

**WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!**

# FORWARD 57

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**The basis of socialism is the human being... Socialism is the movement to restore human being's conscious will!**  
Mansoor Hekmet

**Oil workers in Basra stage for 4 hour sit-in**

**Baghdad hospital staff demonstrate for 100% wage rise**

**Forward interviews Samir Adil, the president of the Iraq Freedom Congress-IFC**

**What is the dark scenario? Who are the contending forces? What are the tasks of communists in this situation?**

**Part one**

**By Toma Hamid**

Mansoor Hekmat was first to characterize this phenomenon, which we have seen emerge in many countries after the end of the Cold War e.g. Bosnia, Kosova, Somalia, Rwanda, Chechnya, Afghanistan and Iraq. The dark scenario can happen in any backward country where capitalist system is not well established. It is not specific to a certain country.

A dark scenario is a situation in which people are caught up in bloody wars and conflicts, savage acts and enormous destruction, which leads to human catastrophes and tragedies on large scale.

This happens not as the result of a revolution or an act aimed to change the status quo through the intervention of the masses. It happens as the result of the intervention of frenzied, ultra-reactionary religious, ethnic

and tribal forces which take no account of the will of the masses of people. This backward wave of violence is often triggered by foreign invasion or aggression.

In a country caught up in a dark scenario the state disintegrates and the people are faced with an almost total governmental and administrative vacuum. The fabric of society disintegrates and civil society collapses. The society and its civil institutions stop functioning. Basic services like water, electricity, telephone and sewerage fall apart. It's very difficult to make a living. Chaos reigns. One of the main characteristics of a dark scenario is that secular and left forces become marginalised and reactionary religious militia and ethnic, tribal

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**Kirkuk citizen's group takes legal action against US troops and Iraqi police for Jan. 1 massacre**

The League for Defending People's Demands in Kirkuk (LDPDK) has brought a lawsuit against the US military and the Iraqi police forces. We in the League accuse these forces of committing the massacre of January 1, 2006 after provoking people and opening fire on their peaceful march. The incident resulted in four deaths with many injured. A number of private homes and a considerable amount of property was damaged.

We take this legal action as a means of expressing our anger and condemnation at this revolting crime committed against defenseless people. We want those responsible for giving the order to open fire brought to justice.

We call on all freedom-loving people, human rights organizations, legal organizations and law experts in Iraq and worldwide to stand with us and support our campaign against the ongoing and blatant.. **Continue page**

**FREEDOM, EQUALITY, WORKER'S RULE!**

con. page 1.....**what is the dark scenario**

tribal and criminal gangs become the main political forces contesting and fighting each other with countless innocent people caught in the crossfire.

Because this situation is not brought about by the intervention of the masses but by reactionary forces antagonistic to the masses, complete chaos prevails. The rights and freedoms of the masses are trampled on. Civil society disappears.

Massacres and sometime ethnic cleansing are committed. The masses embroiled in this situation feel helpless, unable to change the course of events and improve their lives. The dark scenario has a similar affect on freedom-loving people worldwide because they also can't find a way to intervene. The fact that very few progressive forces around the world show interest in such events is not because of some inherited characteristics but because they too feel helpless and impotent. They watch the systematic, conscious and intentional killing and destruction and say to themselves "the whole thing is a nightmare. What can you do?"

The response to natural disastrous like last year's Tsunami is the best evidence that the standing of the masses as bystanders in face of the dark scenario is the result of an inability to intervene.

Therefore a sense of impotence not only dominates the victims of a dark scenario but also large numbers in other parts of the world who watch or hear about these tragedies. The impotence is so strong that it seems as if it's a scenario that's inevitable... that's imposed on everyone. As Mansoor Hekmat says, there's a

huge difference between a dark scenario and a revolution. In a dark scenario the issue is not just war, conflict and bloodshed. This can happen in revolution as well. Revolution is an event, which while it may be bloody, is carried out by the masses to change the status quo and improve their social conditions. In a dark scenario the issue at stake is not changing things for the better but destroying the civil framework of society... not by the masses or in response to their will and wishes but against their will and aspirations... amid a complete feeling of helplessness and absence of alternative solutions. In a dark scenario the majority fails to understand the causes of these terrible events, how long they will continue and how the situation can be ended.

