

And Now, Iraq, a Right-to-Work State

A half-dozen Iraqi labor activists are on a 20-city U.S. tour, and their tales of woe are harrowing. In Washington last week they told of how their leaders have been assassinated, arrested, threatened, and fired from their jobs. Iraq's labor movement dates back to the 1920s, but it was crushed by Saddam Hussein in the '80s. Among the group's top frustrations today: U.S. and Iraqi officials have let stand a Saddam-era law that bans organizing in the public sector, which makes up most of the economy. "Here's an Iraqi group that works for secularism and democracy and is being treated like it's al Qaeda," says Alec Dubro of the International Labor Communications Association.

With Paul Bedard, Thomas Omestad and David E. Kaplan Paul Bedard, Thomas Omestad and David E. Kaplan Paul Bedard, Thomas Omestad and David E. Kaplan Paul Bedard, Thomas Omestad and David E. Kaplan

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