

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

FORWARD



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A Monthly Political Paper of the Worker-communist Party of Iraq

www.wpiraq.net/english

Why Forward??

Toma Hamid

A SHORT MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The online bulletin Forward appeared regularly from early 2004 to January 2006. Its cessation was an unfortunate interruption to the flow of news... about the labour and progressive movements and the Worker-communist Party of Iraq... to the world. Another of Forward's roles was to help make the policies, positions and views of the WPIraq clearer to English-speaking peoples.

The current situation in Iraq and worldwide necessitates that the WPIraq, as an active and lively Worker-communist force, in a part of the world that is both turbulent and significant in terms of the class struggle, has a newspaper in English. Therefore we have decided to re-launch Forward.

Forward is only available on line.

It will be published each month from December 2010 as the official English language organ of the Worker-communist Party of Iraq.

Our reasons for publishing Forward remain the same... to convey news of the workers' movement, the women's movement, the socialist movement and the activity of our party in Iraq... to the world. Forward will also spread news of the main events in Iraqi Kurdistan and Iran and explain the activities of the Worker-communist party of Kurdistan and the Worker-communist Party of Iran-Hekmatist to the world.

In addition Forward will comment on key developments in the labour and socialist movements worldwide. We will offer our analyses of situations as they arise as well as endeavouring to strengthen the Worker-communist movement worldwide on theoretical and political questions.

Forward will contain a mixture of news reports, opinion pieces and interviews with leaders and activists in the Worker-communist Movement. We will publish the writings of Mansoor Hekmat and Koorish Moodersi and the main statements and resolutions of the WPIraq. We will run interviews with activists in labour and socialist movements around the world as well.

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Interview with Nicolas Dessaux On the Recent Workers' Protests in France

Nicolas Dessaux has been active since 2003 organising "Solidarité Irak", a French association in support of the workers' and women's movements in Iraq. Nico has translated hundreds of pages of material, including some major texts from Mansoor Hekmat and published a book of interviews with WCPI comrades, in French, Greek and Turkish. He's a member of Worker-communist Initiative, a group of Worker-communist activists in French-speaking Europe.

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On the Assassination of Sardasht Othman: is this part of turning Kurdistan into another Dubai?

By Toma Hamid and Jabar Mohammad

On 6 May 2010, the body of Sardasht Othman was found in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. He was kidnapped two days prior in front of the main gate of Salahadein University in the city of Erbil before the eyes of his colleagues by armed men riding in a new car with dark glass windows. Sardasht Othman was a university student and freelance journalist. He had played an important role in the protests carried out in Salahadein University against corruption and wrote several articles criticising the authorities and top officials, including the Barazani Family. Prior to his assassination Sardasht had received a number of threats relating to both his activism and his reporting from people linked to the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP). —————> to P5

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- Residents of al-Salihya compound in Baghdad fight eviction orders
- Unemployed people in Basra accuse the religious parties in power of monopolising job opportunities
- Back in May workers at Baghdad's General Electricity Company demonstrated for union rights
- In August electricity workers in Samaraa demonstrated on the same issue

Long live freedom, equality and worker state!

Back in May workers at Baghdad's General Electricity Company demonstrated for union rights

The Union of Workers and Technicians in the General Electricity Company along with many unions active in the electricity sector organized a demonstration in Baghdad in May 2010. The demonstration which was attended by over 1000 workers marched from Alfardoz square in Baghdad to Kahramana Square and back to Alfardoz square. The workers chanted slogans against the government's decision to ban unions in the electricity sector. They also blamed the Minister for Electricity Hussein al-Shahrastani for the decline in the ministry's performance, especially as it had failed to ensure a satisfactory supply of electricity despite spending billions on the sector.

In their speeches to the demonstrators, the leaders of the Electricity Union and other unions and representatives of political parties highlighted the oppression of the union movement in Iraq. A number of the media who attended broadcast interviews with these leaders.

Unemployed people in Basra accuse the religious parties in power of monopolising job opportunities

Many residents of Basra have accused the ruling parties of controlling the appointment of people to posts in the public sector and showing favouritism to their members and supporters. On a live show on radio Dijla, many unemployed people said that their political independence and refusal to join the ruling religious parties was the reason they remain without jobs.

