

Why haven't we stopped the war yet?



THE war in Iraq has been a total disaster. It has killed, maimed and displaced thousands of people. It has dragged Iraq into a sectarian civil war with no end in sight.

The vast majority of Iraqis have wanted the occupation to end for ages. The British public were against the war from the beginning, and are against the occupation. The American public have now turned against both Bush and the war.

But the occupation continues. How, in the face of all this opposition, can our political leaders continue to wage this war? Simply because... they don't care what we think!

As long as the war in Iraq is no threat to their power, the government has no need of our support. None of the political parties have done anything to stop the war, no-one represents our opinions and we have no way of changing how our

government acts. That's why they can wage war against our wishes.

Yet we have the power to end this or any other government policy, because we are the people who make the war effort possible, we run the trains and build the roads they need to transport supplies, we deliver the soldier's mail, we make the

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food and clothes the soldiers need, we educate the troops, we work in their arms factories, we build their lorries, we pay the taxes that finance their war effort.

And we could shut all this down. We have the power, through our direct action, to make their war effort impossible. The power to make them abide by our

wishes, rather than just ask them. All it would take is getting organised.

We can end our reliance on being represented and instead take responsibility for our own interests. And not just to end the war, but for everything. We can stop them closing schools, hospitals, parks and post offices, we can make them provide affordable housing and public transport. We can improve our lives at work, assert our rights and stop exploitation.

All it takes is our own direct action and self-organisation, to fight for our own interests as workers.

And we don't have to stop there. By organising together, where we work and where we live, we have the power to change the world.

To get rid of this rotten system of war, poverty and exploitation, replacing it with a peaceful authentically democratic society, with production according to need not profit.

Real internationalism does not mean supporting one set of would be rulers against some foul murderous imperialist regime. That just means putting a new lot of murderers in power to replace the previous lot. Real internationalism means supporting workers in struggle all over the world. We can do that by fighting the war effort here at home and by providing aid for struggling workers like the Oil Workers of Basra.



Support Iraqi Oil Workers

AFTER the invasion of Iraq, workers in the oil industry took the opportunity to expel Ba'athist (Pro-Saddam) managers from their facilities.

They were soon forced to defend their newly won freedom from American contractors, who were all set to take over administration of the industry.

The workers took direct action, with strikes and blockades, backed by the threat of armed resistance.

Now, with the Iraqi government expected to pass a new law on production sharing agreements with multinational oil companies by the end of the year, oil workers are once again faced with the prospect of private ownership, and production for profit rather than for the benefit of society as a whole.

Repression of union activists, which has already seen the President of the Oil Workers Federation arrested three times, is expected to intensify.

Meanwhile, workers are already fighting for better



pay and conditions, with 700 strikers recently winning their demands in a recent strike in Basra and Nassiriyah.

Caught between the attacks by the Iraqi government, and the indiscriminate terrorism of the resistance, the oil workers deserve our support in pursuit of their interests as workers, independent of the sects and political factions.

■ See www.basraoilunion.org for more details on the oil workers.



Joint Communiqué 2 of:

Manchester Anarchist Federation

THE Anarchist Federation is an organisation of class struggle anarchists which aims to abolish Capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. This is Anarchist Communism.
<http://www.af-north.org>



Manchester Solidarity Federation

THE Solidarity Federation is an organisation of workers which seeks to destroy capitalism and the state. In their place we want a society based on workers' self-management, solidarity, mutual aid and libertarian communism.

