

FEDERATION



Papar of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees-IFIR

ISSUE 5

International Federation of Iraqi Refugees & CSDIraq 29 April Meeting at Portcullis House, Parliament



On 29 April 2008 The IFIR and Coalition to Stop Deportations to Iraq held a meeting in Parliament hosted by John McDonnell a Labour Member of Parliament to discuss Government policies relating to deporting refugees. The meeting was chaired by George Binette and addressed by the following speakers Dashty Jamal Secretary of(IFIR), John McDonnell MP, Jean Lambert a member of the European Parliament, Jacqueline Parlevliet, Deputy Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) London.

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Report from Meeting at Portcullis House, Parliament speakers

Dashty Jamal Secretary IFIR

John McDonnell Labour party MP

Jean Lambert Green MEP

Jacqueline Parlevliet Deputy Representative UNHCR London

Events Organised by (IFIR) and Organisation the Defend women's in Iraq to

stop the forcible deportation of Iraqi refugees in Sweden.

Model motion for union branches, regional bodies opposing deportations toIraq

Demonstration against forcible deportation in Gottenberg, Sweden.

A Kurdish asylum seeker who has been living in Britain for eight years and whose wife is expecting their first baby is due to be deported today.

From The Guardian website

Report from Ukrainian Social Forum

Swedish International Federation of Iraqi Refugees six hours protest to prevent the deportation of Amir gool



International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR), International organisation of Iranian Refugees in conjunction with other Swedish campaign groups held a protest to stop the forcible deportation of Amir Gool an Iraqi asylum seeker. Amir has lived in Sweden for 6 years and is disabled

When IFIR representatives heard about the threatened removal of Amir to Baghdad, and then on to Kurdistan IFIR in Sweden organised a `sit – in` protest outside the detention centre where Amir was held. The Protestors surrounded the detention centre and blocked the roads to prevent the authorities transporting Amir to the Airport. This is the second protest that IFIR Sweden has organised (blocking the roads to the detention centre) to prevent the forcible removal of Iraqi refugees.

This protest was another example of defiance and resistance by IFIR and Swedish humanitarian organisations to stop the forcible deportation of Swedish Iraqi refugees.

Film of protest at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4AVYJQxKA8>

IFIR Representative Gottenberg, Rebwar Husein , 07361 97474

Asylum Rights are Human Rights

Stop Deportations to War Zones

>>>from page 1 Meeting at Portcullis House, Parliament

The chair George Binette opened the meeting by welcoming the speakers and everyone attending the meeting. George explained that each speaker would only be speaking for ten minutes because the purpose of the meeting was to take suggestions for a future work plan for the campaign.

The Chair introduced the first speaker Dashty Jamal Secretary of International Federation of Iraqi refugees



What do we have to do to stop the politics of deportation of asylum seekers?

I would like to thank John McDonnell on behalf of both the international federation of Iraqi refugees, and the coalition to stop deportations to Iraq, for organising this meeting. Also I would like to thank all of you for attending this meeting today and for your support our campaign.

I do not want to talk about the process which the British government has been practising against the Iraqi Kurds for 3 years. We are all aware of the pressure that they have put on Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers, and how they have turned the problems of those asylum seekers into a political card for their own political purposes.

Just to remind ourselves in the past three years over a 176 Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers have been deported back to Iraq. They were all handcuffed and deported the first three deportations were by military aircraft. More recently they have used Jordanian airlines to deport Iraqi Kurds.

The UK Government has denied Iraqi asylum seekers the right to work and study if they refused to return voluntarily they arrested them and imprisoned them in detention camps.

Unfortunately Sweden and Germany are now following the UK's example. Sweden has made a deal with the Iraqi Government to return Iraqi asylum seekers.

The myth behind this politic is that all regions in Iraq are safe! Before it was that the Kurdish region of Iraq was safe, and they practised the same politics then, therefore I would like to pose the simple question, if Iraq is safe why do people leave Iraq? Why do

people face the danger of leaving, running away from the border police, facing smuggler bands? Why do people choose to leave their families and friends all their property and homes behind to live as an asylum seeker.

If Iraq is safe why do we hear stories of bombings and war everyday?

Are the people of Iraq crazy? Leaving their families, their countries to come and live in a scenario with an unknown future? No it is because there is no security in Iraq whatsoever, in most Iraqi cities such as Baghdad, Basra and Mosul and many others, on every corner on every street there is war. They leave Iraq because of the blood bath that has left the people with nothing.

