

---

# HAMBASTEGI

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF IRANIAN REFUGEES

---



# 149

March 21, 2003

## The criminal war against the people of Iraq has begun

Despite the most widespread global opposition, the USA and British governments have begun their war. On the early morning of Thursday 20 March, George Bush gave the order for the slaughter of the people of Iraq.

As usual, these two governments and their lackey media are reporting the war as an attack against Saddam Hussein rather than what it is - a crime against

humanity. Despite their daily deceptions, they are nonetheless faced with the disbelief and protest of millions who know that this war will kill and maim hundreds of thousands and cause the displacement and flight of millions.

This war is a truly shameful moment in the history of humanity. It is a war against humanity, welfare and civil society and has been registered as such within the hearts and minds of people

throughout the world.

The millions who have come to the fore can still stop this immense human tragedy. Workers can still stop the wheels of production and bring entire countries to a standstill in opposition to the war. We must come to the fore as never before and organise ongoing sit-ins, demonstrations, direct actions and so on. We must not let these criminals be for one second! The people of Iraq anxiously await our



intervention. The time is now. We can stop this massacre. This is our task.

*continued page 2*

---

## Yes, this is a moment of truth but not in the way Bush means

---

**Maryam Namazie**

---

On Thursday 20 March, the USA and Britain began their slaughter of the Iraqi people. They began to 'shock and awe' by dropping tons of bombs on the innocent people of Iraq.

Yes, this is a moment of truth as Bush puts it, but not in the way he means. In this moment of truth, unlike many others,

a third force - that of civilised humanity - has come to the fore. It has refused to accept the deceptive justifications put forth by the USA and Britain and has begun to see that the United Nations, its resolutions, and for that matter democracy are really only hollow gestures and tools that just don't matter when push comes to shove. It has come to see that UN resolutions, WMD, terrorism, liberating the people of Iraq and so on are not the real



issues at hand but merely war propaganda. What is real is the USA's drive for what has been coined as the New World Order. The USA wants to become master of

the world, removing governments, destroying entire countries, killing and maiming at will and determining what takes place,

*continued page 2*

## The criminal war against the people of Iraq has begun, from page 1

The International Federation of Iranian Refugees strongly and unequivocally condemns the war against the people of Iraq and will do all it can to stop this slaughter. Furthermore, IFIR will do all it can to exert pressure on border countries as well as all countries, including Western ones that have for so long

denied Iraqis the full right to asylum to open their borders for Iraqi asylum seekers, grant them asylum and cease all deportations to the region. All asylum seekers/refugees must be given decent shelter, food, medicine and so on. The internally displaced within Iraq (estimated to become 3 million) must be

given immediate access to shelter, food, medicine, etc. All humanitarian assistance must be provided by voluntary organisations and not the USA army which has had a hand in massacring people. 100,000 refugees, including Iranians who are now in Iraq must also be transferred to safe places.



## Yes, this is a moment of truth, from page 1

by whom, how and when.

And while this third force knows that Saddam Hussein is despotic and that the people of Iraq must be liberated, it also knows that his despotism is not the issue at hand. It knows it was the USA that put Saddam Hussein there in the first place and armed and supported him until he stepped out of line. This force knows that the USA and West stood by while Saddam massacred and killed and used chemical weapons. It knows that the West shut the doors of fortress Europe on those fleeing Saddam's rule, sanctions and bombings. And now when they need a justification for war, they feign concern for the people of Iraq. They are so concerned that they plan to

drop thousands of cruise missiles on the first few days of the war alone and are even considering using chemical and nuclear weapons. They are so concerned that they have already lined up a bunch of criminals, Islamists, nationalists and genocidaires for a post-Saddam Iraq, with Islamic law and federalism as bonuses.