This situation is not unique to Basra: it's a trend that has emerged in other parts of Iraq as well. Favouritism is a tactic used by parties with a religious base as a weapon of control. It shows their fear of non-aligned citizens. It also provides a cover behind which these groups can steal Iraq's wealth via their members, once they are appointed managers of organisations and officers in military and security institutions.

In August electricity workers in Samaraa demonstrated on the same issue

The Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq-Salahadein organized a demonstration in the city of Samaraa on 5th August 2010. The demonstrators condemned the decision by the electricity minister, Hussein al-Shahrastani to ban unions in the public sector. They also wanted all laws against the right to organize to be repealed. Scores of workers participate in this demonstration.

Vendors and street stall owners in the city of Dewanyia fight back

Vendor and street stalls' owners in a busy part of Dewanyia are continuing their protest against the local government which has seized land they have utilised for years. The authorities in Dewanyia recently bulldozed the stalls and removed the vendors.

Scores of vendors and stalls' owners gathered in front of the Council offices on 14th October 2010. The authorities closed all the streets leading to the site of the demonstration and riot police were heavily deployed to the area. The demonstrators asked the government to let them go about their business or find them jobs as they have lost their main source of livelihood.

Hamza Jiad Kathim, one of the protesters, said 'we have proposed to the authority a specific area in the city which can accommodate 1500 kiosks to be rented to us. We said we would contribute 1 billion Iraqi dinar to build the kiosk and asked the government to pay the rest. However, despite a lot of red tape and initial approval by the regional governor, the proposal was turned down and our stalls were destroyed. We have been ordered to relocate to areas which are away from the centre and do not serve the owners or the public. Moreover, now the fruit market is in one place, the meat market is somewhere else and fish market is in a third place. This makes it very difficult and expensive for citizens to shop for everything they want as it involves a lot of travelling.

The protesters promised to continue their fight.

Residents of al-Salihya compound in Baghdad fight eviction orders

The families residing in al-Salihya compound, which is public property, organized a peaceful sit-in in the office of the Lawyers' Union to protest against an order of eviction issued by the al-Maliki government. A source from the Lawyers' Union said his organisation sympathizes with the plight of the families who face homelessness and an uncertain future for their children. The Lawyers' Union asked the government to take another look at its eviction order against these families because it contradicts article 127 of the constitution drafted under the occupation: a law which al-Maliki government is obliged to comply with.

The source also asked that an independent committee examine how this decision is to be carried out (if it ends up being implemented). The source added that the Lawyers' Union will lodge a case against the government before the "High Federal Court" to defend these families and their rights.

It is believed the plan is to give the al-Salihya compound to government officials once the families have been evicted.

A spokesperson for the Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq said it is clear that the residents of al-Salihya compound cannot expect to get what they want by asking for mercy from the al-Maliki government. He said this is a government that has launched war against workers and toilers in Iraq at all levels and has given its officials a free hand to steal the wealth of the society.

Long live Working class!

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Interview with
Nicolas Dessaux

Q: Millions of workers have participated in protests which have been going on for weeks in France, mainly against an attempt by Sarkozy's right wing government to raise the legal pension age from 60 to 62. What is the background to this struggle? Is it this one measure by the government that has caused so much anger? Or is the pension age issue part of a wider attack on the gains of the working class? Are workers raising any other demands?

Nico: Up to 3.5 million workers demonstrated on one day in France. Demonstrations were organised in every city, including small towns which have not been active for decades. It all started two years ago with a demonstration every six weeks. But in September this year the movement accelerated, with strikes in many branches of industry and across many different types of enterprise. Right now the strike movement has slowed down. But there is another demonstration day due to take place soon. And the campaign of road blockades organised by local unions and/or general assemblies – to inflict economic damage on the capitalist class – is still happening.

