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- **that the aid agencies are allowed to fulfil their function of providing the aid which is so desperately needed to the people of Iraq.** Under the Geneva Convention if the population of an occupied territory is 'inadequately supplied' the occupying power is obliged to 'agree to and facilitate by all the means at its disposal' humanitarian relief by 'impartial humanitarian organisations.'

- **that the reconstruction of Iraq takes place free from foreign interference and allows the full use of Iraq's resources by its own people.** Prior to the war BP, Shell, and ExxonMobil indicated that they might exploit the fall of Saddam Hussein to fight for their old 'possessions' in Iraq by arguing that the compensation/nationalisation deal they agreed to in 1973 was signed under duress. According to the *Guardian* (26 April) the US is now 'preparing to install an American chairman on a planned management team of the Iraqi oil industry ... According to a report in the Wall Street Journal, it has lined up the former chief executive of the US division of Royal Dutch/Shell, Philip Carroll, to take the job of chairman.'

The US Government has already awarded a contract to rebuild Iraq's electrical, water and sewage systems - worth more than \$680 mn - to the San Francisco -based Bechtel Group. According to the *Guardian* this 'could end up giving Bechtel an overwhelmingly important role in virtually every area of Iraqi society' (18 April). Bechtel's senior vice-president Jack Sheehan, is also a member of the Defence Policy Board, a Pentagon advisory group whose members are approved by US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Bechtel board member and former secretary of state George Schultz is also chair of the pro-war Committee for the Liberation of Iraq.

Meanwhile a former senior executive of Cargill - the biggest grain exporter in the world - has been put in charge of agricultural reconstruction in Iraq, a move which Oxfam has described as 'like putting Saddam Hussein in the chair of a human rights commission' (*Guardian*, 28 April). According to Oxfam, Dan Amstutz - who served as a trade negotiator under the Reagan administration - 'is uniquely well-placed to advance the commercial interests of American grain companies and bust open the Iraqi market - but singularly ill-equipped to lead a reconstruction effort in a developing country.'

On 13 April, *The Observer* recently revealed that US military contractor Dyncorp has won a multi-million-dollar contract to police post-Saddam Iraq. 'DynCorp, which has donated more than £100,000 to the Republican Party', has been accused of involvement in human rights violations, and 'a British employment tribunal recently forced DynCorp to pay £110,000 in compensation to a UN police officer it unfairly sacked in Bosnia for whistleblowing on DynCorp colleagues involved in an illegal sex ring.'

The privatisation of Iraq allows the U.S. to conduct foreign policy by proxy through corporations which are effectively unmonitored and only answerable to corporate bosses and the profit drive.

- **that ordinary Iraqis are not forced to pay Saddam Hussein's debts and 'reparations' for the 1991 Gulf War.** Saddam Hussein owes over \$300bn in debts and reparation claims. These must be cancelled if Iraq is to begin to reverse the devastating effects of war and sanctions. Under current rules, the UN diverts a quarter of all Iraq's oil revenues to pay 'reparations' for the invasion of Kuwait and the 1991 Gulf War. More info & resources, including an on-line petition, on [www.jubileearaq.org](http://www.jubileearaq.org).

- **that no further countries are attacked in the so-called 'war on terrorism.'** Now is the time to get commitments - from your MP and from the Government - rejecting the creation of further conflicts with countries such as Syria, Iran and North Korea. US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has already 'implied [that] some of President Saddam's suspected weapons of mass destruction might have been moved [to Syria]' (*Independent*, 10 April). In January journalist Seymour Hersh quoted an anonymous 'American intelligence official who has attended recent White House meetings' as stating that "Bush and Cheney want [North Korean leader Kim Jong Il's] head on a platter." Britain must not permit the use of US bases in Britain for any future military attack.

