2013

Program of The Iraqi Social Forum (ISF)



[Another Iraq is Possible with Peace, Human Rights, and Social Justice]

Towards establishing an Iraqi Social Forum

Iraqis have participated in the activities of the World Social Forum since its founding in Brazil in 2001. Now Iraqi social justice groups wish to promote a deep democratic discussion about what is happening in Iraq today. Iraqi civil society groups have agreed to work on establishing the Iraqi Social Forum as an open space for individuals, groups, organizations and those who believe in the principles of social justice and human rights including political, civil, social, economic, and cultural rights. After many meetings, a preparatory committee was formed and agreed on a charter for the Iraqi Social Forum. The committee has drawn a road map towards its start, and has defined a vision:

The Iraqi Social Forum definition:

The forum is an open space for democratic conversations, to discuss ideas, formulate suggestions, and exchange experiences. In addition it is a space for interaction among social movements and networks, NGOs, and other members of civil society.

with the Forum features multiplicity and diversity; it is also a non-religious, non-partisan and non-governmental activity. It works to facilitate non-centralized interaction and engagement with organizations, societies and movements locally as well as internationally, considering proposals and taking actions and in order to build a more just and democratic world.

Our slogan:

"Another Iraq is possible...An Iraq of peace, human rights & social justice"

The participants are all those who work for Iraq to be a 'civil state' with a clear and unambiguous identity, a country that guarantees pluralism, freedom of religion, thought, belief, where the principles of equality and non-discrimination by gender, color, ethnicity or sect are respected by all. A country where the principles of individual freedom, public benefits and social justice are not just slogans for trade but are supported by real actions. This forum will serve as a joint project between:

- Iraqi Social Movements.
- Trade Unions and Professional Associations.
- Civil Society Organizations.
- Social Justice Activists.
- The Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative.

The reasons behind the Forum's establishment:

Recent world developments have greatly affected Iraq, its citizens, and all the people of the region: the global economic crisis and its repercussions, the Arab spring

witnessed by the Arab countries. In addition, we can identify regional challenges including water problems, and border security.

Moreover, these factors also contribute to current challenges in Iraq:
1. The political crisis and the confusion in the identity of the Iraqi state. In the current moment, which is dominated by disputes for power, not enough attention is paid to dialogue, building partnerships, and fostering cooperation in order to find solutions to Iraq's lingering problems. There is a clear inability to end the page of violence and terrorism that Iraqis pay dearly for.
2. Increasing poverty and unemployment, unequal access to opportunities, poor infrastructure, and a lack of provision of social services such as electricity, medical care and education.
3. The continuous increase in the budget, offset by a deficit in establishing concrete achievements for Iraqi citizens, the inability to support real development, due to the political crisis and the struggle for power and money, as well as sectarianism, financial and administrative corruption, of the governmental body and with the huge problem of unemployment.
4. Overlapping legal authorities and the questionable independence of the judiciary.
We have faith in the rule of law, separation of executive ,legislative and judiciary powers and deep respect for international standards concerning justice and fair trials.

5. Weakness in enforcing the rule of law, as well as international conventions, treaties, and agreements, and continuing violations of human rights, especially freedom of the press and freedom of expression.

In light of the above, we strive for the Iraqi Social forum to give a strong impetus to civil society mobilization, in order to reform the political, economic, social and cultural development, and to promote a vision of a democratic, civil state. We are here not to declare a network or alliance, but rather to provide an open space for discussion and dialogue among those who share our values and concepts. We are here to contribute, collaboratively and horizontally, to work on the realization of alternative options for the weary scenario in which we live today.

Proposed topics for discussion at the Iraqi Social Forum 2013:
We believe that the current problems Iraq is facing that are deemed significant to be discussed in the upcoming Iraqi Social Forum are:

First: Building a civic, democratic country.
Second: International Solidarity campaigns, including: (Freedom of Speech campaign, Save the Tigris campaign and the Iraqi Marshes campaign, and campaigns to control Private Military Companies).
Third: Iraq's minorities and the nationalism problems.
Fourth: Equitable distribution of wealth and social justice.
Fifth: Labor unions, trade unions and peasant associations.
Sixth: Women, youth, and childhood (challenges, solutions and prospects).