The move to raise the retirement age is part of a wider plan to attack every right won by the working class over the past few decades. This plan was agreed to at European Union level and applies to every country in the EU, but implementation has been left to each government to work out. Sarkozy decided to confront the working class head on with a program of so-called "reforms", among which retirement is only one aspect, but a very sensitive one for

workers. The policy itself was announced two years ago and since this time union leaders have been negotiating with the government. When it was clear that negotiations were going nowhere Sarkozy decided to have the law rushed through parliament. That's why the movement suddenly grew... from demonstrations, to strikes, to road blockades and other forms of direct action.

Officially, the leaders of every union except two more or less went along with Sarkozy's plan to raise the pension age. They did not demand it be rejected. Instead, these unions opted for the slogan "a just and fair reform". But amongst workers themselves, the demand for Sarkozy's plan to be scrapped spread very naturally. Workers don't take to manoeuvres like this. They are clear about what they want: no-one over 60 should be made to work.

Q: Which trade unions and parties led, participated in and/or supported these protests?

N: The "intersyndicale", a panel of the seven unions (Solidaires, CGT, FO, CFDT, UNSA, CFTC, CGC) is playing a key role in the protest leadership: both in calling for national days of demonstrations and in organising them at the local level. But their local practices and level of radicalism varies from town to town, enterprise to enterprise. The current union landscape in France is very complicated and fragmentary. To grasp what is going on it is necessary to understand as much about local history as national policy.

Traditionally the workers' movement in France is led by unions and supported by political parties. For example, during demonstrations the march order is always unions first, then parties and associations. But every left party claims to support this move-

ment, at least for electoral reasons. For example, the Socialist Party is always represented on demonstrations, but their leaders have the same views on retirement as the government.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, a likely presidential candidate for the Socialist Party, is the President of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Yet the law being opposed on these demonstrations is the IMF's retirement policy!

Young people have also played a major part of the movement. From the first days of the strikes they came out from schools and universities and demonstrated, blockaded some schools and universities and fought with the police. They are angry about this law because they know that if mature aged people have to work until they are 62, unemployment amongst the young will be higher. Currently students are on holidays, but some are still very involved along with the workers. It will be interesting to see if student activism builds again after the holidays are over. It is significant that these young people are acting as a part of the working-class, demonstrating in support of workers' issues, not just improvements to the education system as they have done in recent years. This is a sign of change.

Q: Tell us about some of the forms of protest adopted by workers?

N: The basic form is the demonstration. Generally workers demonstrate behind the banner of their union, or the union they favour if they're not a member. As the movement grew individuals came out with their own banners, but this social movement was largely dominated by unions. Demonstrations involve large number of workers. On demonstration days there is also a call to strike. This means that while the demonstrations have been large the actual

action is much larger when you take into account all of those on strike, not all of whom attend the demos.

Ongoing strikes i.e. strikes lasting longer than the demonstration days, have been called in many sectors: oil refineries, port, rail, some chemical, metallurgy and other industrial enterprises, teachers, municipal workers etc. with varying success. Some of these strikes went for over a month and put the country under a partial fuel shortage, forcing the Sarkozy government to use cops to take over the refineries and get fuel to petrol stations. For now, refinery and port workers have ended their strikes, which is a bad thing for the movement as they were considered the most powerful pole. But it won't stop the movement.

In most sectors, the percentage of strikers was low, due partly to the burden of wage cuts. So activists searched for other ways to inflict economic damages on the bourgeoisie. Road blockades, a tactic imported from Argentina and first used in France in 2003 is widely used. This is how it works: a group of 100 to 150 workers go to the middle of the road in a major economic centre and stop or slow all cars and trucks. Because this happened every morning, in every town, it disorganized production and cost the capitalists hundreds of millions of euros. For sure, it means every morning we face the cops. The practice is to withdraw when the police become too aggressive, to avoid arrests and trials. The blockade is the most common feature of the current movement.

Train blocking is also a popular tactic: one which can be set up with the help of striking railway workers. Electricity workers have also cut the power supply to selected places for a few hours in order to inflict economic damage and to ———→ to P4

Long live freedom, equality and worker state!

Continuation of p3 enable them to speak with workers who are on standby during the blackouts.

Q: What are the main obstacles workers face in their fight against the government's attack?