Friends,

The aim of this meeting today is to see how can we work together toward stopping the deportation of Iraqi asylum seekers and get rid of the enormous pressure on them. I believe that it's important that we try to carry out the following tasks:

Support campaign of organizing protest and collecting signatures which now runs in the European countries to stop deportation by the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees

Lobby MEP's to raise this issue in the European parliament and put pressure on European Governments.

Request the UNHCR not to be silent about these attacks on Iraqi asylum seekers and call for the countries in Europe to adhere to the 1951 Geneva Convention in regards to refugee rights.

Lobby amongst the Labour, Green and other MP's to raise this issue in the British parliament and put pressure on British Government to stop deportation.

Stop the British government using its agreements with the Iraqi government and the KRG to carry out deportations to Iraq.

Support TUC campaign for giving asylum seekers permission of work and request them to participate in the Coalition to Stop Deportations to Iraq.

Support Voices in the Wilderness action against deportations to Iraq in June, and meetings that other refugee campaigners organise, such as the TGWU branch meeting on deportations to Iraq in Sheffield in June,

Work with other migrants' rights campaigners wherever possible.

I hope people here tonight will say what they think about these proposals and add in their own ideas.

Britain is occupying Iraq so Britain should grant all Iraqi asylum seekers indefinite leave to remain in the UK. Organisations who call for freedom, members of parliament, and political parties can be a magnificent strength in supporting this campaign; I hope this meeting will bring all of us together in building a social movement that will stop the deportation of Iraqi asylum seekers

>>>from page 1 Meeting at Portcullis House, Parliament

The Chair introduced the Second speaker John McDonnell Labour MP



Many MPs don't understand the situation in Iraq or the question of detention – except for those MPs who deal with cases themselves. When you tell them, their reaction is disbelief. So the campaign needs to speak to MPs individually and speak to them about cases. We should start by targeting a group of sympathetic MPs and arrange face to face meetings with them. 1. Labour Party MPs; 2 from other parties.

When they understand the situation, they can move to action. Representations are crucial. The Home Office now often refuses representations from me for people in Harmondsworth or Colnebrook; they will only accept representations from MP of constituency of origin.

The campaign should talk to MPs about how they can do representations on a particular case. This may help the individual, and makes it real for the MP; then you can move on to discuss more general issues.

The problem could be resolved if the government acknowledged that there is a problem and granted people from Iraq. Most MPs do accept that Iraq will not be fine again any time soon.

The campaign needs to work more systematically; and do more thorough work in the labour movement and trade unions. The Labour Representation Committee will take it up, and can circulate information generally and to individuals if necessary. There have been examples of successes by Trade Union sponsoring cases. We should try to get affinity between Trade Unions and cases they take up – eg ask NUJ to take up cases of journalists and so on, matching employment there or here to the right union. Individuals should try to get membership of the appropriate union, and get the weight of the national union behind them.

Lastly, we should campaign to get more MPs doing representations on behalf of constituents; I believe we can get new MPs to become committed.

The Chair introduced the third Speaker

Jean Lambert Green Member of European Parliament



There was recently a statement by the German Interior Minister saying: We have to find a solution for the Christians coming from Iraq. The Slovenian Minister reminded him that there is meant to be a consideration of individual cases. He points out that addressing a group on a blanket basis is a common misunderstanding – including on the long-standing Iraqi cases many of which were not based on persecution by Saddam Hussein. Also there are people making out Kurdistan to be what it is not really. The situation for women there is if anything worsening. Where people in Europe are interested in one aspect, such as women's problems, this does mean that it is possible to start from one aspect and then take up the wider issue in the European or British Parliaments.

The EU Parliamentary Human Rights Sub-Committee has met several times on Iraq, including meeting the KRG. We ask people from Iraq whether returns should be made to Iraq. Whoever we ask says no: there is nothing to return to, it is not safe; it is even harder for people who have been out for a long time. Also people returning put extra strain on the situation there. It would be useful to collate this for the MPs here and in Europe (Germany, Sweden etc).

Stories can be powerful. Material on people who have been returned is also valuable – even if the campaign has lost contact with them.

We are starting to make inroads at the European level – where people cannot go back to Country of Origin although their claim has been turned down. There has to be a status for such people and this question has to be resolved. Governments should not use destitution to force people to return.

The EU level can be useful for access to resolution, to talk to people there and to ask them to take it up at home.

