



**LOCKED UP**

**SUSPENDED FROM  
MEAT HOOKS**

**BEATEN AND  
ELECTROCUTED**

**NOW IRAQI  
TRADE UNIONISTS  
ARE ON THEIR  
WAY BACK**

**AND YOU CAN HELP**

**TUC** 

# FOR DECADES, IRAQI TRADE UNIONISTS HAVE SUFFERED FOR THEIR BELIEFS

People such as political researcher Bakar Hussein (right) spent years in Saddam Hussein's jails simply for belonging to a trade union. "I'd pass out because the pain of torture was so great," he recalls. "I'd be taken down, unconscious, and thrown back into my cell. I didn't expect to live." His story is all too common.



## BUT THE PICTURE IS CHANGING

British trade unionists have visited union leaders representing over a million workers in Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan. They are struggling to build independent trade unions so they can take their place in Iraq's emerging society.

But their efforts are being thwarted by Saddam's laws banning unions in the public sector, and Decree 8750, passed by Iraq's government last year, which gave the government power to "take control of all monies belonging to trade unions and prevent them from dispensing any such monies".

With no bank accounts, unions cannot capitalise on a growing membership because they cannot organise or communicate with members. They have appealed for help with basic running costs – such as printing **Workers' Unity**, the newspaper of the General Federation of Iraqi Workers (the Iraqi TUC).

## THE TUC IS ASKING YOU OR YOUR BRANCH TO HELP

- Pledge a monthly sum to fund regular expenditure such as printing Workers' Unity (£200 a month will print an extra 1,000 copies). Set up a standing order to TUC Aid (Ref IRQ01), 08-60-01, 50679164, Unity Trust, Birmingham
- Write to your MP asking them to sign Early Day Motion 2145, which calls on the Iraqi government to repeal Decree 8750
- Send used mobile phones (with chargers) to: TUC Aid, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS
- Visit [www.tuc.org.uk/iraqappeal](http://www.tuc.org.uk/iraqappeal) for news about trade unionism in Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan, and to donate to the TUC appeal

**'We struggled to beat Saddam, now we are struggling to build a strong, federal Iraq'**

– Hadi Ali, Vice President, Iraqi Workers' Federation