



# Iraq Freedom 112

Bi-Weekly Paper of the Iraq Freedom Congress • 5 April 2007

## Appeal of the IFC Abroad Committee:

# Build Chapters of the Iraq Freedom Congress!



Supporters of the IFC in Sweden march against the war and occupation of Iraq.

The US administration's war and policies have turned Iraqi society into an unprecedented hell. Now, it lacks any of the features of a normal society. In space of few years, the war and occupation have destroyed this society, which was once civil and advanced in all aspects. Today, this society has nothing in common with its past.

"Bloodbath" does not suffice to describe the blood that is shed in Iraq everyday. The two poles of terrorism – U.S. state terrorism, on the one hand, and the terrorism of the groups of political Islam, on the other hand – compete in committing more massacres on a daily basis against innocent people.

Millions of dollars of the society's wealth has been looted, militias control every aspect of people's lives, sectarianism, tribalism, and other primitive and anti-human tendencies, have prevailed. The sectarian conflicts are escalating; so are acts of ethnic and sectarian cleans-

ings. Millions are forcibly displaced. The state, in the broad sense of the word, is absent.

Civil and political rights and freedoms are seriously restricted. Women are forced back into the Stone Age. Childhood has no meaning. The latest practices of gangs of the so-called "resistance" are using children in suicide bombings.

Recklessness against human life in Iraq has no limit. Human beings have never reached this level of metamorphosis, indignation and humiliation in their entire history.

The course of events in Iraq does not indicate there will be any improvement in the situation. The parties involved in the political process – whether in the government or opposed to it, with the occupation or against it – have no solution for the current tragic situation and are in deep crisis and impasse.

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## Statement of the IFC on the Unjust Law to Pillage Iraq's Oil

These days, there is increasing talk about the new oil law, especially after the cabinet approved it and referred it to the parliament. This law was drafted by one of the giant American oil companies and adopted – in fact, dictated – by the International Monetary Fund, the bloodsucker of the vast majority of deprived toilers around the world, which represents the direct will of the U.S. government and major cartels.

This law was drafted in high secrecy, without any knowledge by al-Maliki government, whose only role is to put its signature on it.

Sending this law to the Iraqi Parliament to be approved is a phony and formal show, as it is the parliament of the same government based on militia and has no real authority. This law will be approved like other laws that have been stamped by this puppet parliament without much knowledge or studying or even reading.

Pillaging Iraq's oil wealth is propagandized under titles like "restructuring Iraq's oil," "developing Iraq's oil industry," "improving the oil industry and its productivity," "improving Iraq's economic capabilities," "modernizing the oil industry" and other nonsense.



All of these are sheer and brazen lies. They hold as much truth as "Operation Iraqi Freedom," "dismantling Weapons of Mass Destruction" or "building democracy in Iraq," and other lies repeated by the White House clique. These claims are shameless disrespect for people's minds.

The problem of the Iraqi masses does not lie in "restructuring the oil industry." The problem is the lack of security caused by the occupation and the gangsters of

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### 'Without Dismissing the Occupation, Security and Civility Cannot be Restored'



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# 'Without Dismissing the Occupation, Security and Civility Cannot be Restored'

Ela Alamam, the newspaper of the Worker-Communist Party of Iraq, recently asked its leader, Rebwar Ahmad, the following question: The occupation authority has started implementing a plan dubbed "restoring security to the people of Iraq" and has started in Baghdad. What is the possibility that this plan can achieve its announced goals? Can the IFC, a project supported by the Worker-Communist Party of Iraq, be an alternative in regard to restoring security and normalcy to the life of people in Iraq? Below is his reply.



First, I think there is no room in America's plan for restoring security to the masses. Moreover, the direct outcome of implementing this plan is a further deterioration in security and pushing the society toward more bloodshed.

The U.S. administration's problem is that it has reached an impasse in Iraq. This administration has admitted this impasse exists, however it wants to save some face through militarism and arrogance, along with some changes in its policies.

Sending more troops and more empty rhetoric on the part of George W. Bush to continue militarism and warmongering is one component of this plan, called the

"New strategy," that is made prominent. However, in practice, the American administration, and Bush himself in many aspects, act according to the Baker-Hamilton report.

Because even if Bush, despite many hardships and problems, can continue with this militarism and keep down the opposition of the Democratic party, his allies in this war have obviously lost the ability, courage and energy to continue on this path. In addition to continuing this militarism, the U.S. administration is involved in various new political games with local and regional forces.

It gives privileges to some forces and, at the same

masses are handcuffed and blindfolded – to advance their interests and goals, which are against the masses.

