

IRAQ REVIEW

ISSUED BY THE ISLAMIC DAAWA PARTY - INFORMATION BUREAU

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ONE YEAR AFTER THE START OF THE WAR THE BLOOD LETTING CONTINUES IN IRAQ

The World's Duty

It is clear to all that the Saddam regime is illegitimate and does not have the support of the Iraqi people. As proof of this, the regime came into power through a military coup and relied on using an immense and brutal intelligence network to suppress the Iraqi people's opposition to it.

The Saddam regime also devastated Iraq in every aspect by dragging it through two wars in the last ten years.

The Saddam regime is discredited in the eyes of other governments and the Iraqi people. The uprising is the latest show of how hated the regime is.

The world has a duty to support those who have struggled for years against the brutal Saddam regime. The Iraqi opposition groups, despite the variety of ideologies, have realised that their strength is in unity and have formed strong bonds in order to form a united strategy against Saddam and to rid the Iraqi people of this tyrant who has caused them unimaginable suffering.

The Iraqi opposition has a strong sense of duty and responsibility towards its people. It is time for the world to show its commitment to the Iraqi opposition who represent all sectors of the Iraqi society. It is time for the world governments to withdraw political recognition of the Saddam regime and give all the political and economic support to the Iraqi opposition.

This broad Iraqi opposition front is the only means of unseating Saddam and will become even more effective with international support and recognition.

It will also pave the way for multi-party free and fair elections in Iraq after Saddam has been forced out

Eversince the abortive uprising of the Iraqi people against Saddam, we have seen the predictable and savage reaction of the Saddam regime against the Iraqi people. The regime used all the military power at its disposal to crush the uprising in the Northern Kurdish areas and in the south of the country. We witnessed the destroyed Kurdish villages and the exodus of tens of thousands of Kurds fleeing to the mountainous areas for safety. We also saw signs of unimaginable devastation in the large cities of the south of Iraq, such as the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala which were subjected to barbaric bombardment by heavy artillery, missiles and helicopter gunships. Following this, when the regime re-imposed its rule, a brutal and ruthless purge was carried out where tens of thousands of people who were suspected of participating in the uprising were executed and buried in mass graves.

The world conscience was immediately stirred into actions and the U.N adopted resolutions which aimed to safeguard the rights of civilians in Iraq.

The U.N sent guards to northern Kurdish area to monitor any human rights violations as well as setting up a safe haven and supplying the basic needs of the Kurdish population.

The world response to the tragedies of the Iraqi people in the south of Iraq, however was insignificant. It is a fact that the blood letting continues in the south of Iraq. Many people are being rounded up and executed daily. The population lives in fear and terror.

What we the Iraqi opposition are demanding is that a U.N Committee be formed especially in order to implement resolution 688, dealing with safeguarding the Iraqi civilian population from the barbarism of Saddam.

To aid this a safe-haven should be established in the south to enable people who are opposed to Saddam to live there and to organise opposition to him

NEWS

Hardships of the Iraqi Refugees

The official spokesman for the red cross which is responsible for the welfare of thirty thousand Iraqi refugees living in camps in Saudi Arabia, has confirmed that they are living in appalling conditions. The refugees, mostly from the middle and south of Iraq, fled during the uprising and as a result of the extreme hardship of their conditions, many have been forced to return to Iraq, thus risking death at the hand of the Saddam regime.

In another development, an Iranian Ministry of Interior official has stated that the Iraqis who have taken refuge in Iran, as a result of the uprising must return to Iraq

IRAQI OPPOSITION GATHERING

The largest gathering of Iraqi political parties opposed to the Saddam regime is taking place in the Syrian Capital Damascus. A preliminary committee of 25 members has been formed, called the Preparatory Committee, which represents all the political parties and important personalities among the Iraqi opposition.

In addition eight sub-committees have been formed responsible for carrying out a variety of functions such as preparing for a large Iraqi opposition conference, a publicity committee, a finance committee, a relations committee and other such committees

Iraqi Ambassador to Holland seeks political asylum

The Iraqi Ambassador to Holland Mr. Safa AL-Falaki, has sought political asylum in that country in protest at the crimes of the Saddam regime and the severe oppression it has imposed on the Iraqi people. Mr. AL-Falaki hoped for the speedy downfall of the brutal regime and the freedom of the Iraqi people.

It is worth noting that there have been two other similar occurrences, namely when the Iraqi Ambassadors to Spain and United States sought asylum.

A massive military offensive by Saddam threatens the south of Iraq

The latest reports from inside Iraq speak of a large military build up of Republican Guards and other army units loyal to Saddam, in the areas and cities of southern Iraq, ready for a heavy artillery onslaught once the order is given. Indeed some reports already speak of artillery fire and the use of helicopter gunships by Saddam on some of the areas of the south, forcing families to flee these areas for fear of their lives.

It has become clear that since the ruthless crushing of the popular uprising by Saddam, he wants to ensure that such an uprising can not take place

again. Saddam's strategy is to effect fundamental demographic changes in the south of Iraq. This includes driving out the indigenous population.

While the rest of the world has seemed less concerned about the plight of the tragic human rights situation in Iraq, Saddam has had the perfect opportunity in which to put this ruthless and genocidal plan into effect.