N: Firstly, the question of wages, first. In France there's no tradition of wages being paid by unions, or well organised strike funds, so people lose their wages when they go on strike. This is an old debate: in most European countries wages are paid by unions during strikes. But the practice has led some unions to refuse strike action: it makes people afraid of going out for long. It has been a real problem as polls show 71 per cent of people living in France support the movement, but they do tend to "delegate" other sectors to go on strike for them. This issue of the "delegation strike" has been happening since 1995 and is a major obstacle for the working class movement. Fortunately the refinery workers gave large sums in solidarity and this success has helped to ease the problem.

The second problem is the level of police repression. The movement suffered attacks by the police from its very first days. Students have been arrested and put on trial in their hundreds, worker activists have been arrested, some demonstrations turned into riots and special police units were called in by the government to attack people. Every day police threaten road barricaders, using the latest anti-riot equipment. Currently workers in France have no means of defending themselves against a government which trains its police for urban guerrilla activities and civil war.

Q: What does the wider population feel about the government's plan and the workers' protests?

N: Day after day, the movement has become more popular. The government plan to seduce people, arguing that raising the retirement age to 62 was the only way to save pensions, failed. 71% of people support the movement. I saw this every day. For example during road blockades very few people seemed angry to be blocked (even if it meant staying put in their cars and trucks for hours) out of sympathy. More generally, most workers are angry about the Sarkozy government's policy, its attacks against workers' gains, its oppressive methods and its racism against migrants and gypsies. Retirement is one aspect of workers' anger, a spark in the situation, but not the only reason for this large movement.

Q: Is there an understanding of the importance of international support among the protest leaders, as protesting workers are deprived of their wages which may limit their ability to strike for long periods? Do the leaders of the labour movement have a clear alternative to face the current attack by the rightwing government aimed at lowering the living standards of the working class?

N: No there is not. This aspect has barely been mentioned by trade union leaders, for the reason they are themselves afraid of the way the movement has evolved. We still do not know how they succeeded in stopping the strike in the refineries and the ports, but it is clear they were afraid of the

results of the strike. The union leaders have a big problem: since WWII and, more particularly, since the "socialist" government in 1981, they have been negotiating everything with the government. The union bureaucracy receives a lot of money from the State. In fact the government has begun to rely on these people to prevent workers from being successful. But Sarkozy has more or less refused to negotiate, which puts trade unions leaders, even the most moderate, in a new situation. They had to demonstrate their ability to mobilize workers, without at the same time losing control of the strikes. With the road blockades and the involvement of students they started to lose that control so they have to look for new ways to slow down the movement.

Q: What is the role of the communists and socialists in this struggle?

N: It depends on how you define socialist and communist, for sure. There are parties under those names which are no longer working class parties, even if they are still nominally controlled by trade unions. There are other leftist parties which play a real role in the struggle, but rather as networks of local union leaders and not as a communist party in the sense that we accept. The situation is not taking place with a political vacuum on the left.. There are numerous leftist parties, even if none of them fits what we consider to be a worker-communist party.

The meaning of the struggle is by itself communist, as it's clearly against wage-slavery. If people refuse to work longer, it is because they dislike their conditions of work,

the situation facing older workers and unemployment. In France, socialists and communists are welcome, workers consider their ideas with sympathy. But the notion that socialism is possible, that socialism can be achieved, does not seem to be on the agenda. Our task, as communists, is to raise this idea.

Q: These protest movements, regardless of their size, will die down unless there is a worker-communist party which can put this struggle in its class context and lead the working class toward final victory. Is there a hope of such a party emerging from the current situation? What are the plans of the WC Initiative? Are these protests an opportunity for the WC Initiative to introduce itself to the working class, connect with communist leaders of these protest, provide an alternative and ultimately build a party for the entire country?

N: Worker-communist Initiative is very new, as we started discussions with a group of worker-communist sympathisers a few months ago, only launching it officially in August. So our ability to influence the movement is still low. At least we're able to connect with groups of workers in various towns, and play a role in the movement in the towns where we have already activists. Now we plan to put a draft programme before the workers' groups, to discuss our demands, meet them and link with them. So, without exaggerating the importance of what we did, I think we have at least achieved the first step in establishing worker-communism here. This is the first step towards a worker-communist party in Europe.