What has the Iraqi society gained from billions of dollars spent in the name of reconstruction? What happens to billions of dollars of oil revenues in Basra, Omara, Kirkuk and other Iraqi cities?

Nobody with the slightest wisdom would hand the country's wealth to the gangsters of pillage, deception, embezzlement, quick and illegal enrichment, and mass theft. This law is a deal between the U.S. administration, representing the exploitative and pillaging policies of major international companies, and the forces that supported the occupation and its crimes.

time, intensifies threats against other forces. This has nothing to do with the security of the people in Iraq. They are futile attempts to extricate itself from a failed strategy. In the end, this course, generally speaking, will further undermine America's position in Iraq.

In regards to the plan of the IFC to restore security and civil life, it strives in a planned way for this purpose on two levels. On the general level, and on level of whole country, the IFC's struggle is to expel the occupation forces, and curb the influence of sectarian and ethnocentric forces, and build a secular, non-ethnic government that takes immediate measures to rebuild civil society and provide security, and create the conditions where the masses can make an informed and free decision on their future political system.

Without dismissing the occupation, and dissolving all the institutions built by it, security and civility cannot be restored.

On the local level, the IFC opens people's houses in suburbs and forms units of the Security Forces wherever possible, to control, administer, provide security and implement its publication as the basis of the law and administration. ●

## Statement of the IFC on the Unjust Law to Pillage Iraq's Oil

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political Islam. The urgent demands of the Iraqi masses are security, prosperity and freedom.

The parties involved in drafting and passing this law could not care less about the real issues and demands of people in Iraq.

Putting this law forward in the current situation not only indicates that those behind it are not concerned about the interests of the masses and their urgent needs but also clearly aim to use this situation – while the

It is a deal between international and local thieves at the expense of the vast majority of the masses in Iraq. After they have destroyed the society, they now want to pillage its resources and wealth.

Neither the parliament nor the puppet government is authorized to decide this issue. The oil is the country's wealth and resources, the livelihood of 27 million people, and the future of coming generations.

Therefore it is a red line that must not be passed with this simplicity. No law must be passed on this crucial issue without the Iraqi masses, the real owner of this wealth, having any role in deciding upon it. The government, its constitution and laws have no legitimacy or legality. Therefore it has no right to pass this law.

The Iraq Freedom Congress warns the Talibani-al-Maliki government against taking this unfair step and its serious risks. It declares that approving this law will be illegitimate, like the government, the parliament and their constitution, and therefore is not binding on the masses in Iraq.

The IFC will call this government to account for wasting the country's wealth and people's livelihood and tampering with the country's future.

The IFC calls on the masses in Iraq, all civilized humanity and all people concerned about wasting the wealth of the masses in Iraq to stand resolutely against this unjust and enslaving law. It calls on the masses to rally behind its banner and publication to put an end to this act.

No to the oil law!

No to those behind this law!

Yes to freedom and prosperity! ●



**Iraq's oil belongs to the people, not the al-Maliki government or its masters on Wall Street and in Washington. Only the people can decide what to do with their resources.**

## The Occupation, Not Alcohol, is to Blame!

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lated into kill first and ask questions later. This racism is inflamed by the governments and their lackey media.

In a racist campaign started well before the war, Iraqis have been dehumanized and turned to subhuman, and therefore their lives are not so valuable in the eyes of the occupation soldiers.

The arsenal of dehumanization campaign involves concepts like "golden opportunity attack," "non-combatant casualties," "collateral damage," "insurgent" and so on. This is made worse by the idea that the Iraqis are responsible for the chaos, killings and destruction that are going on everyday, and that they are unthankful for the great service delivered by the occupation by liberating them from a dictator through bombing their society into rubble.

This dehumanizing campaign is crucial to make the soldiers see the local population as faceless individuals with no rights or feelings, and to convince them to do what it takes to maintain the occupation. This produces the recklessness and disregard for the local population to the level that some incidents of killings are an attempt to end the boredom of sitting idle in the barracks.

Most of these crimes escaped public notice, and are covered up and ignored, or, worse of all, are not re-

garded as crimes. According to the mainstream media, less than 5 percent of the crimes find their way to public attention, but in reality it is much less.

If it was not for the courage and conscience of individual soldiers, even these few massacres that have been uncovered would have remained secrets that the Iraqi victims had to live with.

**T**hese crimes committed directly by the occupation forces cannot be separated from killings, oppression, deprivation and destruction caused by dividing society according to religion and ethnicity, unleashing the most reactionary sectarian and ethnocentric groups and crime gangs against the population, and pushing society toward civil war.

