

# IRAQ REVIEW

ISSUED BY THE INFORMATION BUREAU OF THE ISLAMIC DAAWA PARTY

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## MASS POPULAR UPRISING ERUPTS THROUGHOUT IRAQ

### OUR VIEW

The joint programme which was signed by all groups and parties of the Iraqi opposition last December led to the formation of the Iraqi National Joint Action Committee. This committee has agreed that a provisional government should be formed, the main aim of which is to prepare the country for free and fair elections in a plural political atmosphere of relative stability.

We would like to reassure the regional and international community that we will not harbour any ill feelings towards any body or state and that our bitter animosity is only directed towards Saddam and his criminal regime. There is thus no justification for the fear expressed by some governments for a so-called "Fundamentalist" takeover, particularly since the uprising was spontaneous and popular and expresses the will of a nation that has for two decades been subjected to the most severe oppression.

Further, the uprising was not influenced or inspired by any external force or neighbouring countries and is in line with the new world order that the government of the East and West should extend the hand of friendship and co-operation to the people of Iraq in their march for freedom rather than to a dictator like Saddam Hussein.

We expect the United Nations and the world community to take upon themselves the responsibility incumbent upon them and adopt a clear stance against any attempt by Saddam to use weapons of mass destruction against the people of the uprising, especially since we have received reports recently that indicate the use of chemical weapons against the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala.

We also expect the United Nations and the world community to condemn in the strongest terms and call for an immediate halt to the massacres that Saddam is carrying out on the Iraqi people. Humanitarian aid must be arranged immediately by the relief organizations for the large number of cities and towns involved in the uprising otherwise many more thousands of innocent civilians will die of starvation and epidemics. We also expect fairer and more objective coverage by the news media to the events now taking place in Iraq instead of an unusual silence to a story that is at least if not more important to the Gulf war which ended shortly.

On Friday March 1st 1991 a soldier aimed his tank turret at a large portrait of Saddam Hussein in Iraq's second city, Basra and opened fire.

That was the spark that ignited the mass uprising now taking place in Iraq. After that incident the people of the city, joined by defecting army units marched on and stormed Ba'ath party buildings and police headquarters until they had taken control of the major part of the city. Since then, the popular uprising has been spreading to all towns, cities and villages across Iraq.

Latest reports speak of over 24 cities and towns having been liberated and in the other areas there are fierce protests going on against the Saddam regime in an attempt by the people of the uprising to gain control. It is worth noting that Iraq has not witnessed such upheaval since 1920.

The revolt that began was a consequence of the bloody reign of Saddam's years in power during which all forms of oppression were inflicted on the Iraqi people. This terror upon the Iraqi people culminated with the recent Gulf war, which the people never believed in and used to call "Saddam's War". The war resulted in the death and injury of about 200,000 people of the military and civilian population.

Added to this was the destruction of Iraq's basic infrastructure which, when it reached its climax, resulted in the eruption of the events which now comprise the popular uprising. However, a new tragedy has befallen the Iraqi people, namely the slaughter of the people of the uprising by Saddam's ruthless Republican Guards. Our latest information indicates that since the start of the uprising, up to 30,000 people may have been killed or injured.

As for the character of the uprising, it is evident that the uprising started spontaneously within the southern cities of Iraq and without any outside influence. The uprising encompasses all strata and sections of Iraqi society, Arabs, Kurds, Sunni and Shia Muslims as well as other minorities. Geographically, the uprising involves the cities of the north, middle and southern Iraq.

It is obvious that the succeeding government that will rule Iraq will be representative of the people and will therefore be a very stable and popular government. This is particularly since all the opposition parties including ourselves and groupings are united in the belief that the formation of a new government in Iraq should only come about after free and fair elections have been held. Thus it is in the interest of the international community to give moral, political and material support to the uprising in Iraq, especially since that removal of Saddam means eliminating one of the main pillars of instability in the region. There is thus no justification for the fear expressed by some western governments from a future popular government in Iraq, bearing in mind that the leaders of the uprising are very responsible people who believe in the principles of free and fair elections to determine any future government.