Worker-communist Party of Iraq

Freedom, equality, workers' rules

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Mansoor Hekmat
The Founder of

Mansoor Hekmat: 'The essence of socialism is the human being... Socialism is the movement to restore human being's conscious will.'

IT IS AN OPPRESSIVE MEASURE TO CREATE CHEAP & SUBMISSIVE LABOUR

On the Iraqi governments decree: the transference of Iraqi port labour Leaders to Mosul & the dismissal of 340 workers.
The Ministry of Transportation issued another arbitrary and despotic decree to transfer four leaders of the Port Workers Union from the city of Basra in the south to the city of Mosul in the north. Those leaders are president of the Port Workers Union AE Khather, deputy



Marx and Engels
Internet Archive

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On the Assassination of
Sardasht Othman:.....

Both the KDP officials (the KDP controls two out of three major cities in Iraqi Kurdistan including Erbil where Sardasht was kidnapped) and the KDP-dominated regional government at first tried to ignore this barbaric act. However, the assassination triggered massive protests and demonstrations inside Kurdistan as well as solidarity actions among Kurdish communities abroad. Later, Masoud Barazani the leader of the KDP formed a committee to investigate the assassination. On 15 September 2010, Barzani's committee published a statement claiming that Sardasht had been murdered by Jund al-Islam, a terrorist group based in Iraqi Kurdistan because he (Sardasht) had failed to carry out tasks assigned to him by this group after promising to work for them.

This investigation and its conclusions are a farce. It is not believed by anyone who knew Sardasht or who has the slightest knowledge about politics in Kurdistan. Sardasht's personal history together with the history of his family make the findings of the investigating committee a joke. Sardasht was a secular journalist well known for his opposition to all reactionary political groups but in particular, to groups of political

Islamists. He also opposed all reactionary norms and practices.

Well before his kidnapping Sardasht predicted that he would get killed by the "authority" (by which he meant the Kurdistan Democratic Party). After receiving death threats he wrote an article which can almost be seen as a will. In this article Sardasht described the seriousness of the last threat he received and accused both the Salahadein university officials and the regional government's security forces for doing little to protect him. Despite these threats Sardasht chose to remain in Erbil: he continued speaking his mind and faced his death. On the other hand, Jund al-Islam vigorously denied the KDP's accusation and instead accused KDP with orchestration the assassination. This group always claims responsibility for all operation it carries out regardless of the nature of these operations.

It is worth mentioning that the Regional Government and the KDP in particular control the region well and, generally speaking, security in Kurdistan is far better than it is in the rest of Iraq. For another group to kidnap Sardasht at midday, in a public place, in the heart of Erbil, a few metres from the University is inconceivable. Although security personnel employed by the university were only a few meters

away they refused to prevent Sardasht's kidnapping, despite appeal by students who were present.

Barzani's investigative committee was not independent. Its members were drawn from the officers in the KDP security apparatus: in the Regional Government's Security Directorate in Erbil (which is completely controlled by the KDP) or its secret security organ- "Parastin". The committee was set up by the KP to clear itself: it was not independent, although this was one of the key demands made by both members of the public and Sardasht's family.

The investigation did not reveal the truth about the assassination. It made serious allegations about Sardasht after his death without allowing his family and friends to defend him and clear his name. The pretence of having a real investigation was just to buy some time: to gauge public response, to absorb public pressure and (most likely) to try and divert attention from the actual perpetrators.

Sardasht became a symbol of the struggle for freedom and against corruption by the people of Kurdistan. And what did the KDP do? Attempt to assassinate Sardasht and his family politically after assassinating him physically. In a way, Barzani's committee was a trial against the masses of the people in Kurdistan and freedom loving people in particular. It was a threat

and an oppressive measure against anyone who protests against the rule of this party. It shows that the KDP will do anything to gag a dissident voice and oppress anybody who opposes its authority. It shows that what the KDP says about justice, about building a judicial system and about the independence of this system is a shameful lie.

