

# U.S. LABOR AGAINST THE WAR



**To: The First International Labour Conference in Erbil, Iraq, March 13-14, 2009**

**From: The 186 organizations affiliated with U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW)**

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

We send you our greetings and solidarity on the momentous occasion of the First International Labour Conference in Iraq. This historic gathering of Iraqi unions and labour federations with your international allies marks an important step toward full restoration of the inalienable rights of Iraq's workers to organize and bargain collectively in defense of their interests in unions of their own choosing, free of government interference, influence or control.

These rights are enshrined in the internationally recognized core conventions on the rights of workers adopted by the International Labour Organization of the United Nations. These rights apply to all workers, in both public and private sectors.

These rights are promised by the new Iraqi Constitution. These are rights workers around the world struggle to achieve and defend. Where the free exercise of worker rights is obstructed, as it is in Iraq today, the path to a fully democratic society is blocked.

We note that Iraq is signatory to seven of the eight fundamental ILO Conventions, while the United States has ratified only two (neither of which concern free association or the right to organize). It is no surprise, therefore, that labour rights in our own country are also under assault.

The erosion of labour and human rights anywhere threatens those rights everywhere. A victory of the Iraqi labour movement, therefore, is a victory for our labour movement and for workers around the world. That is why the international labour movement will stand shoulder to shoulder with the workers and unions of Iraq to demand these rights are fully recognized, protected and respected.

This conference puts the rapacious multinational corporations and others that have designs on the wealth and resources of the Iraqi people on notice that these public assets and enterprises are not for sale. They belong to all the people of Iraq. The people and labour movement of Iraq will not permit them to fall under the control of foreign interests that seek to profit at the expense of the Iraqi people and nation.

This conference also marks an important step toward full restoration of Iraqi sovereignty, which can only be achieved when all foreign military and mercenary forces depart Iraqi soil, all foreign military bases are closed, and the territorial integrity of Iraq is fully respected by all the nations of the world.

By holding this conference, you are demonstrating that the interests of working people of Iraq transcend sectarian, tribal, gender, regional, and political differences. You are affirming the highest universal aspirations that unite workers around the world – for peace, justice, dignity, equality, democracy, community and solidarity.

We recognize that the Iraqi people and labour movement have paid a terrible price to regain your freedom, to establish democratic control over your own government and over the fate and future of the Iraqi nation. We are painfully aware that it has been the government of the United States that is responsible for so much of the death, destruction, dislocation and suffering that the Iraqi people have experienced. We are mindful that it was our government that provided the dictator with the means by which he waged war on his own people as well as on other nations of the region. And we also note that the working people of our own country have also paid dearly – in both blood and treasure – for the transgressions of our government.

We are, therefore, deeply grateful to the labour movement of Iraq to have this opportunity to stand in solidarity with you as you chart a course to a future for the Iraqi people of peace, democracy and respect for human rights in which the working people of Iraq will truly be captains of your own destiny.

We wish this conference every success in its deliberations. Long live the labour movement and working class of Iraq! Long live international labour solidarity!