People should be aware that there is a hearing coming up on Dublin two. Different methods are emerging amongst the different member states of hearing claims – especially where some member states see “Iraq” and almost wash their hands of it.

>>>from page 1 Meeting at Portcullis House, Parliament

Jacqueline Parlevliet, Deputy Representative for UNHCR, London

Dear Colleagues, I think that you are familiar with UNHCR's eligibility guidelines on Iraq as well as with our return advisory. I would like to draw your attention this evening to the situation of Iraqi refugees in the Middle East. Jordan and Syria, neighbouring countries, are hosting some 2 million Iraqi refugees under very difficult circumstances. UNHCR is trying to assist the most vulnerable refugees in those countries, however, many people have also decided to return to Iraq despite the insecurity and the difficulties they might face because it is hard to sustain themselves in the region. Or alternatively, those refugees might decide to move further on, and will eventually reach European borders. We have noted an increase in asylum applications from Iraqis across Europe, as well as in the UK.

UNHCR has expressed its concern with regard to the reception conditions for Iraqis in Europe, and has also highlighted the inconsistencies in the application of the Qualification Directive in the various European countries. Further, there are concerns about the return policies that are currently implemented by various countries in Europe. UNHCR's return advisory quite clearly sets out how we think Iraqi refugees and other persons of concern should be treated.

With regard to enforced returns of failed asylum seekers to Iraq by the UK, UNHCR has sought clarification and assurances in the context of UNHCR's return advisory. We understand that enforced returns have taken place to KRG controlled areas and that no vulnerable persons are currently being returned.

George Binette thanked the speakers for their contributions but said before opening the meeting for questions asked Serwa Nouri Yousef to speak about the recent deportation of her husband.

My husband was deported on Friday 25th April 08, and I am 7 months pregnant. Is this an example of justice and humanity? Since 2001 he has been studying computing and trying to get asylum here. But the Home Office did not allow him anything, no asylum, no permission for work, no support. He had major depression because of the pressure. And after eight years he was removed with no mercy. Since his removal till now, I have not heard from him. Is he alive? Is he dead? I don't know. Are there any human rights here, when he can't see his first baby? And I am very worried about him. Who will be responsible if something happens to him?

Is splitting up a family an example of the fairness and respect for Human Rights the world expects from this country, Great Britain?

Is this what the deportation or removal rules say, to remove a father, who would not see his first baby born?

George then asked for contributions from the floor. Following a wide ranging discussion George closed the meeting and summarised the following actions and way forward that had been suggested.



Support campaign by organising protests and collecting signatures to stop deportation.

Lobby British MP's and MEP's to raise the issue of forcible deportation in both the UK and the European parliament to put pressure on European Governments to stop forcible deportation of Iraqi refugees.

Request that the UNHCR not to be silent about attacks on Iraqi asylum seekers and call for the European countries deporting Iraqi refugees to adhere to the 1951 Geneva Convention in regards to refugee rights.

Support the Trade Union Congress's (TUC) campaign for giving asylum seekers permission of work and request that the TUC participate in the Coalition to Stop Deportations to Iraq campaign.

Support Voices in the Wilderness action against deportations to Iraq in June, and meetings that other refugee campaigners organise, such as the TGWU branch meeting on deportations to Iraq in Sheffield in June.

Work with other migrants' rights campaigners wherever possible.

“Children who flee under any circumstance either with or without their parents must be immediately granted refugee status. In addition children asylum seekers should be cared for by the state and given free housing, education, health care, sports and recreation equivalent to those provided to citizens of the country they are applying for asylum within. These rights should not be deferred or conditional upon the granting of refugee statue”

Events organised by (IFIR) and Organisation the Defend women's in Iraq (OWDI) to stop the forcible deportation of Iraqi refugees in Sweden.



IFIR Sweden and OWDI Sweden have organised the following events to defend Iraqi refugees under threat of forcible deportation from Sweden.

Swedish IFIR and Organisation defend Iraqi women organised a meeting between lawyers and refugees on 8 April 2008.

Following this meeting there was a demonstration at the Stockholm Airport on 15 April to prevent the deportation of Mohammed Sarhen.