Seventh: Economic, social, and cultural issues.
Eighth: Nonviolence as a way of social, cultural, and economical change in Iraq.

Therefore, and on behalf of the Preparatory Committee of the Iraqi Social Forum we invite you to participate and contribute effectively to the success of this Iraqi event which serves all Iraqi citizens. All participants in the Iraqi Social Forum should endorse the Charter of Principles of the World Social Forum, drafted and approved in Brazil in 2001.

Iraqi Social Forum Preparatory Committee

ISF Activities Table			
26th/09/2013 Baghdad University- Jadryah Compound			
Activities of this period 09.00 am-12.00 pm			
Seq	Name of Activity	Organizing Body	Place
1	10 Km Race	Non-violence Sport Committee	Internal str. Of Compound
2	5 Km Race	Non-violence Sport Committee	Internal str. Of Compound
3	Photo Gallery of Non-Violence sport	Iraqi Photo Center	Near Presidency University Building
4	Taekwondo demonstration	Taekwondo Development Arabic Forum	Near Presidency University Building
5	Free Drawing for Children	Non-violence Sport Committee	Near Presidency University Building
Official Opening Ceremony of the ISF 04.00- 06.00 pm at the National Theater			
	Name of Activity	Organizing Body	
1	Speeches	Preparatory committee and Participant Delegations	
2	A variety of art Activities	Musical and Folklore Bands	
3	Conclusion		

27th/09/2013 At Baghdad Cultural Center & Qushllah

First Period of Activities 09.00 am-10.45 am			
Seq	Name of Activity	Organizing Body	Place
1	Water Crisis between Iraq and Neighboring Countries: The Ilisu dam, Exploring Legal Strategies in Iraq and Elsewhere	The People of Iraq Campaign to Save Tigris	A1
2	Shadow report to CEDAW- Symposium	Iraqi Women Network	A2
3	Social Justice in Iraq- Symposium	Information Center for Social Development	A3
4	Protection & Enhancement of Minority Rights In Iraq- Symposium	Brotherhood and Solidarity Association of Yezidi and the Alliance of Iraqi minorities	A9
5	The Project of the New Law of Labor- Symposium	General Federation of Trade Unions- Iraq	A8
6	Extractive Industries Incomes- Symposium	Transparency Coalition	A6
7	Activating the role of trade unions in a democratic Iraq- Symposium	Engineering Professions Syndicate	A7
8	The South of Iraq marshes- Symposium	Environment activists	A5
9	Global campaigns for peace and nonviolence- Symposium	Iraq Civil society Solidarity Initiative	A4
Second Period of Activities 11.00 am-12.45 pm			
Seq	Name of Activity	Organizing Body	Place
1	Women In Iraq Reality- Symposium	Women for Peace Org.	A1
2	Employment Digital Tools in Community Campaigns- Symposium	Social Media Iraqi Network	A2
3	Introducing (Baghdad Life) Project- Symposium	Baghdad Life Group	A8
4	Minorities In Iraq- Rights & Reality- Symposium	The Defense of Journalism Freedoms Association	A4
5	The legal rights of Defense in Detention Centers-	Our Cultural House Forum	A5

	Symposium		
6	Non- Violence as Means to Solve Disputes- Symposium	Non-violence Group	A6
7	Constitutional rights of Citizens- Symposium	The Iraqi National Organization for Human Rights	A7
8	Introducing (Baghdad Marathon) Project- Symposium	Italian Association for Against violence Sport	A3
9	Road to Democracy- Symposium	Non-Governmental Organizations Council in Salah Alddin	A9
Third Period of Activities 01.00 pm-03.00 pm			
Seq	Name of Activity	Organizing Body	Place
1	Symposium	Towers of Humanity Foundation for Development	A8
2	Early Mariages of Female Minors	Women Renaissance Society	A2
3	Legal Addressing for Violence Against Women	Women and Future Iraqi Organization	A3
4	Youth and Their Role in Change- Symposium	Iraqi Minorities Council	A6
5	The Available Mechanisms to Protect Human Rights- Symposium	Engineering Professions Syndicate	A7
6	Trade union rights and freedoms- Workshop	National Vocational Section / Teachers Syndicate	A4
7	Criticism Research of the Movement of Iraqi Narrative and its Relationship to Arabic and International Narrative- Session	General Union of authors and writers in Iraq	A5
8	Deputies Observatory- Symposium	Perceptions Foundation	A1
9	Preparatory Committee 02.00pm	Plenary	A10