**U.S. LABOR AGAINST WAR AFFILIATES****MEMBERSHIP**

	thousands
A. Philip Randolph Institute	N/A
American Federation of Govt. Employees (AFGE) - Council 220, Social Security Administration	1,100
AFGE Local 1395, Chicago, IL	95
AFGE Local 3172, SSA-CA	23,000
American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) - CA Council 36, Los Angeles	25,000
AFSCME District Council 37 Retirees, New York City	6,500
AFSCME Council 47, Philadelphia, PA	900
AFSCME Council 47 Retirees, Philadelphia, PA	135
AFSCME Local 145, Madison, WI	1,600
AFSCME Local 171, Madison, WI	480
AFSCME Local 269, Meriden, CT	18,000
AFSCME Local 371, Social Service Employees Union, New York City	6,800
AFSCME Local 375, Civil Service Technical Guild, New York City	7,500
AFSCME Local 420, New York Health Care Union	157
AFSCME Local 590, Philadelphia, PA	80
AFSCME Local 1674, Burlington, VT	480
AFSCME Local 1723, Philadelphia, PA	500
AFSCME Local 1739, Philadelphia, PA	N/A
AFSCME Local 2186, Philadelphia, PA	2,400
AFSCME Local 2187, Philadelphia, PA	330
AFSCME Local 2626, Los Angeles, CA	3,800
AFSCME Local 2627, New York City	400
AFSCME Local 2858, Chicago, IL	5,400
AFSCME Retirees Chapter 36, Los Angeles, CA	100
AFSCME Retirees Chapter, Trenton, NJ	120,000
American Federation of Teachers (AFT) - California Federation of Teachers	11,000
AFT Oregon State Federation of Teachers	17,000
AFT Wisconsin Federation of Teachers	2,000
AFT Local 3R, Retiree Chapter, Philadelphia Federation of Teachers	6,010
AFT Local 61 United Educators of San Francisco	1,433
AFT Local 212, Milwaukee, WI	160
AFT Local 223, Madison, Wisconsin	45,000
AFT Local 1021 United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA), CA	700
AFT Local 1078 Berkeley Federation of Teachers, CA	825
AFT Local 1493, San Mateo Community College Faculty, San Mateo, CA	1,200
AFT Local 1521A Los Angeles College Staff Guild, CA	3,800
AFT Local 1521 Los Angeles College Faculty Guild, CA	1,238
AFT Local 1936 Pajaro Valley Federation of Teachers, CA	1,600
AFT Local 2026, Faculty and Staff Fed. of Community College of Philadelphia, PA	425
AFT Local 2030, Greater Santa Cruz Federation of Teachers, CA	200
AFT Local 2034, University of California, San Diego, CA	1,600
AFT Local 2121 San Francisco Community College Faculty, CA	980
AFT Local 2169, Milwaukee Graduate Assistants Association, WI	33,000
AFT Local 2190 United University Professions (UUP), Albany, NY	550
AFT Local 2274 Ramapo College, NJ	20,000
AFT Local 2334 Professional Staff Congress-CUNY, New York City	262
AFT Local 3267, Jefferson Elementary Federation, San Francisco, CA	1,055
AFT Local 3544, Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation, Eugene, OR	636
AFT Local 4400 Cabrillo College Federation of Teachers, Aptos, CA	715
AFT Local 4531 Temple University As'n. of University Professionals, Philadelphia, PA	343
AFT Local 4909 Cuesta College Federation of Teachers, CA	32
AFT Local 4999 Research, Statistics & Analysis Employees of WI	53
AFT Local 6272 University Academy Charter H.S. Fed. of Teachers, Jersey City, NJ	2,550
AFT Local 6323 Rutgers Council, AAUP Chapters, New Jersey	12
AFT UFT'ers to Stop the War, New York City	40,000
Alameda County Building & Construction Trades Council	100,000
Alameda County Central Labor Council, CA	9,000
American Federation of Musicians, AFM Local 802, New York City	

American Federation of Musicians, AFM Local 1000, New York City	450
American Postal Workers Union Philadelphia Area Local, PA	N/A
American Postal Workers Union of Greater Seattle, WA	N/A
Arab American Union Members Council, San Francisco, CA	N/A
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), Washington, DC	1,400
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) – Los Angeles Chapter	250
Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, Lodge 3014, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, PA	200
Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, Lodge 3068, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, NY	285
Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, Pennsylvania Federation, International Brotherhood of Teamsters	2,500
California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO	2,100,000
California Higher Education Staff Union, Los Angeles, CA	28
California Nurses Association	58,000
California Teachers Association Peace & Justice Caucus, National Education Association	150
Campus Faculty Association, Univ. of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL	200
Center for Labor Renewal, MD	N/A
Central Coast Workers Against the War, CA	12
Central Connecticut Labor Council	2,500
Champlain Valley Central Labor Council, VT	N/A
Chicago Labor Against the War, IL	8
Chicago Labor for Peace, Prosperity and Justice, IL	N/A
Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Florida	4,000
Coalition of Labor Union Women, Central PA Chapter	60
Coalition of Labor Union Women, Chicago, IL Chapter	120
Coalition of Labor Union Women, East SF Bay, CA Chapter	N/A
Coalition of Labor Union Women, Philadelphia, PA Chapter	230
Coalition of Labor Union Women, Washington, DC	thousands
Communications Workers of America (CWA)	600,000
Communications Workers of America Local 1032, New Jersey	6,000
Communications Workers of America Local 1034, New Jersey	16,000
Communications Workers of America Local 1086, New Jersey	192
Communications Workers of America Local 1180, New York City	10,000
Communications Workers of America Local 1081, Newark, New Jersey	600
Communications Workers of America 9119/University of CA Professional & Technical Employees	12,000
Communications Workers of America Local 9415, Oakland, CA	1,800
Connecticut AFL-CIO	211,000
Detroit Labor for Peace & Justice, MI	N/A
District of Columbia Labor Committee for Peace and Justice	N/A
Greater Hartford Labor Council, CT	24,000
Greater New Haven Central Labor Council, CT	N/A
Hawaii Labor for Peace & Justice	5
International Association of Machinists, (IAM) Local Lodge 1546, Oakland, CA	1,700
IAM Local Lodge 1781, Air Transport Employees, San Francisco, CA	2,000
International Brotherhood of Teamsters, IBT Local 743, Chicago, IL	11,000
International Federation of Professional/Technical Employees (IFPTE), Local 194, NJ Turnpike Employees Union	1,250
International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU), Local 6, Oakland, CA	N/A
Iowa City Federation of Labor, IA	N/A
Jobs With Justice - Washington State, Seattle, WA	5,000
Jobs With Justice - Vermont Workers Center, Burlington, VT	150
Kansas City Labor Against War, MO	25
Labor Committee For Peace and Justice, San Francisco Bay Area, CA	50
Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, CA	350 unions - 800,000
Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council, Seattle, WA	75,000
Maryland and District of Columbia AFL-CIO	N/A
Mercer County Central Labor Council, New Jersey	55,000
Metropolitan Washington DC Labor Council	150,000
Minnesota Labor Against the War	N/A
Monterey Bay Central Labor Council, CA	30,000
National Education Association (NEA) Peace & Justice Caucus	600
National Education Association CTA Retired Alcosta Chapter (East SF Bay Area, CA)	100