On the 29 April at 4pm a large demonstration was held outside the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm. The opening rally was addressed by the following three speakers:

Halala Rafie from

Welcomed the attendees and explained the bad conditions of Iraqi refugees who live in Sweden and inhuman policies of the Swedish Government threatening to forcibly deport Iraqi refugees. Halala also talked about the political situation and deteriorating security in Iraq under the occupation the threats from armed militia and the lack of basic services in Iraq, which has led to the displacement of millions of Iraqis. Halala finished her speech by strongly criticising the positions of the KRG and IOA in Sweden for agreeing to the forcible deportation of Iraqi refugees.

Sozan Hussein Member Secretariat IFIR

Talked about the importance of continuing to organize these demonstrations, she also criticised the Swedish Government for its continuing policies against Iraqi refugees.

Mr Eonson a Swedish MP from the Left Party

Assured the gathered demonstrators of his party's support of Iraqi refugees and strongly criticised the current Swedish Governments attitudes towards Iraqi refugees. He ended his speech by promising that the Left Party will do its utmost to recover all the rights that have taken from Iraqi refugees.

Baban Osman ifir rep sweden

Demanded that Sweden stopped the forcible deportation of Iraqi refugees, who came from a country in which war and fighting continue.

The demonstration proceeded to walk from the main street and across the park to the front of the Swedish Parliament. The protesters chanted the following slogans:

Stop the deportation of Iraqi refugees immediately
Iraq is unsafe



No To forcible Deportation
Refugee Rights are Human Rights

A number of radio and television stations attended the demonstration and provided reports including space channel, radio station B 1 Zayal Assembly, which conducted interviews with a number of demonstrators.

Baban Osman Representative of International Federation of Iraqi refugees in Sweden.

Model motion for union branches, regional bodies opposing deportations to Iraq

This branch/regional committee notes:

The policy of the British government to deport "failed" Iraqi asylum seekers, specifically those from the predominantly Kurdish regions in the north of the country, with more than 175 people deported since 2005, despite the continued occupation and military conflict across the whole of Iraq including the north. The adoption of broadly similar policies in recent months by the German and Swedish governments. The continued restrictions on legal working by asylum seekers and the systematic use of destitution as a policy instrument by the Home Office in an effort to persuade Iraqi asylum seekers to leave Britain "voluntarily".

This branch/regional committee believes:

There is compelling evidence that both the situation across Iraq remains extremely insecure and that several of those forcibly deported to northern Iraq have faced physical and psychological abuse from the local security services on their return.

The attitude of the British government is particularly hypocritical in that it partly relied on the brutal human rights abuses perpetrated by Saddam Hussein's murderous regime to justify the invasion and occupation of Iraq, yet it refuses to offer a haven to Iraqis who have fled human rights abuses and a country that remains

>>>From page 5

extremely violent and unstable more than five years after the start of the US and British-led military campaign

The continued policy of deportations indicates that the Government may soon be prepared to deport "failed" asylum seekers anywhere, regardless of the reality of the domestic situation in their country of origin.

This branch/regional committee resolves:

To donate £ x to the "Campaign to Stop Deportations to Iraq"

To submit this motion to the relevant union body and/or local Trades Council

To publicise among our own members the reality of the situation in Iraq, including the Kurdish region, and the arguments for opposing deportations more generally

To support the TUC-backed campaign to extend the right to asylum seekers generally and

To explore with other trade union bodies the possibility of funding a speaking tour in British cities and towns to highlight the issues outlined above.

Demonstration against forcible deportation in Gottenberg, Sweden.

A march was organised on the 26 April 2008 in Gottenberg by International Federation of Iraqi Refugees, supported by No Borders, Union of Afghan Refugees, Party for Justice, The Left Party and a number of refugee organisations. The March was attended by 400 people including two Swedish MPs from the Left Party.

The demonstrators chanted the following slogans:

No To forcible Deportation

Refugee Rights are Human Rights

Stop the deportation of Iraqi refugees immediately

At the closing rally the following five speakers addressed the demonstrators

Dashty Jamal Secretary of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees

Strongly condemned the secret agreements between the Kurdish Regional Government in Iraq and the Swedish Government to forcibly Deport Iraqi refugees. Dashty stated These policies manipulate the fate of refugees he also spoke of his efforts to stand against policies of deportation and the expulsion of Iraqi refugees in all European countries.

Tawfiq Mohammadi Swedish representative of Iranian International organisation of refugees talked about the deteriorating security conditions in Iraq and criminal terrorist operations that take the lives of dozens of people daily Tawfic refuted the allegations from the Swedish IOA regarding the security and stability in Iraq.