28th/09/2013 At Baghdad Cultural Center & Qushllah			
First Period of Activities 09.00 am-10.45 am			
Seq	Name of Activity	Organizing Body	Place
1	Privatization and Fair Distribution of Wealth- Symposium	National Association to Defend Human Rights	A1
2	The Reality of Women & children in Countryside- Symposium	Lanterns Association to Combat Violence Against Women	A2
3	Youth and Their Role in Building a Democratic Estate- Symposium	Tammuz Organization for Social Development	A3
4	State Attitude towards unions' activity in Iraq after 2003	Engineering Professions Syndicate	A4
5	School Violence, Reasons & treatment- workshop	National Vocational Section / Teachers Syndicate	A5
6	Iraqi Youth Reality Symposium	Democratic Youth Federation	A6
7	The citizen's role to enhance accountability and transparency	The Peoples Foundation for the culture of democracy	A7
8	History and geography of Faili Kurds- Lecture	Individual activity – Dr. Abdul Wahid Philly	A8
9	How to Help Autistic Patients- Symposium	Safa Institute for the Care of Autism Patients	A9
Second Period of Activities 11.00 am-12.45 pm			
Seq	Name of Activity	Organizing Body	Place
1	Civil & Social peace- Symposium	Peace and Solidarity Council	A1
2	Legislative environment and freedom of the press in Iraq Symposium	Youth are Coming Federation for voluntary work	A2
3	Widows Reality in Iraq- Workshop	Women for Peace Org.	A3
4	Child Protection Code- Symposium	Information Center for Social Development	A4

5	Employment social Networks in Civil Activity- Workshop	Social Media Iraqi Network	A9
6	Civil peace- Symposium	Justice & Peace Org.	A6
7	Peaceful coexistence between religions and nationalities in Iraq- Workshop	Ur Association of Solidarity with the of the Assyrian Chaldean Syriac people	A7
8	Disputed & peace building- Workshop	Justice Center to support marginalized groups in Iraq	A8
9	Issues of Contemporary Iraqi Criticism and Literary Phenomena- Session	General Union of authors and writers in Iraq	A5
Third Period of Activities 01.00 am-02.30 pm			
Seq	Name of Activity	Organizing Body	Place
1	Because We are Civilization	Individual Activity -Annas Murshid	A6
2	Hatred Speech- Symposium	Individual Activity- Ali Tariq Jasim	A2
3	Women Rights in Heavenly Religions Symposium	Alalak Childhood Org.	A3
4	Non- Violence as Means to Socio- Political change- Symposium	Parents of Detainees & Missing Tunisian Persons Association	A4
5	E-Illiteracy- Symposium	This is Youth Org.	A5
6	Youth Congress Association- Symposium	Youth Congress Association	A1
7	Plenary	Preparatory Committee	A10
Closing ceremony 02.30 pm-03.00 pm in the Open Space			
Open Activities That are Continuous for 27th-28th/09/2013			
All Activities 09.00 am- 03.00 pm			
Seq	Name of Activity		Place
1	Youth Against Harassment Tent		B1
2	Women for Peace Org. Tent		B2
3	Assal Humanitarian Org. Tent		B3
4	We Begin With Hygiene Campaign Tent		B4
5	Iraqi Child Library- Iraqi women League tent		B5

