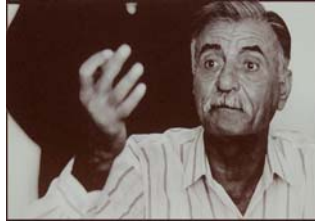


The Oregon AFL-CIO and Co-sponsoring Labor and Community groups including Education Without Borders and KBOO 90.7 FM Portland Community Radio Invite the public to a rare opportunity to hear two Iraqi trade union leaders



Baghdad Iraq 2003 © David Bacon
Workers at the State Leather Industry Factory
the largest shoe factory in the Middle East.



Above Public communication secretary of the IFTU. To the right is a worker in the power plant of the Al Daur oil refinery.



On Wednesday, June 22, 7 pm at Portland
State University's Smith Memorial Student Union Ballroom, Rm 353
1825 SW Broadway, Portland, Oregon

The two courageous Iraqi oil union leaders will speak about their efforts to organize and represent workers under the difficult circumstances of insurgent violence and U.S. occupation. The tour will help American union members and others learn how the U.S.'s occupation of Iraq is affecting the lives of ordinary working people, and how the occupation government is limiting the ability of unions to organize and bargain collectively. Organizers of the visit hope to build direct worker-to-worker, union-to-union solidarity and support for Iraqi labor unions in their effort to build a progressive, non-sectarian Iraqi nation.

The two leaders who will visit Portland are Hassan Juma'a Awad Al Asade and Faleh Abbood Umara, who are founders of the oil workers union in Iraq. Both were labor and human rights activists under the Hussein regime. Both were jailed by the regime for their "subversive activity". Now their union, while still officially illegal, is actively opposing the policies of Halliburton's subsidiaries working in the oil sector and successfully forced the former US official L. Paul Bremer III, administrator for the Coalition Provisional Authority to dramatically increase wages for oil workers. The oil workers union has taken a strong stand against any plans for privatization and foreign domination.

The Oregon AFL-CIO is sponsoring the Portland visit, which is part of a national tour by six Iraqi labor leaders to eighteen U.S. Cities. Over 24 local labor, religious and community organizations have signed on as co-sponsors of the public event, including Northwest Oregon Labor Council, AFSCME Council 75,

Social Justice Council of the First Unitarian Church and Veterans for Peace,
Education WithOut Borders, KBOO 90.7 FM a Portland Community Radio Station.
The Portland schedule also includes a lunch with members of the Oregon AFL-
CIO Executive Board and a visit with Portland City Council members in the
afternoon. For additional information:

Contact: Jean Eilers (AFL-CIO) 503-232-3934 or
Dan Shea (EWOB) 503.661.1317

For articles and exploration of issues see:

www.uslaboragainstawar.org

http://www.truthout.org/issues_05/033105LA.shtml

<http://dbacon.igc.org/>