Hans Lind Swedish Environment Party

Offered his party's solidarity with Iraqi refugees and the importance of all the organisations present to work together against the Swedish Governments policy of forcibly deporting Iraqi Refugees.

Rebawar Hussein Swedish representative of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees

Explained the necessity and importance to Unify the ranks of all refugees to continue to campaigning and organising these demonstrations.

The demonstrations was reported on in a number of Swedish newspapers and radio stations.

Following the demonstration Gottenberg IFIR held a special meeting held for Dashty Jamal. At the meeting Dashty expanded on ways to continue to strengthen the campaign and make links with other threatened Iraqi refugees across Europe.

A Kurdish asylum seeker who has been living in Britain for eight years and whose wife is expecting their first baby is due to be deported today.

From The Guardian website

by Owen Bowcott

Mouriad Yousef, 25, who has been held at Colnbrook immigration detention centre, in west London, despite being on medication for depression, told the Guardian he is due to be put on a Royal Jordanian Airlines plane at Heathrow airport at 5pm today.

Yousef is likely to follow the route taken by an increasing number of Iraqis who have been refused permission to remain in Britain despite the continuing violence in their native country.

After being flown to the Jordanian capital, Amman, he will be transferred to a regional flight that will take him on to either Baghdad or the northern Kurdish city of Irbil, from which he fled in 2000.

Yousef, who studied law at Wolverhampton University, told the Guardian yesterday: "I'm terrified of going back. The Home Office does not care about anything. They say I am no longer in danger but how do they know? I have been in Britain for eight years and I was reporting [to a police station] every week."

He was speaking shortly after saying goodbye to his wife, Serwa, at a final meeting in the detention centre.

Serwa is due to give birth on July 7. They met in London and lived together in Acton after marrying in 2004. She has been given indefinite leave to remain

Message of Solidarity to the Swedish demonstrations on 10 May by Dashty Jamal



Forcibly deportation must be stopped

On behalf of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees I warmly welcome you all I would like to thank everyone who has gathered in the 8 cities of Sweden today to support the human rights of asylum seekers and refugees in Sweden. We strongly support the demands of the demonstration and we are part of your campaign.

Iraqi Refugees and asylum seekers desperately need your solidarity against policies of forcible deportation.

Everybody is aware of the agreement made between the Swedish and Iraqi Government on the 2 March in Baghdad, to open a Swedish embassy in Baghdad and small offices in Erbil.

The Swedish Government has given money to both the KRG and the Iraqi Government in return the Iraqi Government and KRG have agreed to accept forcibly returned asylum seekers from Sweden. Whilst Iraq remains one of the most dangerous countries in the world.

People do not live in security. There are many thousands of people in Iraq who have been forced to move from their homes because of sectarian violence and terrorism. The people of Iraq continue to be victims of war and the occupation.

This Agreement between the Swedish Government and Iraqi Government is trading Iraqi asylum seekers lives for financial gain for the KRG and Iraqi Government.

Shame on the Iraqi Government for making such a deal. They cannot provide the security and safety of their citizens, which has forced thousands of people to leave Iraq and yet they make such a dis-honest deal for money in exchange for the future of Iraqi refugees lives.

The people of Iraq never thought that they would be divided by such a dark fate, that one day they would be so divided under the names of Shia and Sunni fighting against each other.

America and the coalition countries started the war with Iraq to remove the dictator Saddam. They called the war in the name of bringing freedom and

democracy to Iraq instead they have brought terror and killing.

Iraqi refugees have been forced to leave Iraq by the problems that the Iraq war has caused.

The Swedish Government claims Kurdistan is safe, but this is not true the violation of human rights is ongoing many women are killed on a daily basis. Campaigners from women's rights and human rights organisations are threatened from the Kurdish authorities. Recent reports from the US State Department, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International show that people are tortured in prisons in Kurdistan.

The Moderate Government in Sweden has cut off support to the Iraqi asylum seekers in order to put pressure on them and make their lives so difficult that they have no choice but to return to Iraq despite the danger. Many of you will remember Mewan Omer committed suicide last year in Gottenburg rather than be deported back to Iraq.

By this policy the Moderate Government is putting Sweden on the list of Countries that break Geneva Convention and European Human Rights charter on the treatment of refugees. We need to work together to stop this inhuman policy of deportation.

I ask all Human and Refugee rights campaigners and labour and Trade Union activists progressive people in Sweden to stand together to stop this policy against Iraqi, Iranian, Afghani asylum seekers in Sweden.

