

# IRAQ REVIEW

ISSUED BY THE ISLAMIC DAAWA PARTY - INFORMATION BUREAU

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## Saddam and the argument for a war trial

### OUR VIEW

*Saddam has always been a gangster and has been labelled by most Iraqis and some western press as the Alcopone of the middle east.*

*As the level of oppression increased in Iraq when Saddam took over power, he was referred to as the Butcher of Baghdad. Finally as the mass executions of political opponents started to take place in the late seventies and early eighties, the Islamic movement labelled him the New Hitler.*

*We believe that Saddam is worse than Hitler and we think that he should be tried for his crimes against the Iraqi people, and the countries in the area. The reasons for this are clear and obvious and include the following:*

*1. Saddam has caused the death of so many people from all walks of life, starting with his own people. He ordered the execution of thousands of Iraqis from all sections of the opposition. He invented new methods of torture, beginning in the early seventies with the use of the infamous prison called the palace of the end in which he used sulfuric acid, electric shocks, gouging out of the eyes, thallium poisoning and sexual abuse and rape. Added to this is the disappearance of tens of thousands of Iraqis and the deportation of 1/4 million Iraqi's in 1980 with the excuse that they are of "Iranian origin", their properties having been confiscated first.*

*Saddam has also ordered the execution and assassination of other arabs that dared to speak against him. These include Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinians and notable examples include Saeed Hamami and Izideen Kalak, both of whom were assassinated by Saddam's agents in 1978.*

*2. The war with Iran which Saddam started following the abrogation of the Algiers agreement which he personally signed in 1975. This war caused the death of more than a million people from both countries and the devastation of the economy of the warring countries.*

*3. The invasion of Kuwait followed by the pillage carried out by Saddam's mercenaries which shocked the international community.*

*4. The destruction and setting on fire of hundreds of oil wells.*

*5. The use of internationally banned chemical weapons. These weapons were first used in large scale against Iran in 1984. Saddam then used them against his own people in Halabcha in 1988 against the Kurds and in the marshlands of southern Iraq against Iraqi army deserters and resistance fighters.*

*6. The systematic abuse of the law and judiciary system and using the "Revolutionary Courts" to pass verdict on detainees who were political opponents. In fact, there are thought to be over 100,000 prisoners who have not committed any crimes but have been imprisoned for their political views.*

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In conclusion, bringing Saddam to trial is a test case for the international community and international law. A

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- 4 JUL 1991

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# THE UNJUST REPARATIONS

The general secretary of the U.N., Peres Du Cuellar suggested to the security council that Iraq should pay 30% of its oil revenues as reparations to Kuwait as well as the parties involved in Kuwait's liberation in the meantime, the United States and Kuwait objected to this, saying that 50% of Iraq's oil revenues should be given for this purpose.

The Saddam regime on the other hand did not comment much on the above suggestions other than to say, through its ambassador at the U.N. that Iraq is obliged to follow whatever is imposed by the U.N. security council.

But before such a percentage reparations are determined one should carefully consider the implications of this on the innocent Iraqi people both economically, socially and politically. Such a move will no doubt render the Iraqi people economically deprived for decades as a result of a crime that they played no part in but which was committed by Saddam and his clique. Thus the Iraqi people would be made to pay for a crime that they did not commit and disease and hunger would be the order of the day in Iraqi society.

It is Saddam and Saddam alone who should take the blame for the invasion of Kuwait and if anyone is to receive reparations, it should be the innocent Iraqi people for putting up with Saddam's crimes for over twenty years, for having the whole infrastructure of Iraqi society destroyed by the Allied bombing campaign and

finally for having the remainder of this infrastructure destroyed by Saddam in putting down the popular uprising that recently swept through Iraq. The world community thus overlooked the fact that the principal victim of the invasion of Kuwait is the Iraqi people and as such a fund should be set up to provide the Iraqi people with electricity, and sufficient food, the lack of which is causing death in Iraq daily. If it is said that the remaining percentage of the oil revenues is sufficient to meet Iraq's needs, we all know that with Saddam in power, the Iraqi people will see very little of these revenues. Instead these revenues will be used for three things. Firstly to strengthen Saddam's Security and secret services (Mukhabarat) who have been propping him up. Secondly on Saddam's media in an attempt to brainwash the Iraqi people and to try to fool the world and arab community. Thirdly Saddam receives the remainder for his personal and his family's use so that he may continue to live the life of a king.

In conclusion, what is required is firstly for the world community to try to erase the deprivation that the Iraqi people are going through and secondly the world community must support the Iraqi people in removing Saddam from power as he is the root cause of all these problems as well as a continuing source of instability and in security in the region.

Cont. From "Saddam ...."

man who has committed so many crimes both internally and external of Iraq cannot be allowed to get away without facing trial. We were very encouraged when about a month ago, the European community raised this very issue of trying Saddam as a war criminal, but this issue seems to either have been dropped or put on hold for some obscure reason. Saddam must be tried as a war criminal so that the world community of nations can set an example to the other despots of the world which would prevent crimes on such a massive scale from taking place again.

Cont. From "Our View"

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