
HAMBASTEGI

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March 7, 2003

People of Iraq do not want this war!

This war on Iraq is not about the brutality of Saddam and his despotic regime. When we were fighting to get rid of Saddam, the US and British governments kept him in power. They armed him with the chemical weapons that he used against us and the people of Halabja.

This war is not about the liberation of the Iraqi people. Killing and maiming people in their tens of thousands and destroying their homes, schools, hospitals and workplaces is a sick way of trying to 'liberate' them.

This war is not about fighting terrorism. Terrorism will only increase as a result of this

war. This war and its aftermath will provide another grievance and another excuse for Islamic terrorists to exploit for many years to come for their own horrific and reactionary ends – just as they have been doing with the injustices against the Palestinian people.

This war is not about Weapons of Mass Destruction. The biggest stockpiles of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons are held by the US and British governments themselves. USA is the only state in the world to have actually used nuclear weapons against hundreds of thousands of innocent

civilians. Twelve years of economic sanctions have killed up to half a million people in Iraq, while strengthening the regime of Saddam. Economic sanctions have been one of the biggest Weapons of Mass Destruction.

With this war, the US and British governments are following their own inhuman political agenda. This war is the pretext for the USA to assert its unquestioning world supremacy as the biggest military and economic power in the world at the cost of tens of thousands of lives and mass destruction. The British government is playing the role of a junior partner in this

bloody campaign to share in the spoils and strengthen its position vis-a-vis its rivals.

The reactionary opposition groupings in Iraq, the monarchists, Islamists, Kurdish nationalist gangs and former army officers and secret service agents of the Iraqi regime, are not the representatives of the Iraqi people. They are warlords and self-appointed rulers who already have a dark and bloody record of repression against the people of Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan. They are not the 'liberators' of the people of Iraq. They are, rather, the new Iraqi Contras

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Long Live March 8 International Women's Day! Women against War

Hear Voices from Iraq and the Middle East
say no to another Hiroshima in Iraq

Saturday 15 March, 2.00- 6.00pm, Polish Centre, 238-246 King Street, **London W6 0RF** (Nearest tube station Ravenscourt Park). **Speakers include:** Azar Majedi, Nadia Mahmood, Maryam Namazie, Sawsan Salim, Haifa Zangana, and others.

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An open letter to Mr. Tony Blair Iraqi asylum seekers and refugees oppose the war on Iraq

Dashty Jamal
Int'l Federation of Iraqi
Refugees Britain

This is a protest message
from hundreds of Iraqi

refugees and asylum seekers
in the UK against the war on
the people of Iraq. The war
propaganda and the biggest
deployment of troops, navy
warships, and war planes to
countries neighbouring Iraq

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Iran: Labour activist and political opponents executed by Islamic regime of Iran

Labour activist and political prisoner, Mohammad Golabi, 35, was executed in the early hours of February 20, 2003 in the city of Saqez, according to the Kurdistan Committee of the Worker-communist Party of Iran (WPI). The execution was carried out during the visit of the UN's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. The regime buried Golabi before informing his family of his execution. His family removed his body and buried him themselves. Golabi, a father of four, was a militant worker and an organiser of several strikes in the brick factories of Saqez. He was arrested and imprisoned for his political and labour activities and was accused of and executed for 'fighting against the regime'

and 'being in contact with opposition parties'.

According to an Amnesty International Urgent Action six others, all former members or supporters of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI), were executed between 7 and 13 October 2002. They include Muhammad Sharverani, who had been sentenced to death in 2000; Khaled Shoghi, who was deported from Turkey, and arrested and tortured in 1997; Saleh Goudarzi, who was sentenced to death in 1999, and Jalil Zeva'i, who was tortured prior to his execution. Also executed were Hamzeh Ghaderi and an unidentified woman, possibly related to Hamzeh Ghaderi. According to the

Urgent Action, there is no new information regarding others named in the original Urgent Action: Khaled Faraidouni, Nader Afani, Hasan Mahmoudi, Kheder Viesi, Rasul Abdollahpour, Anvar Alizadeh, Mohammad Esmailzadeh or Esmaili, Mohammad Mehdi Zaliye, and the five Arab rights activists, Fadhil Muqaddam, Rahim Sawari, Amir Sa'idi, Hashem Bawi and Abbas Sherhani. Also on 5 November 2002 two men, Mostafa Jula and Ali Kak Jalil, both former members of Komala were reportedly executed in the city of Marivan.

The Campaign against Executions in Iran is outraged at the executions carried out

by the Islamic regime and calls on international public opinion to condemn the Islamic regime of Iran for its policy of executions.

The Campaign against Executions in Iran unequivocally opposes capital punishment and calls for its abolition in all countries.

The Campaign aims to:

- * mobilise international protest against and condemnation of executions in Iran
- * galvanise public pressure against the Islamic regime in Iran and its Western government supporters
- * save the lives of those under execution sentences
- * stop executions in Iran

Updates

* Pictures of demonstrations in Vancouver against deportation of Iranian asylum seekers can be viewed on <http://vancouver.indymedia.org/news/2003/02/33020.php>.