**voices** have campaigned against economic sanctions and war on Iraq since 1996. Please help with the costs of printing these campaigning materials by sending a donation (cheques made payable to 'voices in the wilderness') to **voices in the wilderness uk** 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX, 0845 458 2564, [www.voicesuk.org](http://www.voicesuk.org), [voices@viwuk.freemove.co.uk](mailto:voices@viwuk.freemove.co.uk).

# PROFIT AND LOSS

voices in the wilderness uk

1 may 2003



7 year old Munther al-Abbas with his father. Munther's treatment for leukaemia has stopped due to lack of drugs - without them he will die.



US soldiers guarding the Ministry of Oil in Baghdad

*His family is safe and living with relatives, as their own house is unlivable due to a missile, which hit next to their house. His son Ali - who stopped talking during the Gulf war and whose subsequent stuttering required years of treatment - seems to be doing alright, as is their younger son Yassar, 13 years old. Lamia, his wife and also a university teacher, has not fared as well. The bombing and now the occupation have taken their toll on her. She cannot bear the presence of foreign troops in her beloved country. She wants to leave the country, and it seems that for her own emotional and psychological well being she should. Saad on the other hand is determined to stay on with his students. He broke down more than once as he told us about the "total destruction of the university." He told us that his books, all his memories, and his students' theses have gone up in smoke. "They burned the national library too." Like many others, he is struggling deep within himself to understand how this destruction can be happening. He too is asking the question "why, why, why?"*

(Members of the Iraq Peace Team report on meeting Professor Saad Al Hassani, 17 April 2003. See [www.iraqpeaceteam.org](http://www.iraqpeaceteam.org) for all their reports from Iraq.)

**While the U.S. secures its economic and military interests in Iraq, the population - and especially Iraq's children - remain in grave danger because of the massive damage and disruption caused by the war and its aftermath. Waterborne diseases have increased sharply, the food reserves of the most vulnerable Iraqis are predicted to run out by early May and Iraq's shattered hospitals are struggling to begin to recover from the effects of war, looting and twelve and a half years of economic sanctions.**

**As occupying powers the US and UK have obligations under international humanitarian law to:**

- 'ensur[e] the food and medical supplies of the population';
- restore public order and safety;
- and 'facilitate by all means at [their] disposal' humanitarian relief by impartial aid agencies (see Amnesty International's briefing 'Iraq: Responsibilities of the occupying powers', available on-line at <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engmde140892003>).

**So far they have failed to fulfil these obligations:**

- Although the US/UK have so far spent at least \$20 bn on their illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq (*FT*, 17 April) the UN World Food Programme (WFP) has been unable raise the \$1.3 bn it needs for its emergency operation to re-establish food distribution inside Iraq and 'avert a humanitarian catastrophe.' Prior to the war 60% of Iraq's population were dependent upon a Government food ration, distributed via a network 44,000 food and flour agents. Reactivating and supplying this network will be one of the largest

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logistics operations in the WFP's 40 year history. As at 25th April – almost a month after the WFP launched its appeal - there was still a \$959 mn funding shortfall. The UK had contributed a minuscule \$13 mn.

• While much planning and resources were devoted to securing Iraq's oilfields and the Ministry of Oil, Iraq's hospitals and water-treatment plants were left to the looters. On the 19 April the *Independent* reported that all but three of Baghdad's hospitals were 'closed because of looting and arson.' Oxfam's engineers found that water-treatment plants in the south – and even a chlorine factory in Zubayr – had been badly looted (*Guardian*, 19 April).

• The US military has prevented Save the Children (SCF) from landing desperately needed medical supplies even in areas declared safe by the UN. According to SCF this lack of cooperation was 'a breach of the Geneva convention' and 'cost[ed] children their lives' (*Guardian*, 18 April).