As Manoor Hekmat says, in most cases dramatic political events are a transition from one political system and form of state to another political system and form of state. War and revolution are a means and a channel to transfer from one ruling system and social situation to another ruling syetm and social situation. In ordinary cases a regime is overthrown to be replaced by another regime. However in a dark scenario, events take another course. The situation which follows the collapse of a regime is chaos, confusion and turbulence. The fighting and destruction are not temporary and exceptional... they do not result in social change. In a dark scenario chaos, confusion and turbulence become a seemingly

a permanent way of living, which extends for years. The disasters which take place in a dark scenario are not the result of an event which has an end. Or a war which is supposed to end. Amid these situations human tragedies, mass killings, displacement and destruction begin to seem as if they are natural events for this society at this point in its history.

The causes behind the dark scenario:

1- Governmental crisis: there are political and governmental crises in different developing countries. These crises deepened after the end of the Cold War between the ex Soviet Union and the USA. In contrast to well-established capitalist countries, the ideological and political character of the government and its political basis is poorly determined in developing countries. The issue of which force will form the government and the nature of the government is not a subject for class struggle only but a subject of a fierce conflict among the bourgeois forces themselves. Deciding the nature of a government by local bourgeois forces is impossible without fierce fighting out of which the working class and other exploited classes loses much and gains nothing.

The second issue is the weakness of the left and the bankruptcy of bourgeois alternatives, the failure of the economic, social and political alternatives of all bourgeois forces worldwide and in the developing countries in particular. A hated and crisis-ridden regime fails (e.g. that of Saddam Hussein), in a situation were there is no force (including the remnants of the regime) which enjoys the support of the masses so that it can seize the power and impose a type of administration on the society, many forces emerge fighting for power and in total disagreement as to the type of government to be established.

2- Intervention of foreign forces: after the collapse of the state-capitalist bloc led by the ex Soviet Union, the international alignments among imperialist and bourgeois powers had come to an end. The whole world is a battlefield between blocs which want to increase their areas of influence. Areas of influence and the power of different international forces and camps are not known or recognized by all. The areas of influence and the power of local forces and their relation to international blocs are not determined either. With the emergence of crisis and the collapse of a regime, the country is turned into a field for conflict among multiple international and regional forces. **continue page 3**

## continue page 2....what is the dark scenario?

Every international bloc supports a different local force and this leads to civil war. The conflict among different international blocs and their ability to finance and arm local gangs acts as obstacles in solving these crises.

3- The intervention of western governments generally and the US government in particular has created dark scenarios in many countries. It certainly started the dark scenario in Iraq. The USA is the most powerful force in the dark scenario. The US administration depends upon and uses local forces of dark scenario to carry out its policies. It undermines the role of secular and communist forces and thus helps in pushing the country towards civil war.

4- Emergence of local sectarian, ethnic and tribal forces. The religious, ethnic and tribal forces are the local troops of the dark scenario. As stated before, one of the main features of the dark scenario is the absence of capable secular forces and the existence of right-wing religious, ethnic and tribal forces whose programs are based on dividing people along religious, ethnic and tribal lines. These groups commit massacres and widespread destruction of property and state resources and use terrorism to achieve their goals.

Political Islam has emerged in a number of dark scenarios as major force. This backward current has turned entire countries into ungovernable places. It has immense capability in Iraq. Political Islam is on the verge of defeating the most powerful army in the world (or at least its project in Iraq). But political Islam is not a positive force for the betterment of society. It is entirely negative and destructive.

Its capability to create a dark scenario in Iraq does not arise out of mass support for it in this country. The strength of the political Islamists comes from the material, political and military capabilities of entrenched backward regimes and movements in the region. Political Islam is able to launch scores of suicide operation in Iraq in a single day. No other reactionary current worldwide is capable of anything close to this. Political Islam capitalizes on the state terrorism of the US government and its allies (with its tanks, planes and commandos) and answers it with its own brand of terrorism. Political Islam has nothing positive for society in Iraq: economically, socially or politically. All it's done is turn a relatively advanced country into an ungovernable disaster zone.

The policy of political Islam has also succeeded in Somalia and, to a lesser degree, Afghanistan. The intervention of America in Iraq has played a role in strengthening political Islam. Many on the left fail to understand that political Islam is a major international pole of terrorism. They see terrorism committed by this current as the response of helpless people against the injustice of western governments against the masses in the Middle East.

violations of human rights in Iraq.