Sardasht's assassination was not just an attempt to suppress political freedoms and civil rights which has been going on relentlessly since 1991. It was not just an attempt to gloss over the rule by the two nationalist parties and their militias and the corruption, massive unemployment which is around 50%, poverty and hunger that comes with this. It was not just an encouragement to all those reactionaries in Kurdistan who benefit from these practices. It means much more.

As previously stated, this "investigation" did not convince people in Kurdistan. Rather, it shocked them and increased the mistrust they feel towards the ruling parties. Moreover, on the issues of political and social freedoms, it pushed the struggle between the authorities and the masses of people in Kurdistan to a new stage. Undoubtedly this was part of the KDP's plan.

The KDP, through this "investigation" and by threatening to sue journalists for defamation

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Long live Socialism!

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(and even in some cases with criminal charges) wants to tell people that freedom of expression, freedom of the media, demonstrations and all other political freedoms are prohibited. In fact the leaders of the KDP and its Regional Government publicly announced that criticism of all ruling dynasties (the Barzani family in particular), criticism of religious and nationalist symbols, the Kurdish militia (or Peshmarga), criticism of late leaders of the nationalist movement and so on is prohibited. Their message is clear: people who do not comply with this ban will face severe punishment, even including death.

How did this situation emerge?

When Saddam Hussein's regime lost control of Kurdistan in 1991 the two major nationalist parties assumed power. This led to a situation where the masses enjoyed a greater degree of political freedom than the people of most other countries in the region. This situation was not simply bestowed on the people by the ruling nationalist parties (the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK]). It came about because of the following factors: decades of intense struggle against Saddam by the masses in general and the communists in particular and by the

relative weakness of these two parties before the masses due to what nationalists call the "disunity of Kurdish family", that is, the continuous rivalry, including armed confrontations, between the two main nationalist parties.

Another significant factor is the presence of a large Kurdish community abroad which cannot be controlled by the two parties. From the point of view of the bourgeoisie within Kurdistan this situation has to change.

Since 1991 the KDP has not accepted any other political formation and has asserted itself as a sole political force in the areas that it controlled. However, in last few years the KDP has emerged as the major political force in Kurdistan and is trying to extend its rule over the whole of Kurdistan. The PUK appears to have accepted this reality, especially since a party split (led by Nawsherwan Mustafa) and the formation of the Goran (change) Movement.

With the assassination of Sardasht Othman and the silence of all 39 legal political parties in Kurdistan (including the PUK and the Goran movement) toward this assassination and toward the results of the "investigation", the KDP has scored another victory against its rivals. The KDP has taken a major step towards organising what the Kurdish nationalists call the "Kurdish home" which

means uniting the ranks of Kurdish bourgeoisie under the leadership of the KDP against the masses of people in Kurdistan. It is in this context that the silence of the PUK, the Goran Movement and the Islamic forces needs to be understood.

On the other hand, it is well known that the KDP is a tribal political force which has always tried to deprive the masses of their basic economic and social rights, has never recognized political freedoms and done its best to consolidate reactionary norms and practices and demand adherence to religious and nationalist symbols. It has used the huge public revenues of Kurdistan to strengthen its oppressive apparatus. However these realities still do not explain the current attack by KDP on political freedoms, assassination of journalists and imposing nationalist and religious symbols. The explanation lies somewhere else.

The economic and social advances in Kurdistan in particular after the overthrow of the Baath regime have created an open market for regional and international investors. Scores of industrial projects have been completed, many new roads have been constructed leading to the creation of many new suburbs and significant immigration from the villages and small towns to the big cities. There is fierce competition between the capitalists in Kurdistan

to enrich themselves and accumulate profit by any means. This has resulted in an accumulation of huge wealth in the hands of a very small minority of people (the capitalists and top officials of the ruling parties) and has deepened the class differences between the workers and toilers and the wealthy elite. Two different types of suburb are now being constructed: there are suburbs for the rich and suburbs for the poor.