With your help and the help of Human and Refugee rights campaigners labour movement and trade union activists we can put an end to these policies against refugees. IFIR has always been in the forefront campaigning against discrimination, racism detention and asylum policy.

This demonstration today could be a first step to set up a coalition against forcible deportation of Iraqi, Iranian, Afghani and Somali asylum seekers. In the immediate future it is important that we put pressure on the UN, European Union and the Swedish Government to offer asylum to people from unsafe countries.

Together we are stronger, we will continue to campaign against the anti-asylum policies of the Swedish Government. We Demand that the Swedish Government immediately

stop the policy of forcible deportation.

Grant protection to Iraqi, Iranian, Afghani asylum seekers and recognise them as Refugees.

Immediately release for all asylum seekers held in detention

To Human rights Campaigners, Trade Unions and Refugee Organisations,
International Federation of Iraqi Refugees-IFIR needs your help and support in order to continue our activities and campaigns to stop forced deportation to Iraq we are appealing for your help.
 Please write cheques to
 Coalition to stop Deportations to Iraq
 Our Postal Address is:
PO BOX 1575, ILFORD, IG13BZ, LONDON, UK.

Report from Ukrainian Social Forum

The first Ukrainian social Forum called by a coalition of Ukrainian Independent Trade Unions and left wing groups was held on the 1 and 2 May 2008. Speakers at the forum included Ukrainian trade union leaders, anti fascist organisers and special guest Dashty Jamal an refugee rights campaigner.

The Forum started by holding an independent demonstration and march from Kriesthatyk at 11am to the statue of Ivan Franko (a leading radical socialist nineteenth century socialist) to counter the State Stalinist influenced Trade Union March. The Independent demonstration lead by the Ukraine Social Forum leaders was made up of approximately 100 independent campaigners from Ukrainian anarchist organisations most notably atifa a leading anti fascist group in the Ukraine and leaders of the Independent Trade Unions. The demonstration marched past Kiev's Town Hall and briefly stopped to protest against the policies of privatisation. From The Town Hall the demonstration marched to a small park and the statue of Ivan Franco. Olug Vernik the leader of the Independent Trade Union the leader in Kiev spoke followed by Dashty Jamal. Dashty sent May Day greetings and offered solidarity from the Iraqi working movement to the Ukrainian Social Forum, he spoke of the importance of making links between Iraqi and Ukrainian workers.

The Ukrainian Social Forum opened at 2pm on the 1 May following the march through Kiev. The Forum was opened by Vitaly one of the key organisers of the Forum. Dashty spoke at the opening plenary and at two of the workshops. The First session discussing the role of Trade Unions was opened by Ivan Franko leader of the Independent Ukrainian Trade Union. Ivan spoke of the difficulties of organising and recruiting Ukrainian workers to a trade union. With taxes running so high in the Ukraine many workers are left the ridiculous position of owing the state money if they declare their earnings. To avoid this many Ukrainians are forced to work in lowly paid insecure jobs to avoid declaring their income to the state. Ukrainian workers therefore fear joining trade unions calling for better wages and better working conditions for fear of being replaced and facing unemployment. Dashty Jamal followed Ivan, Dashty spoke of the political problems facing Trade Unions and socialists in Iraq and the achievements against adversary of his Trade Union the FWCUI. The final session of the day addressed gender and womens rights in the Ukraine.

The second day of the Conference on the 2nd of May was opened by a leading Antifa activist (Antifa is a leading anti fascist campaign group in the Ukraine). The speaker spoke of the necessity for Antifa activists to cover their faces on demonstrations and public events for fear of being targeted by far right organisations. The speaker reported that 6 Antifa activists had been killed over the last year. It was

impossible for Antifa activists to go to international conferences for this reason. Dashty Jamal followed the Antifa activist, Dashty stated that Iraqi Refugees experienced racism across Europe from individuals and from leading European countries such as the UK, Germany and Sweden, these countries had persecuted Iraqi asylum seekers denying them support and not allowing them to work. In an attempt to make Iraqi asylum seekers lives so difficult they have no option to return to Iraq despite the dangers. The UK and Germany have forcibly returned Iraqi asylum seekers who have refused to return voluntarily. Ukrainian Social Forum

Dashty presented two resolutions to the forum supporting Iraqi refugees both of which were passed. The forum organisers agreed to send the resolutions to the European Parliament and the KRG.

Editor: Dashty Jamal : 1 June 2008

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