We seek to prevent the oppressive American and governmental Iraqi forces from committing more crimes like this. We seek to compel them to respect the right of the people to demonstrate, strike, hold sit-ins and engage in other civil methods of protest and struggle to achieve their demands.

We call on all relatives and friends of the victims and those people who sustained damage as a result of this crime to contact us.

We need a record of what you saw the US troops and the Iraqi police do.

The following is the text of the lawsuit lodged on January 4, 2006 in the Kirkuk Investigation Court.

### **To the head of Kirkuk Investigation Court; re; Lodging a lawsuit**

**Dear Sir,**

On January 1,2006 the masses of people in Rahimawa, a suburb of the city of Kirkuk organized a peaceful demonstration against the huge rise of fuel prices. However due to the provocations by the US troops and Iraqi police the demonstration organized for fair demands turned violent and the US troops opened fire on demonstrators. We demand that you investigate this case, reveal the identity of those who opened fire on demonstrators and prosecute them and compensate the victims and their families. We will provide witnesses who incriminate the US troops and Iraqi police for committing this massacre.

Mohamad Aziz

League for Defending People's Demands in Kirkuk.

### **Oil workers in Basra stage for 4 hour sit-in**

Basra oil workers kicked off their New Year with a sit-in demanding payment of overdue allowances and protesting against the policies of their employer- the US multinational Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR). More than 200 workers began with a four hour sit-in on Monday, January 2. The workers protested against low wages in the entire oil industry and against the policies of KBR in particular. They demanded that holiday payments and risk allowances for 2004 owed to them by KBR be paid immediately. When the protesting workers asked KBR to send someone they could negotiate with, and promised the workers that their union

would struggle to dispense holiday payments. Their aim was to end the protest without any clear pledges by KBR administration. The workers had little confidence in these people and continued their sit-in for 4 hours. The workers plan to continue taking direct action until their demands are met. The Federation of Worker Councils and Unions in Iraq (FWCUI) struggles to expand and escalate the sit-in. FWCUI calls upon all workers in the oil industry and other sectors to stand by the Basra KBR oil workers until their demands are met.

Long live workers unity!

Federation of Worker Councils and Unions in Iraq January 3rd, 2006

### **Baghdad hospital staff demonstrate for 100% wage rise**

Employees at Madinat el-Top hospital, one of the major tertiary medical centres in Iraq demonstrated earlier this month demanding they be included in the wage rise approved by the Ministry of Health for a small minority of employees at the hospital. The Ministry agreed to increase the wages of doctors, pharmacists and forensic experts by 100 per cent and increased their risk allowances to 150,000 dinars a month.

The head of nursing staff in Baghdad, Mr.Ahmad Jassim al-Safi expressed frustration and anger at the Ministry's decision not to give other health workers similar increases. He demanded the Ministry increase the wages of nurses by 100 per cent also. Asel Yousif, an assistant pathologist in the gastrointestinal department, was also critical of the Ministry's tactics. "We deserve the same rise because we're in direct contact with patients" she said. Walid Gadiaa a medical assistant and Ahmad Khthayer a nurse said all health staff should be given the same increases because they all work in the same sector

**Long**

**live**

**socialism!**

## ***Forward interviews Samir Adi, the president of the Iraqi Freedom Congress. This interview was conducted in October 2005 part 1***

**Toma Hamid:** *Let me start with this general question, what is the Iraq Freedom Congress (IFC) and what is the goal behind it?*

**Samir Adil:** our analyses in regard to the consequences of this war were, unfortunately, proved true. As expected, today we live under civil war. On one hand there's America, its allies in the Interim government and local forces which support its barbaric policies against the people of Iraq. On the other hand there's the remnants of the Baath regime and groups of political Islam.

The American war destroyed civil society in Iraq and turned it into a society ruled by the law of the jungle.

There is no state in the usual sense of the world: essential services like electricity and running water are in short supply. Criminal gangs operate freely. Corruption is widespread: across the country the USA administration and local parties which legitimize their presence steal the oil revenues and other sources of wealth in society.

On the other hand, groups of political Islamists have combined with the remnants of the Baath regime to fight a terrorist war under the pretext of fighting the occupation. They have turned people's working and living places into trenches, barracks and battlefields. Using the US occupation as a pretext, they carry out horrendous crimes against humanity.