The third force that has come to the fore in the millions may not have been able to stop the war from taking place, but it has removed any 'legitimacy' for this war. And when the war starts, walk outs, strikes, ongoing demonstrations and direct actions, and so on can still limit the ensuing destruction and slaughter. It can also make the USA, UK

and other war-mongering governments pay a heavy price for their attack. Much depends on this force that has raised the banner of civilised humanity. After all, 'the USA does not make history. The West does not determine the future. The current US policy and actions will inevitably shatter the present political framework in the Middle East, but other forces will determine the alternative relations that will take shape... But this confrontation does not take place on an empty stage. The Middle East, like the West, is the scene of a confrontation between social movements that have existed prior to the conflict between Western bourgeoisies and political Islam and which have shaped political developments in all

societies. The West's conflict with political Islam, despite its importance, is not the engine and the moving force of history. On the contrary, it is itself placed within this history and is defined by it. The conflict over the new world order has more important players. Social classes and their political movements, whether in the West or the Middle East, are facing each other over the political, economic and cultural future of the world. It is these movements that will determine the final course of these events, irrespective of the current designs and demands of Western statesmen and the leaders of political Islam.' [The World After September 11, Mansoor Hekmat, 12 October - 26 November 2001].



### 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.'

# People's duty towards Iraqi asylum seekers

Now that the USA has attacked Iraq, millions of innocent people will suffer, die or attempt to flee. Many reactionary regional governments have already made it clear that they will prevent asylum seekers from entering their borders. The UNHCR will be no real help either given its role in assisting governments in migration control rather than refugee protection. Rather than call for no war on Iraq for

example, Mr. Ruud Lubbers, the UNHCR Representative, had called on Saddam Hussein to leave the country with his sons so as to avert a humanitarian catastrophe!

In light of this, Iraqi asylum seekers can only be truly assisted with the direct intervention of the people of the region and the West. The people of Iran and elsewhere and especially those residing near the Iran-Iraq border must

set up facilities to help minimize their suffering. Such actions may include providing shelter, food, medicine and clothes. People must act promptly to intervene independently of the Islamic regime of Iran and other governments. The people of Iran can show the world that they are in solidarity with the Iraqi people. We must not forget that many people in the West have done the same for Iranian asylum seekers -

that is to stand up against the anti-asylum policies of Western governments.

At the same time, pressure must be placed upon regional and Western governments to open their borders to all Iraqi asylum seekers. Iraqis must be granted protection and asylum! There must be no deportations to the region!

# 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 - 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! Stop the War! Worker Communist Party of Iraq (UK), International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (UK), Middle East Centre for Women's Rights, Independent Women's Organisation in Iraqi Kurdistan, Committee to Defend Women's Rights in Iraqi Kurdistan

# 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.

## IFIR Country Directors

Australia: Arsalan Nazeri, Tel: +61 401005422, ifir@iprimus.com.au; Belgium: Hossein Pesh Ehsan, Tel: + 32 478 904 163, ifirbe@hotmail.com; Canada: Siamak Amjadi, Siamak\_Amjadi@Yahoo.Ca; Denmark: Mahmoud Gasvini, Tel: +45 51603121, nahid@mail.danbbs.dk; England: Saeed Arman, Tel: +44 7931866985, s.arman@ukonline.co.uk; Germany: Nasrin Ramzanali, Tel: +49 172 5350946, ifirgermany@web.de; Holland: Magid Poostanchi, Tel: +31-613248331, ifir\_holland@yahoo.com; Norway: Ghafar Gholamveysi, Tel: +47 40851738, ghafar@chello.no; Sweden: Esmaeil Moloodi, Tel: +46 70 492 0349, ifrs@hotmail.com; Switzerland: Mahmood Rahbary, Tel: +41 78 795 75 81, m\_rahbary@hotmail.com; United States: Afsaneh Rahimi, Tel: +1 310 413 1578, RahimiA2000@yahoo.com.

For information on Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Greece, India, Pakistan and Turkey branches, please contact IFIR Secretariat.

## IFIR Contacts

Maryam Namazie, **Executive Director**  
 Keyvan Javid, **Deputy Executive Director**

Visit IFIR site for latest  
 international refugee news,  
 urgent actions and press  
 releases:

[www.hambastegi.org](http://www.hambastegi.org)

**Editor:** Maryam Namazie

**Translators:** Laili Panahi

**E-mail:** ifir@ukonline.co.uk

**Tel:** +44 7730 107 337; **Fax:** +44 8701351303

P.O. Box 27236, London N11 2ZF, England

[www.hambastegi.org](http://www.hambastegi.org)