



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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6 November 2006

Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Minister

I am writing to protest about the killing of four Iraqi firefighters 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 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.

We have visited the country on several occasions, meeting our sister trade unions, affiliated to the General Federation of Iraqi Workers (GFIW), and have on these visits also brought badly needed equipment to local firefighters.

On those visits firefighters in Iraq 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 urge you to make urgent representations to the US Government that this be respected and wish to take this opportunity to impress upon you that the UK does the same.



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I would also urge you to pass on our demand to the US military that they 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 sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Wrack". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Matt Wrack
General Secretary

TG/jr