For example on the eve of the Greater Bairam, many male and female hairdressing shops were bombed in Baghdad. Men have to keep their beards unshaved in Falluja, Samra and Mosul. Wearing the hijab is now compulsory in many universities like Basra University. It is also compulsory in parts of Basra, Nasiriah, Samawa, Omara and in the al-Thawra district of Baghdad.

Male and female doctors are segregated in hospitals in Najaf, Karbala, Kathymia and Baghdad. The so-called "resistance" is also destroying water and electricity supplies.

Arab nationalist Islamic groups are calling for Kurds who live in the cities of Mosul and Kirkuk to be killed. At the same time, Kurdish and Turkoman nationalist groups are calling for Arabs in these same cities be killed.

Kurdistan is turning into another Kosovo.

They are also calls for the killing of followers of Shiite and Sunni sects, as well as Christians and Mandeans many of whom have been forced to leave their homes at gunpoint.

For example the number of Christians in Basra is today 5000 down from 50,000 before the USA war on Iraq. *Most of them have escaped the country altogether.*

Lack of security is the main concern of the masses all over Iraq. Scores of people of all ages are killed every day: by haphazard US bombardment, by car bombs and roadside bombs planted in markets and public places, by political Islamists and Baathists and by crime gangs which control the streets.

What the international media mentions about violence in Iraq is a drop in a sea of what is happening every day.

Protests against the US forces and political Islamists are taking place. People are either bored, or angry and resentful at the current situation. It seems there is no glimmer of hope.

It is for this reason that we decided to establish an independent, mass organization to rescue Iraqi society. An organization which commits itself to 3 main things:

1. dismissing US and allied forces. Ending the occupation will pull the rug from under the legs of the political Islamists.
2. rebuilding civil society
3. establishing a secular, unifying government

In other words, this organization undertakes to establish the state and ensure security, political and social freedoms and prosperity for the people of Iraq.

### **Police kill 4 and injure over 40 demonstrating for right to work in Nassiriyah**

A few weeks ago the council of the city of Nassiryia announced the availability of jobs for unemployed people asking them to apply.

Thousands of jobless people applied immediately, only to discover that the

discover that the jobs were restricted to members of political parties which currently share power in the city.

. Over 5000 people took to the streets in protest, demanding that all be given equal access to employment. Police were called to disperse the demonstration. The demonstrators stayed firm and, instead of retreating, organized a negotiation team to discuss the issue with local government officials. While negotiations were underway police snipers opened fire on the assembled demonstrators and the negotiating team. In response, the demonstrators pelted the police and the council building with stones. The police continued firing on the leaders of the demonstration murdering four people (including a 13 year old boy) and injuring more than 40: some very seriously. The demonstration began on January 4 and on January 6 (when this report was filed) there were no signs it has come to an end. The quota system that applied in every field including employing people is condemned by most Iraqis and the unemployed in particular. The local authority however continues in its attempts to strengthen the grip of the dominant parties and covers up widespread corruption of this kind. The Unemployment Union of Iraq (UUI) warns the Nassiriyah administration that it, with support of unemployed people, will not let these murders pass. The UUI will organize and continue to support demonstrations and protests on a wider scale until local government officials either give all unemployed people equal access to the jobs available and decent unemployment benefits for those who are unsuccessful or resign.

The UUI warns these officials against adopting any deceitful move like forming a "committee of inquiry". We demand that those who gave the order to fire on defenceless demonstrators be treated as criminals and made to stand public trial.

The UUI offers its deepest condolences to the victims' families for their terrible loss and hopes for a quick recovery for the wounded people.

**Qasim Hadi**

**Secretary General**

**Union of Unemployed in Iraq**

### **Political Islamists destroy women's hairdressing shop in Kut**

On January 5, Islamic militia bombed a women's hairdressing shop in the city of Kut. The bomb was planted in front of the shop at el-Thifaf Street in the Moalmen district. The blast which took place at 8pm destroyed the shop and damaged the adjacent shops and homes and two cars. No-one was injured in the blast.

This is not the first incident of its type. Many men's and women's hairdressers have been targets in a sustained terror campaign by political Islamists in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities if they offer western style haircuts and shave men's beards. A number of hairdressers have been murdered. Many others have been forced to give up their jobs and join the growing army of unemployed in the country.