It is thus, incumbent on all world human rights and political organisations to act in order to stop Saddam's plans from succeeding and to avert yet another disaster from occurring on our people in Iraq

The Principles of Political Activity of the Islamic Dawa Party

Political analyst may have several queries concerning the political activity of the Islamic movement in Iraq. Some of the main questions that are raised are as follows:

How can the Islamic movement build political relationships with the secular Iraqi opposition movements with whom it does not share the same aim, that being an Islamic society? If it does form successful political relationships with such political opposition movements does this mean that the Islamic movement in Iraq has compromised its Islamic principles? Does the Islamic movement in Iraq intend to keep its promise which it has so often repeated, namely that it would like the nature of any future Iraqi government to be decided by the Iraqi people through free and fair elections or will it impose a regime on the Iraqi people if it gets the opportunity.

All the above questions that have been raised requires that the Islamic movement in Iraq gives clear and precise answers so that its position would be clear in the minds of the Iraqi masses and so that its agenda can also be clear in the minds of all sections of the Iraqi opposition. This would serve to remove all doubt about the agenda and conviction of the Islamic movement in Iraq.

But first it is vital to emphasis that the present phase which the Iraqi people is going through is a sensitive and dangerous one. The tragedy of the Iraqi people is almost unparalleled in recent history. Death by Saddam's oppression and persecution and by starvation continues to stalk thousands of Iraqi men, women and children.

This disaster that has befallen the Iraqi people require that all Iraqis that are sincere to the people and nation should do everything possible to remove this regime from power and which is held responsible for all these tragedies that has befallen the Iraqi people. To this aim it is vital that all the energies and capabilities which is possessed by all sections of the Iraqi opposition should be

employed for the one vital aim which all sectors of the opposition are agreed upon despite their ideological differences, namely the overthrow of the Saddam regime and freeing the will of the Iraqi people.

The Islamic movement, since its opposition to Saddam's regime flared up into open conflict towards the end of the seventies, stressed on the Iraqi people and the different sections the opposition, the importance of joint action to oppose the regime and invited all sincere Iraqis to work towards this aim. However, the main obstacle to achieving this aim was the attitudes of neighboring governments to the Saddam regime. These obstacles resulted in several missed opportunities when the Iraqi people and opposition could have achieved their aim of toppling the Saddam regime. These obstacles continued right up until Aug.1991 when the saddam regime invaded Kuwait. Only then did the attitudes of these government change towards the Iraqi opposition thus allowing greater opportunity and freedom of political movement.

To put the historical and political record straight it should be mentioned that the political endeavours of the Islamic Dawa party in aiming to achieved a united opposition, started a significant time before the invasion of Kuwait, and culminated in the signing of the Joint Action Committee at the end of 1991. Thus, the Islamic Dawa party has a genuine and firm conviction in the importance of unity of the Iraqi opposition, and is laid down as one of its principles, as a result of the its true understanding of the Iraqi political arena and of the external forces and factors which influence this. This conviction is not a reaction to what has recently happened neither it is a temporary tactical move resulting from a short sighted out -look

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Aims versus Achievements

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Armed with this conviction, the Islamic Dawa Party sees no contradiction whatsoever when it calls for the unity of the Iraqi opposition to the Saddam regime. Neither does the Islamic movement intend to mislead any sector of the Iraqi opposition and people.

The Islamic Dawa Party and the Islamic movement as a whole aims to embody the Islamic ideology into a political system. However it has fully realised that the best way to achieve this is through the free choice of the Iraqi people and never through the use of force or imposing a political regime. In this respect the Islamic movement does not differ from any other political movements namely that it lays down its social, cultural and political programme and invites or lobbies the people to accept it. There can be no question of compulsion or imposing any system on the nation. The Iraqi nation has the sole right to choose the political system which can provide it with a free and dignified life.

The Iraqi people have had wide experience of political systems since the creation of the Iraqi state and the are well capable of choosing the system the see as fit for them

One year after the start of the Gulf war

The American Administration's stated aim in starting the Gulf war was to liberate Kuwait, however it was seen that the majority of attacks were aimed at Iraqi territory including bombing of economic and some civilian targets.

The Bush administration also reassured the Iraqis that the war was not against them, but against the Saddam regime, however we see that it was the Iraqi people who were left with a ruined country, economically and socially, but that Saddam and his ruling clique were hardly targeted or affected.

When Bush called for the overthrow of Saddam, thus encouraging the uprising against him in March 1991, he turned his back on the Iraqi people and allowed Saddam freedom to use his Republican Guards with their heavy weaponry and helicopter gunships to crush the uprising in the north and south of the country, in a brutal way unparalleled in history, resulting in the deaths of about quarter of a million Iraqis

When sanctions were imposed on Iraq in order to weaken the regime, it was the Iraqi people that suffered and are continuing to suffer, meanwhile Saddam and his regime have hardly been affected and Saddam is using the suffering of the Iraqi people as tool to lift sanctions. The Bush administration also saluted those Iraqis who opposed the regime both inside and outside the country, but did not give adequate recognition or political support to the Iraqi opposition.

The Bush administration claims to have won the war, by the destruction of Iraq's nuclear, biological and chemical capabilities as well as liberating Kuwait. Saddam also claims to have won the war due to the fact that he remains in power. The real losers in this war have been the Iraqi people, who have seen the complete destruction of their country by the allies and devastating repression and mass murder by Saddam who continues to carry out his brutal policies of repression and death

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