On 27<sup>th</sup> April UNICEF reported a serious outbreak of diarrhoeal illness at the al-Noor hospital in one of the Baghdad's poorest suburbs, with over 300 cases of diarrhoea admitted in just three hours. Lack of security means that many sick people are not being brought to hospital until they are severely dehydrated. According to UNICEF: 'If - as reports suggest - the outbreak at the al-Noor hospital is being replicated in other parts of Baghdad and beyond, it only underscores the crucial importance of ensuring that safe water supplies reach the Iraqi population fast. By and large this is not happening ... we are faced with the very real possibility that in the south of the country at least, water treatment plants will very soon run out of supplies of the chemicals needed to make raw water supplies safe to drink. Unless urgent steps are taken to rectify this, a dramatic escalation in the incidence of diarrhoeal disease may be unavoidable.'

In war-ravaged Nasiriya, with no electricity to pump water, locals have been breaking into the underground pipes, allowing raw sewage to seep into the system. According to Mary McLoughlin, field worker with the Irish NGO Goal, if the water and sewage situation is not mended soon, Nasiriya will face a "major humanitarian crisis" with the "grave danger of a cholera epidemic by the summer." (BBC On-line, 23 April).

**In the first eight months of 1991, an estimated 47,000 children under the age of five died as a result of the devastation caused by the 1991 Gulf War and its aftermath – over ten times the number of civilians that were killed during the war itself. As Iraq continues to slip down the media's agenda we must act to ensure that this history is not repeated.**

**NO to war! NO to Britain's WMD!**

**Rally at Aldermaston AWE, 10 May, 1pm**

The justification for the war on Iraq was the supposed possession of weapons of mass destruction. Yet while no WMD have been found in Iraq, here in Britain the government plans to upgrade Aldermaston AWE, the facility where British WMD are designed and built. 45 years on from the original Aldermaston protests, lets unite to protest there again. Organised by Youth and Student CND: 0796 7392229, [www.youthstudentcnd.org.uk](http://www.youthstudentcnd.org.uk)

**Lakenheath Trespass Day  
27th May, 6.00am to midnight**

Pre-formed affinity groups are invited to spend the day trying to get into Lakenheath Airbase to sit (or dance, or play music, or play badminton) on the runway; hang banners; chain yourself to aircraft; plant seeds etc. to prevent aircraft from landing and taking off that day. Lakenheath in Suffolk is the primary U.S. tactical airbase in Europe. It has about 30 nuclear weapons deployed there. Lakenheath Action Group will provide a meeting space, nonviolence training, press work etc. If you are coming, please get in contact: LAG, Forge Bungalow, The Street, Shotesham, Norwich, NR15 1YL, 0116 247 0121, [www.lakenheathaction.org](http://www.lakenheathaction.org)

**Demonstration against the use of Depleted Uranium in Iraq and Galloway, 3 May, 1pm** Dundrennon, by Kirkcubright, Galloway, South West Scotland.

**Diarm DSEI 2003 - Shut Down Europe's Biggest Arms Fair!  
6-12 September 2003**

London Docklands. A week of protest and resistance with vigils, demonstrations and actions, not only against the fair, but against the companies and governments that trade there. Contact: [disarm@dsei.org](mailto:disarm@dsei.org), 07817 652 029, [www.dsei.org](http://www.dsei.org)

**Regular vigils and protests are still taking place all around the country.** See [www.j-n-v.org/events.htm](http://www.j-n-v.org/events.htm) for a full list.

**Prisoners for Peace**

To support those who are behind bars for protesting for peace, see [www.j-n-v.org/prisoners.htm](http://www.j-n-v.org/prisoners.htm)

**Reports & news direct from Iraq** from the **Iraq Peace Team** & others on [www.electroniciraq.net](http://www.electroniciraq.net)

**Reports on humanitarian situation** on ReliefWeb ([www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int))

**Civilian casualties** - see [www.iraqbodycount.net](http://www.iraqbodycount.net) for the latest independent assessment

**Jo Wilding** was in Iraq until 1 April - read her reports on [www.bristolfoe.org.uk/wildfire/iraq/](http://www.bristolfoe.org.uk/wildfire/iraq/) or find out if she is speaking near you: contact Voices on 0845 458 2564.

