



The Fire Brigades Union

GENERAL SECRETARY : MATT WRACK

Established 1918

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Please quote this reference on all replies

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6th November 2006

Mr Abdullah Muhsin
IFTU
C/O Unison
1 Mabledon Place
London WC1 H9AJ

Dear Abdullah

I am writing to ask if you would pass on the condolences of Fire Brigades Union to the families of the four Iraqi firefighters who were tragically killed in Falluja on Monday 23 October by US troops.

The Fire Brigades Union was opposed to the invasion of Iraq and remains horrified by the destruction of the country and the hundreds of thousands of civilian casualties resulting from a civil war fuelled by the continued occupation of the country by US and UK troops.

We have a long tradition of solidarity with the Iraqi people and we are committed to making what contribution we can to help rebuild the country as a free, democratic and sovereign state able to decide its own future free from foreign intervention. We support efforts to rebuild civil society, including independent, democratic trade unions and view with concern the continued Iraqi Government interference in trade unions.

You will aware of the visit to Iraq in September by Fire Brigade Union officials led by brother Brian Joyce to bring badly needed equipment to local firefighters and a message of solidarity to Iraqi firefighters and Iraqi trade unions affiliated to the General Federation of Iraqi Workers (GFIW).

This is the fourth such visit and each time Iraqi firefighters have told us of the constant risk of death and serious injury they face as they try to fulfil their essential role in protecting life and property from fires and other emergencies amid the most difficult and dangerous of circumstances.

That they have now been attacked by US forces – apparently as a result of mistaken identity - is a disgrace.

I attach a letter of protest to the Iraqi Ambassador in the UK and to the UK foreign minister, making many of these above points. The letters also call for the US military to issue an apology to the families of the four deceased firefighters and, although money can never bring those people back, to compensate the families in order to alleviate the hardships caused by the loss of a breadwinner.

Yours in solidarity

Matt Wrack
General Secretary

TG/jr



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