New Jersey Labor Against the War	N/A
New Jersey State Industrial Union Council	N/A
New York City Labor Chorus	N/A
North Carolina Labor Against the War	N/A
North Central Florida Federation of Labor, Gainesville, FL	7,600
North Shore Federation of Labor, Cleveland, OH	120,000
Oakland Education Association, Oakland, CA	2,700
Office & Professional Employees Intl. Union (OPEIU), Local 3, SF Bay Area, CA	500
Office & Professional Employees Intl. Union Local (OPEIU), Local 1794, OH	300
Ohio State Labor Party	100
Pennsylvania Labor History Society	450
Pennsylvania State AFL-CIO	900,000
Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health, PA	N/A
Philadelphia Central Labor Council, PA	100,000
Pride at Work, AFL-CIO, Washington, DC	thousands
Roosevelt Adjunct Faculty Association, Chicago, IL	500
San Francisco Labor Council, CA	100,000
San Mateo County Central Labor Council, CA	110 unions - 75,000
Service Employees International Union (SEIU) - Illinois State Council	100,000
SEIU Pennsylvania State Council	80,000
SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania	20,640
SEIU Local 1, Chicago, IL	40,000
SEIU Local 32BJ New York City	100,000
SEIU Local 73, Illinois-Indiana Public Employees	23,000
SEIU United Health Care Workers West, CA	150,000
SEIU Local 509, Watertown, MA	10,500
SEIU Local 521, San Jose, CA	52,000
SEIU Local 615, Boston, MA	16,000
SEIU Local 1000/CSEA, California	87,000
SEIU Local 1021, Northern California	54,000
SEIU 1199 United Health Care Workers East, DC-MD-NY-MA	254,000
SEIU/1199NE, New England Health Care Employees Union	22,000
SEIU Local 1983, California Faculty Association	12,000
SEIU Local 1991, Florida	5,000
1199'ers for Peace & Justice (SEIU), New York City	12
Sign, Display & Allied Crafts Local 510, Painters Union (IUPAT), San Francisco, CA	900
South Bay Central Labor Council, San Jose, CA	100,000
South Carolina AFL-CIO	13,500
South Central Federation of Labor, Madison, WI	40,000
Southern Maine Labor Council	N/A
St. Louis Labor Against the War, MO	N/A
United Auto Workers (UAW), Region 9A CAP Council, NY	N/A
UFT Retiree Advocate, New York City	N/A
UNITE HERE Chicago & Midwest Regional Joint Board, IL	45,000
UNITE HERE Laundry, Drycleaning and Allied Workers Joint Board, New York City	N/A
UNITE HERE Mid-Atlantic Joint Board, Baltimore, MD	N/A
UNITE HERE New York Metropolitan Area Joint Board, NY	5,000
UNITE HERE Local 2, San Francisco, CA	12,000
UNITE HERE Local 5, Hawaii	10,900
UNITE HERE Local 11, Los Angeles, CA	13,000
UNITE HERE Local 169, NY/NJ/CT	450
UNITE HERE Local 483, Monterey, CA	1,800
United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE)	35,000
UE Eastern Region	N/A
UE Local 896 / COGS, IA	800
UE Northeastern Region	3,000
UE Western Region	8,000
United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local 5, CA	26,000
United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local 1776, Philadelphia, PA	22,000

United Steel Workers Local 4-149, NJ	700
United Steel Workers Local 10-1, Philadelphia, PA	700
United Steel Workers Local 675, Carson, CA	3,200
United Steel Workers SOAR Chapter 7-319, Chicago, IL	N/A
United Steel Workers Local 1740, Milwaukee, WI	N/A
United Steel Workers Local 3740, Milwaukee, WI	198
Vermont State Labor Council, AFL-CIO	10,000
Washington-Orange-Lamoille Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, VT	1,000
Western Connecticut Central Labor Council	N/A
Wisconsin State AFL-CIO	250,000