Of course these industrial advances and this wealth are the result of the hard work and misery of thousands of workers and toilers in Kurdistan. The perpetuation of this situation needs cheap labour and an oppressed working class.

Political oppression and the violation of civil rights, strengthening reaction and the glorification and sanctification of nationalist symbols are a necessity for the capitalist class in Kurdistan. They express the common interests of all sections of the bourgeoisie.

The peculiarity of the of KDP as a highly centralised party controlled by one family: the Barzanis makes it the best political tool in the hand of the bourgeoisie in Kurdistan to secure suitable social circumstance for capital to invest and for the accumulation of profits. For the last several years there has been a lot of talk by the ruling class about turning Kurdistan into another

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To: Workers in France!

and happiness in France: the lives and the power of workers around the world hinges on you and your struggle. If you defeat Sarkozy's government, the workers of Europe and the world will be the first to enjoy the fruits of this victory.

Your victory will deliver a strong blow to the economic attack of capital. Your victory will force it to retreat in France and worldwide. Moreover, your victory will revive a strong revolutionary spirit amongst the workers of the world, helping them regain their confidence and enthusiasm to rise up and turn the tables on the bourgeois regimes and foil their agendas.

The latest demonstrations have proved that the working class in France enjoys high levels of class awareness, from organization and unity to radical labour and socialist ideas and aspirations. However, the working class in France is in dire need of Marx's socialism and vision. It is in dire need of a Worker-communist party which is committed to advancing this struggle to achieve its urgent goals of prosperity for workers. A party that puts organising the ranks of millions of workers (and all the disgruntled) on the same level in the struggle to overthrow this whole ominous system and build a society of freedom and equality as its urgent goal.

The Worker-communist Party of Iraq, the party of the communist workers, considers the struggle by the workers in France an

essential part of its struggle and the struggle of its social movement and class which has international dimensions. The WPIraq calls on workers in Iraq and worldwide to support the struggle of our comrades in France in every way possible.

Long live Workers in France

Long live workers' internationalism

Long live freedom, equality and workers' rule

26th October 2010.

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On the Assassination ...

Dubai. This means turning Kurdistan into a concentration camp for the working class. High unemployment and brute oppression are necessary tools for the process of 'Dubai-zation' of Kurdistan. As part of this attempt they have started importing cheap labour from poor countries. Despite a high unemployment rate in Kurdistan, most housework, major cleaning contracts and work in the airports is carried out by workers from countries like the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Georgia. These workers are exploited to the maximum.

But... the workers and the toilers, the youth and the women of Kurdistan dream of a free and prosperous Kurdistan. They dream of living in a modern, advanced society like the people in advanced counties do. This conflict between one set of dreams (the capitalist dream of another Dubai) and another (the workers' dream of

living in a prosperous, developed country) means a fierce social and political confrontation between the two main classes.

It is also worth mentioning that the overthrow of the Baath regime and the disappearance of its threat to Kurdistan has made corruption, political oppression and imposed reaction the main concern of the masses of people while clearing away many illusions in their minds about Kurdish nationalism.

From the point of view of the bourgeoisie it has deprived Kurdish nationalism of its justification for oppression, corruption and maintaining an unbearable status quo. While this situation has exposed the nationalist movement and its deceiving slogans, it has at the same time made political oppression a crucial necessity for the ruling class in Kurdistan.

The masses in Kurdistan, who have a history full of misery and sacrifice and who are thirsty for freedom, have come to the forefront. They are struggling for a future free of oppression, where they can enjoy the huge wealth of Kurdistan and to be ruled by a social regime which respects political freedoms, secures basic social and economic rights and the equality of women.

The future of Kurdistan relies on deepening the conflict between the main political and social forces. On the one hand, the front of the bourgeoisie and capitalists in Kurdistan under the leadership of

KDP and on the other hand the front of workers and freedom loving people who regard unconditional political freedom as an urgent goal of their struggle. Which front will win in this fierce struggle depends on the awareness, preparedness and level of organization of the working class. The working class needs its own party to wage this fight.