* IFIR assisted Elizabeth Frantz from the Forced Migration and Refugee Studies, American University of Cairo to prepare a report entitled: 'Report on the Situation of Refugees in Turkey: Findings of a Five-week Exploratory Study December 2002 – January 2003'. To see the report in full, visit: <http://www.aucegypt.edu/academic/fmrs/Reports/reports.html>



Mansoor Hekmat (1951-2002)

With the bloody suppression of the revolution in Iran and the imposition of an ultra-reactionary life on the people, tens of thousands of human beings, alone and without organisation, fled the Islamic Republic of Iran in search of security and tranquillity. Organising this vast human mass around the most modern and humane advances of humanity, unconditionally defending their right to asylum, and creating an international organisation without taking into consideration people's nationality, religion, sex and or political affiliation became an immediate necessity. Creating the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) was Mansoor Hekmat's response to these conditions. As he said: 'Our entire life story is changing the lives of human beings.'

Iraqi asylum seekers and refugees oppose the war on Iraq, from page 1

are of deep concern to Iraqi and Kurdish refugees and asylum seekers who live in the UK. The fear and terror of the war has cast a shadow on our lives. We do not believe in ridding the people of Iraq of dictatorship through mass killing and demolishing the economic infrastructure of Iraqi society.

The people of Iraq have been suffering at the hands of the Ba'ath regime for two decades. We have faced executions, mass killings, chemical bombardments, mass disappearances of the Kurds in the Anfal campaign, the suppression of any freedom-seeking movement, and the waging of war against neighbouring countries. All these were the pernicious consequences of that rabid regime's policies which were supported by the USA and your government and for which 22 million Iraqis have paid dearly. The imposition

of economic sanctions by the UN for 12 years, supported by your government, is another form of silent mass killing of the people of Iraq in the name of containing Saddam's regime which has killed one Iraqi child every minute. This war under the pretext of human rights and democracy is nothing but a deliberate killing of the people and is not the way of toppling Saddam's regime.

Saddam Hussein, his regime and his lackeys are criminals but their possession of weapons of mass destruction and support for terrorism are nothing but excuses to secure a new world order and to safeguard the interests of the USA, which owns the most formidable arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. The USA used nuclear weapons against the people of Japan in which thousands of people were killed. The British and global public

opinion are against another Hiroshima in Iraq.

You have announced that Saddam's regime poses a serious threat to the entire world because he has used chemical weapons against the Kurds in Iraq, while the Home Office refuses protection to numerous Kurdish and Iraqi asylum seekers and tells them to leave the UK and return to Iraq. If the Iraqi regime poses a danger to the people of the world how does it not pose any threat to the people of Iraq and Kurdistan? How can this policy be justified? If you truly support the people of Iraq, then why don't you put an end to the economic sanctions imposed on the people of Iraq? Why do you not allow the people of Iraq to choose a secular regime in Iraq, rather than the Iraqi opposition the West in promoting which divides the people of Iraq on the basis of religion and ethnicity and

wants to establish an Islamic state similar to the Islamic Republic of Iran and prohibit atheism? The so-called opposition consists of military generals and criminals who have had a huge hand in killing the people of Iraq and have blood on their hands. Instead of prosecuting them, you have supported them and are preventing the people of Iraq from choosing their own political system.

We hundreds of Kurdish and Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers reiterate the popular belief that the war is not in the interests of the people of Iraq; overthrowing Saddam by killing the Iraqi people and destroying Iraq is not acceptable. War must be averted and there must be an immediate end to economic sanctions. This is our message, supported by public opinion and more than two million people demonstrating in Britain on 15 February.

People of Iraq do not want this war! from page 1

- armed and financed by the CIA and Pentagon and/or various repressive regional states such as the Islamic regime in Iran. A devastating war and the unleashing of these forces is the grim future being planned by Bush and Blair for the Iraqi people.

The people of Iraq do not want a bloody war that will kill and maim hundreds of thousands, destroy people's homes, strengthen terrorists, nationalists, Islamists and other reactionary forces, and

make Iraqi people's struggle for freedom and civil liberties that much harder. Genuine freedom in Iraq will only come when the people of Iraq are able to conduct their struggles against the regime of Saddam or any other repressive regime without the threat of war, without the murderous economic sanctions and without intimidation by US and British militarism.

**Stop playing
with the lives of**

the Iraqi people!

No war!

Worker Communist Party of Iraq (UK)

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Independent Women's Organisation in Iraqi Kurdistan

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Committee to Defend Women's Rights in Iraqi Kurdistan

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JOIN IFIR

* I wish to join **the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR)** as:

Member (£25.00 p.a.) Affiliated Group (£100.00 p.a.)

* I wish to make a donation of: £ I wish to subscribe to Hambastegi English or Iran Monitor: (£50.00 p.a.)

Name: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Address: _____

Please make cheques payable to the International Federation of Iranian Refugees and mail to P. O. Box 27236, London N11 2ZF.

* I wish to make a standing order:

To: The Manager of (your Bank) _____

(Address of your Bank) _____

Please pay **the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR)** the sum of £ each month / quarter / year (delete as appropriate) until further notice and debit my Account no: Sort Code: starting on (date):

Name: _____ Address: _____

Signature: _____

[FOR OFFICE USE ONLY] To: **International Federation of Iranian Refugees**, Lloyds TSB bank plc. Sort Code: 30-99-86, account no. 0057223.

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