They cannot be separated from the initial war and genocidal assault on the civilians and infrastructure of Iraq, from suffering and death caused by the epidemic of cancer and birth defects caused by using banned weapons including depleted uranium, or from the suffering and death caused by destroying the infrastructure, including water and sewage systems.

The end result is that we have 750,000 murdered, 4 million forcibly displaced, 90,000 cases of imprisonments at any given time, mass torture, humiliation and traumatizing of civilians, thousands of cases of damage to personal property, and rape. This is in addition to the depriving of millions of electricity, running water,

health service and the most basic rights and freedoms.

Can the criminal behavior of a few rouge, stressed or alcoholic individual soldiers explain all these crimes? No.

All these crimes are the direct or indirect result of a bigger crime: war, invasion and maintaining the occupation of Iraq, which was based on false excuses.

These brutal and horrific atrocities are inevitable result of occupation. They would not have taken place if not for the war and occupation. The criminals who must be prosecuted are the political leaders who decided to launch the war and occupy Iraq, rather than individual soldiers recruited from the most isolated, marginalized and disadvantaged communities.

They are the ones who have committed the major crimes against humanity: mass murder, rape and robbery of the entire society's wealth.

It is also worth mentioning that soldiers resort to alcohol and illicit drugs to self-medicate and "escape" the effect of being forced to commit crimes that conflict with their conscience. Combat stress is a very small factor as to why soldiers self-medicate in a war zone, in comparison to the stress of doing something which is against their will, and their system of belief and values.

Not only the U.S. soldiers, but also the whole of humanity, have three options to cope with these crimes: to be ignorant, to self-medicate, or to fight. The third option is least painful and more fruitful. ●

## Build Chapters of the Iraq Freedom Congress!

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These forces are the source of the tragedies of the Iraqi masses. Those who have created this dark scenario cannot save the masses from it. The liberation of the masses starts with liberating them from these forces.

**T**he Iraq Freedom Congress is non-ideological, independent, democratic mass organization. It is committed to liberate society from the occupation, from sectarian war and its forces, and restore the will of the masses to intervene and decide their political fate, and achieve their aspirations in freedom and prosperity.

To defend the masses, the IFC has established the Safety Forces as a tool for the masses to defend themselves and their living and working places. Despite its limited size, the Safety Forces have saved many innocent lives.

The IFC's immediate areas of struggle are the cities of Iraq, but its front is international. Its forces involve all progressive humanity across the globe concerned about the fate of all people in Iraq. Iraq is the arena of struggle for a fight among regional and international forces. The outcome of this fight has global dimensions.

Whoever wins in Iraq will win internationally. Therefore, our fight is not a local one. Generations to come will be affected by this conflict. Not only Baghdad, Mosul and Basra are areas of struggle for the IFC, but London, Paris, New York and every spot in this globe are as well. Join the IFC, establish chapters and be pillars of a force that strives to end the occupation and the dark scenario, and restore the will to humanity.

But what is to be done? How we should start?



**Members of the U.S. Chapter of the Iraq Freedom Congress at an antiwar demonstration in Boston, Massachusetts, March 24, 2007.**

**T**he first step you can take is to contact us. Join the IFC. Form chapters of the IFC in consultation and cooperation with us. Distribute IFC publications in your neighborhoods, workplaces and at social gatherings. Tell people about its website and papers. Fundraise for it.

Organize bookstalls and tents in places where people gather in your cities to publicize the IFC and collect donations. Contact media outlets and tell them about the story of the people in Iraq and about the IFC. Attract members to the IFC. Form organs to carry out and lead IFC activities in your area.

Contact parties, organizations, institutes and government officials to gain their support for the IFC. Organize functions in solidarity with IFC. Organize demonstrations against the occupation to demand immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the occupation forces from Iraq.

Exert pressure on the governments of your countries toward ending the occupation and to support the

IFC. The range of activities that chapters can carry out is huge. However, not necessarily every chapter has to carry out all these tasks; it will depend on its forces, capabilities and its specific conditions. Obviously, the forces and capabilities are not static and they will increase with time through our efforts.

The Iraqi masses have no other way out of this situation apart from the Iraq Freedom Congress, and the support of the organized, conscious masses worldwide. People in Iraq have no interest in the occupation and dark scenario but they are the direct victims. They cannot wait for the day they are liberated from this hell imposed by America, its puppet government and brutal gangs of political Islam.

