

For a strong international movement against war and occupation
Platform for the organisation of the Iraq Conference on March 12, 2005 in Berlin

The violent occupation of Iraq continues. The Iraqi population suffers from oppression and torture, violence and growing misery. Nevertheless, the world-wide protests against the American aggression have subsided. One reason for that is the playing down of the reality of occupation in many media and the warning that chaos and civil war will ensue once the foreign troops are withdrawn. Another one is the worry to be supporting, by way of protests against the occupants, a resistance, which is identified with bomb attacks against civilians, suicide attempts and hostage taking and, according to media reports, is led by adherents of the old regime and radical "Islamists".

Shortly before the second anniversary of the attack on Iraq in violation of international law, on March 12th, 2005, we want to discuss the situation in Iraq by way of an international conference in Berlin. Representatives of important social currents in Iraq will report on the reality in their much-abused country, on the resistance against the occupation and their goals for the time afterwards. Beyond that, we want to clarify the international significance of the struggle of the Iraqis against occupation and re-colonisation and reach an agreement on how this struggle fits into the international protest movement against neoliberal globalisation.

We organisers and supporters of the conference are in agreement in our call for a quick and unconditional withdrawal of the occupants and for indemnification of the damages caused. We demand an end to any kind of support to the invaders by the German government.

We turn against all attempts to legitimate occupation rule and point out that, according to international law, the rule of occupation can be finished neither by the UN, nor by elections in the protectorate, nor by the instauration of an Iraqi administration, but only by way of withdrawal of the military and civil forces of the invaders. We turn against the attempts to discredit the resistance movements in Iraq in a general way as terrorists and to present the US war in Iraq as a struggle against terrorism.

Even if, in the evaluation of the various forms of resistance, there exist political differences, we are unified in the assessment that the Iraqis principally enjoy the right to resistance.

Further information on the Iraq conference in the Internet: www.irakkonferenz.de

Translated by Carla Krüger