In contrast to the 39 legally recognised parties in Kurdistan, the Worker-communist Party of Kurdistan (which is still not permitted to work legally) is the only party which denounced and rejected the result of the KDP's "investigation" and demanded an independent investigation and that the perpetrators of Sardasht's assassination be brought to justice. It is the only political party which exposes the dangerous policies of the capitalists in Kurdistan under the leadership of the KDP. It is the only party to call on the working class and progressive people to face these dangers. It is the party that stands against the "Dubai-zation" of Kurdistan and offers a clear and better alternative to the KDP rule. It is the task of all defenders of freedom to unite behind this party to strengthen the struggle for political freedoms in Kurdistan.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

FORWARD 57

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A Partywide Political Paper of the Worker-communist Party of Iraq <http://www.wpif.org.uk>

What is the dark scenario? Who are the contending forces? What are the tasks of communists in this situation?

By Tom Hamid

The basis of socialism is the human beings. Socialism is the movement to restore human nature.

Western imperialist war has led to the annihilation of the will of the masses of people. This backward war is the inevitable end of the imperialist system. We are the only force that can restore human nature.

Kirkuk citizens' group takes legal action against US troops and Iraqi police for Jan. 1 massacre

The League for Industrial People's Democracy in Illinois (LIDIP), has brought a lawsuit against the US military and the Iraq police forces. We as the League accuse these forces of

To: Workers in France!

Faris Mahmood

Your latest protests against the proposal of Nicolas Sarkozy's government to raise the retirement age from 60 to 62 years have terrified the ruling class. It can be easily seen, that behind the intransigence and arrogance of Nicolas Sarkozy and his government there is a real horror which they can't conceal. They have the right to be terrified, when they see millions of you: workers, united under radical prospects and being able to attract the support and sympathy of the majority of the society. You are showing who the real masters of society are and who controls the wheel



Sarkozy's plan (to compensate for the acute shortage of fuel in France as the result of your demonstrations) by turning off the taps on the pipes which take fuel from Belgium to France. You have shown Sarkozy's government (and all other bourgeois governments) where the power of the working class lies. You have also shown that if the



of life in society.

They are terrified by the dimensions, the impact and forms of international workers' solidarity, from the demonstrations by workers in Brazil to those in Britain. They are terrified by the announcement by Belgian workers that they will foil

working class unites its ranks it can bring down this government and the rule of the entire bourgeois class: a class which can only offer ever-growing impoverishment, deprivation, unemployment and daily encroachment upon our living standards and the future of our

children, their education, happiness and their economic and social security.

Through these strikes you have announced in a clear voice that you are not willing to pay for the crisis of the bourgeois class. This is the class that, in periods when its prosperity grew and its profits climbed rapidly, offered little more than subsistence living to workers. Now the bourgeois class is in crisis and is trying to make you accept unemployment, poverty and hunger.

We workers are the majority of human beings in the 21st century. We have the right to enjoy all the pleasures of life that flow from the achievements of this era: achievements which are the direct result of workers' struggle and suffering.

You have stressed that you are not willing to accept an upside-down world in which the pension age is increased while there is an army of unemployed workers

in Europe that numbers in the millions. The bourgeoisie deems it excessive that we enjoy our retirement years after decades of hard work and misery. We cannot accept this!

Workers of France!

With your massive

numbers and united ranks, your struggle to abolish the notorious retirement law has revived hope among workers across Europe and around the world! You have given workers the strength, the will and the resolve to face attacks by the bourgeoisie wherever they occur.

This is not the first time you have stood in the forefront of opposition to the policies of a bourgeoisie determined to destroy the rights and gains of workers. The bright pages in the history of the workers' movement in France are innumerable. Today's struggle is not alien to the society of revolutions and gigantic social and political changes. It is not alien to those who inherit the history of French revolutions fought under the slogan of "freedom and equality". It is not alien to the descendants of the class which overthrew bourgeois rule and established workers' rule in the Paris Communes (and an untold number of other massive protest movements in the last 150 years).

Comrades, Workers in France!

Once again millions of your fellow workers around the world are turning their eyes towards your struggle. The progression of your struggle gives them hope of victory. You are the representatives of prosperity

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