Another future for the masses in Iraq is possible, and this relies on the IFC gaining power. The first step to gain power abroad is to establish chapters in various cities and countries. Let's establish IFC chapters. ●

*Faris Mahmood, Head of the IFC Abroad  
March 26, 2007*

# The Occupation, Not Alcohol, is to Blame!

**TOMA  
HAMID**



**O**n March 13, 2007, the *New York Times* published an article by Paul von Zielbauer titled, "For U.S. Troops at War, Liquor Is Spur to Crime." This article revealed that alcohol was involved in a growing number of crimes committed by troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

It was revealed that alcohol and illicit drugs were involved in 240 of the 665 cases of army criminal prosecutions of soldiers resulting in convictions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many of these crimes involved murder, rape, armed robbery and assault.

The article also indicated that alco-

hol and illicit drugs are used by soldiers to self-medicate the effects of combat stress, depression or the frustrations of extended deployments.

The American ruling elite and its institutions, apparatuses and lackey media are masters in distorting the reality and covering up some of the worst crimes in human history. Now, all we have is 665 crimes and alcohol, stress and individual soldiers are to be blamed.

They trivialize the brutal crimes committed in an occupied country like Iraq and limit the responsibility to as few low ranking people in military and political hierarchy as possible.

They tell us that the crimes which found their way to public attention like the massacres in Mahmoudiyia, Haditha and Ishaqi are isolated incidents carried out by a few "rogue elements" or "rotten

apples" within the army, which is overall doing a great job.

These crimes are also explained by "soldiers being unfamiliar with the Geneva conventions," "ambiguity of the rules of engagement," "lack of training," "young age," "stress," "alcohol," "impulsive reaction to the death of a colleague," and so on.

**H**owever, despite the almighty machine of disinformation and deception, now it is becoming obvious that crimes committed against humanity directly by the occupation forces are not a few isolated incidents but rather have been widespread and systematic from day one of the occupation.

Unprovoked murder at checkpoints and during military sweeps, using of giant bombs, napalm and cluster bombs

against suspected "insurgent hideouts" in civilian places, massive and indiscriminate return of fire in civilian areas, regarding all military age males "insurgents" and thus legitimate targets, indiscriminate arrests, and widespread use of torture, sexual abuse and humiliation are daily incidents.

These crimes are produced and reproduced by the very nature of the war and occupation of a country against the will of the vast majority of its population.

They are also the result of the deep-rooted racism and arrogance in the military establishment of the occupying countries, which is designed to strip soldiers of their human features and turn them to killing robots. The principle, which rules every army, is act first and ask questions later. In Iraq, this is trans-

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## Union of the Unemployed Statement on Sidewalk Vendors' Victory

To all unemployed, to all workers,

We would like to congratulate you for the workers' victory in Nasirya. This victory was realized through the patience and unity of the oppressed workers in Nasirya.

This victory is the fruit of a long lasting conflict between the authorities, who deliberately attempted to overlook the agonies in which the workers lived, and the people, who suffered severe consequences as a result of war and occupation.

For us, it is a turning point, where the struggle has launched a new phase that will result in unifying our ranks and motivating us to keep the pace until all our demands are realized.

As the UUI thanks all the supporting organizations, including the Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq, it calls upon all unemployed people to form their own organizations all over the country to gain a job opportunity or employment insurance. ●

*Ahmed Salim, Nasirya UUI*

## IFC Announces Formation of Nasirya Women's Bureau

**F**ollowing a March 18 meeting attended by a number of women activists in Nasirya, 350 km southwest of Baghdad, the IFC's Women's Bureau announced the formation of a chapter in the city. The announcement came as a result of the formation of the IFC's Women's Bureau, which distributed thousands of posters and copies of their International Women's Day statement.

The Bureau has also put forward a plan to organize a broad women's conference in the city in April, to discuss the current situation, the role of women in ending the occupation and establishing a society where equality prevails, and the formation of a non-ethnic and secular state where people are identified based on their human identity. ●

*Media Center, March 18, 2007*



## IFC Announces Graduation of 3rd Safety Force Class

**I**n an effort to increase the activities of the Safety Forces, the IFC has announced the graduation of its third class. This announcement came in response to the need to expand the area protected by the Safety Forces and the IFC.

Soon after, the force was deployed to the neighborhood where the IFC is established, to provide security and safety. Also, the IFC has planned to deploy forces to more regions in Baghdad. ●

*Media Center, March 18, 2007*

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**IFC Bank Account:** National Westminster Bank, Iraq Freedom Congress; Account: 69030855; Sort Code: 60-22-27