CENTRE FOR ARAB GULF STUDIES

# UPRISING - Update

## Friday 8 March 1991.

\* The latest news has confirmed that an army force of 40 Tanks had attacked Basra city where hundreds of people were demonstrating against Saddam's rule. Fierce fighting continued from Thursday evening to Friday afternoon, the forces of the uprising gained control over Basra city, and captured 30 Tanks and 200 Soldiers had sided with the opposition.

\* Demonstrations are spreading across the country in cities like Mosul and Ramadi where street fighting is spreading from one area to another.

\* Vast areas in the north of the country are partly liberated, including areas inside Arbeel and Karkuk.

\* Amara city is believed to be in the hands of the people. The army is surrounding the city and it is cut off from the rest of the country.

\* In the capital Baghdad areas such as Kademia, Thawra and Shuala are witnessing mass demonstrations against Saddam's regime. The army is trying to control these areas. Massacres are believed to have been committed against the masses.

\* The Iraqi people appeal to the U.N. for food and medical help.

The Allied forces near Nasseria are particularly addressed for being responsible for the safety of the people as the southern areas are under their control.

## Saturday 9th March 1991

\* Officers from the Iraqi air force. one of them being a Brigadier General and the other a captain, have defected to the forces of the uprising and surrendered all their combat airplanes in the city of Nassiria. These consist of 16 helicopter gunships that were present on the tarmac.

\* The members of the uprising were able to repair and put into service the main radio station in Basra and this is now broadcasting on the air and under the control of the resistance.

\* The Iraqi tribes played leading role in the continuation of the uprising. The tribe of Abu-Hamaydan was able to drive out what was left of the Iraqi army.

## Sunday 10th March 1991.

\* In spite of the heavy artillery bombardment, the holy cities of Karbala and Najaf are still resisting.

\* Sulaymaniah, Kosanjaq, Jamjamal, Shaqlawa, Darbandikhan and Tozkhormato are still in the hand of the people.

\* The Iraqi Ambassador to Spain, Mr. Arshad Tawfik Ismael has sought political asylum from the Spanish authorities, the Spokesman for the Spanish Interior Ministry revealed.

## Wednesday 13th March 1991

People coming from liberated areas of Iraq reveal the following:-

1- The holy city of Najaf is completely under the control of the resistance and the people of the uprising.

2- The city, of Karbala is also under the control of the resistance despite the fact that it has been subjected to intensive bombardment from the Saddam forces. There are isolated units of Saddam's forces in the outskirts of the city where armed confrontations are continuing but these forces are being dealt with.

3- The people of the uprising and the resistance are in control of most of the province of Al-Hilla. As for the city of Al-Hilla, it has been subjected to a vicious attack by the Saddam forces and fighting is still continuing.

4- The town of Diwania is completely liberated by the people of the uprising and the same applies to the town of Samawah.

5- The resistance and the people of the uprising are still besieging units of the Republican Guards in the centre of the city of Basra. At the same time officers of Saddam regime gave the order to use Napalm bombs on civilian areas of Basra.

6- The people of the uprising are full control of all police stations and security service headquarters and offices of the Baath Party in the city of Al-Thawra in Baghdad.

7- The uprising is spreading from the South towards Baghdad. It has spread to the following areas that surround Baghdad:- Sadat Al-Hindia, Al-Msayeb, Al-Iskandaria and Al-Mahmoudia. Also included is the area of Al-Yousfia, which is only 20km south of Baghdad and the people of the uprising were able to gain complete control of the areas.

8- The people of the uprising and the resistance forces are still in full control of the city of Nassirya.

9- The resistance and the people of the uprising are now in full control of the city of Kirkuk in the north of Iraq after several fierce armed confrontations took place with Saddam's forces.

10- Large units from the Iraqi army continue to join the uprising along with their weaponry both in the north, middle and southern Iraq.

11- The city of Numania in the province of Al-Kut is witnessing a great uprising by the people which has led to the Saddam regime sending helicopter gunships to bombard the city. The resistance fought back shot down three of them.

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THE ISLAMIC DAAWA PARTY  
P.O.Box 2068, London, NW6 5TZ