

IFC Leadership and Southern Oil Workers Leaders Meet

Oil Workers Strike Tops the Agenda



IFC and oil worker union leaders concluded during a July 1, 2006, meeting that talk of security and stability in Iraq are meaningless while the occupation and its puppet regime are in place.

IFC President Samir Adil, IFC Central Council and Executive Board members Saeed Nima, Ali Abbas, Abdalkareem Abdalsada, Abdalzahra Abdalhassan, and Ryadh Kakasheen and Southern Oil Trade Union Secretary Falih Abood and Basra Oil Workers Trade Union Representative Abdullah Almaliki took part in the meeting.

Participants in the talks also agreed that the National Reconciliation was a U.S. initiative to salvage its project in Iraq and legitimize its occupation and the ethnocentric and sectarian government that followed. It was noted that IFC must quickly advance efforts to tackle the sectarian violence and build the safety forces to protect the people.

The situation in Iraq society is such that the government cannot restore law and order. Growing lawlessness has caused the closure of many industries and manufacturing sites resulting in 65% unemployment. The IFC, with more than 40% of its leadership representing workers, recommended two strategies for standing up to the killing of workers and discontinuing the bloodshed in Iraq. First, a Safety Force should be formed to organize and educate the workers to defend themselves. Second, because the oil sector is the only segment of the Iraqi economy that is still functioning in its full capacity and is regarded as the nerve of the occupation economy, work stoppage in the industry would

significantly impact the occupation. Staging a strike in the oil sector will hit the occupation in the heart and impose a retreat on the armed militias that belong to the pro-occupation sectarian government and eventually discontinue the bloodshed.

Following a detailed discussion of staging an oil sector strike, the political and social impact of a strike, and identified needed logistics for a successful strike, participants voted unanimously in favor of supporting the strike and designated IFC to mobilize the workers.

The IFC Executive Board has issued a resolution asking IFC affiliate organizations and individuals to provide all manner of support for a successful strike.

Iraq Freedom Congress

Media Centre

July 1, 2006