**Some UK protest websites:**

- [www.reclaimthebases.org](http://www.reclaimthebases.org) (military bases campaigns)
- [www.indymedia.org.uk](http://www.indymedia.org.uk) (alternative news etc)
- [www.cnduk.org](http://www.cnduk.org) (CND)
- [www.schnews.org](http://www.schnews.org) (alternative news etc)
- [www.stopwar.org.uk](http://www.stopwar.org.uk) (Stop the War Coalition)
- [www.peacenews.info](http://www.peacenews.info) (global peace news)
- [www.casi.org.uk](http://www.casi.org.uk) (Campaign against sanctions on Iraq)
- [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org) (Amnesty International)
- [www.j-n-v.org](http://www.j-n-v.org) (ARROW Active Resistance to Roots of War)
- [www.voicesuk.org](http://www.voicesuk.org) (Voices in the Wilderness UK)
- [www.acttogether.org](http://www.acttogether.org) (British and Iraqi women in the UK against war & sanctions)
- [www.womeninblack.org.uk](http://www.womeninblack.org.uk) (Women in Black)
- [www.nvda-uk.net](http://www.nvda-uk.net) (nonviolent direct action)
- [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk) (Campaign against the Arms Trade)
- [www.corpwatch.org](http://www.corpwatch.org) (Corporate Watch)

**Please write to the Jack Straw**, (Foreign Secretary, The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2AH), **Geoff Hoon** (Secretary of State for Defence, Ministry of Defence, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB) **and Tony Blair** (10 Downing Street, London, SW1) **to demand that:**

- **that the US and UK end their illegal occupation of Iraq.**
- **Iraqis must be allowed to determine their own political future free from foreign interference.** In particular, the US and Britain must not be permitted to grant immunity to leading Ba'athists, or to restore the leadership or the institutions of the Ba'athist regime. According to the *New York Times* (April 20) – citing anonymous 'senior Bush administration officials' - the US 'is planning a long-term military relationship with the emerging government of Iraq' that 'will grant the Pentagon access to military bases and project American influence into the heart of the unsettled region.' What ordinary Iraqis think about this has not - as far as we're aware - been ascertained.
- **that so long as US/UK forces illegally occupy Iraq they adhere strictly to international human rights and humanitarian law.** In particular under the Geneva Convention and Hague Regulations an occupying power has a duty 'to ensur[e] the food and medical supplies of the population' and to restore and maintain public order and safe.
- **an immediate end to the economic sanctions on Iraq.** Over the past twelve years these sanctions – which remain in place - have created massive poverty in Iraq, devastating the lives of millions of ordinary Iraqis. The existing UN humanitarian programme ('oil-for-food') has not resolved – and cannot resolve - this humanitarian crisis. Sanctions must end immediately.
- **an immediate ban on the use of cluster bombs, Depleted Uranium (DU) and weapons such as the 21,000 pound Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB).** According to Oxfam 'cluster bombs ... can by their very nature only be indiscriminate' and their use is therefore illegal. The same is true of weapons such as the MOAB – the biggest non-nuclear bomb in the US arsenal. Scores of Iraqi civilians were killed by cluster bombs during the invasion and unexploded munitions continue to kill Iraqis. The Mines Advisory Group have reported that one hospital in Kirkuk dealt with fifty-two people killed, and 63 injured, by landmines and unexploded ordnance in just one week. DU is chemically toxic and weakly radioactive. It was used in the 1991 Gulf War as well as in the recent invasion and is implicated in the very large rise in cancers in southern Iraq since the '91 war. The Royal Society recently (24 April) called upon the US and British governments 'to reveal where and how much depleted uranium was used' in the recent invasion 'so that an effective clean-up and monitoring programme of both soldiers and civilians can begin.' The Pentagon claims that no such clean-up is necessary.
- **that the US/UK pay compensation to people in Iraq who have lost family members, houses, businesses or who have been injured, by the US/UK invasion and occupation.**

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