and Amjad Ali Aljawhry, of the Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq, will host a public forum at 7 p.m. at the Concrete Creations & Design building, 710 Olive St.

In Washington, both decried the labor situation in Iraq, saying workers face constant intimidation, threats and violence, and work for salaries that Americans would find unacceptable.

"There are no guarantees whatsoever," Awan said, speaking through a translator. "There is no safety net."

They said Iraqi workers deserve the right to form trade unions so they can stand up against corrupt employers.

"Workers need a say in shaping the future," Awan said. The tour is sponsored by a group called U.S. Labor Against the War.

**Washington Bureau**  
*correspondent Melissa Lee*

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