6	Universe Foundation For Human Development Tent	B6
7	No for Poverty Tent	B7
8	Iraqi Women League Tent	B8
9	Help To Overcome (H2O) tent	B9
10	Communication & Fraternity Org. Tent	B10
11	Tammuz Organization for Social Development Tent	B11
12	Cooperation Charity _Iraq Builders Tent	B12
13	1000 ID Campaign Tent	B13
14	Social Youth Center Tent	B14
15	Assal Humanitarian Org. Tent	B15
16	Youth Congress Association Tent	B16
17	Contribute Your Way Campaign Tent	B17
18	Iraqi Democratic Youth federation Tent	B18
19	Iraqi Cultural Day Tent	B19
20	Iraq Without Poverty is Possible Tent	B20
21	Window to Poverty & Marginalization Association Tent	B21
22	Window to Poverty & Marginalization Association Tent	B22
23	Rafidain Youth Renaissance Tent	B23
24	Peace Flowers Tent	B24
25	Today's Youth Tent	B25
26	Women on Top Tent	B26
27	White Emblem Tent	B27
28	Ur Association of Solidarity with the of the Assyrian Chaldean Syriac people Tent	B28
29	Al Rasheed Youth for a Smile Campaign Tent	B29
30	National Center for Volunteer Work	B30
31	For One Iraq We Work Tent	B31
32	Future Youth Tent	B32
33	Amend the Law Of Journalists Campaign Tent	B33
34	Environment Ambassadors Tent	B34
35	I am Iraqi I Read Tent	B35
36	Sutoor Library Tent	B36
36	Know your Right Tent	B37
38	Almutanabi Str. Facebook Page Tent	B38

39	Civil Campaign to Support Cancer Patients Tent	B39
40	Democratic Students Tent	B40
41	Ur Association of Solidarity with the of the Assyrian Chaldean Syriac people	B41
42	Civilized Dialogue Tent	B42
43	Environmental Activists Tent	B43
44	Transparency Coalition	B44
45	Iraqi Council for Peace & Solidarity - No to Sectarianism Campaign Tent	B45
46	Save Tigris & The Iraqi Marshes Campaign Tent	B46
47	Nature Iraq Tent	B47
48	Brotherhood and Solidarity Association of Yezidi and the Alliance of Iraqi minorities Tent	B48
49	Historical Library Tent	B49
50	1000 ID Campaign Tent	B50
51	Iraqi Industries/ Eng. Furat Abu Maryum	B51
52	Magician Tent	B52
53	Dunia For Accessories and Hand Made Ornaments Tent	B53
54	Power Shift-Iraq Tent	B54
55	Poor Cry Tent	B55
56	Tha'er Ale'esami Printing and Publishing Foundation	B56

Theater, Films, And musicals				
27th/09/2013 At Baghdad Cultural Center & Qushllah				
No.	Name of Activity	Organizing Body	Place	الوقت
1	I Want to Live- Play	Nenorta Art Group	A10	10.00 am
2	Youth Role Now- Play	Future Makers for Human Rights Org.	A10	11.00 am
3	Operetta Land of Blackness	Almahabba Radio	A10	11.45 am
4	Protect Us From the Risks of War- Anthem	Almahabba Radio	A10	12.45 pm
5	I am The Iraqi Child- Play	Iraq Reconstruction and Development Foundation	A10	12.30 pm

6	Urgent Call- film	Fine Arts Institution- Haider Alkhazragi	A10	01.15 pm
Theater, Films, And musicals				
28th/09/2013 At Baghdad Cultural Center & Qushllah				
No.	Name of Activity	Organizing Body	Place	الوقت
1	The crazy – Play	Iraqi Democratic Youth federation	A10	10:00 ص
2	Alturath Iraqi Group	Our Cultural House Forum	A10	10:30 ص
3	The Happiest of the Happy- Play	Akmaar cultural Org.	A10	11:00 ص
4	Faili Kurds Tragedy-Play	Balah Jo Theater Group	A10	12:15 م
5	The Wild Fish- Play	Tammuz Org. For Social Development	A10	01:00 م
6	Reunion- Play	Iraq Reconstruction and Development Foundation	A10	01:30 م

Art and Photographic Galleries			
27th-28th/09/2013 At Baghdad Cultural Center & Qushllah			
No.	Name of Activity	Organizing Body	Place
1	Bright in Our Country Sky (Photo Gallery)	Iraqi Women League	B
2	Antiquity directory Photo Gallery	Nenorta Art Group	B
3	Fine Art Gallery	Nenorta Art Group	B
4	Photo Gallery - Service Reality	Tasami Women's Forum	B
5	Photo Gallery Assyrian Heritage	Ashoor Panipal Cultural Association	B
6	Photo Gallery	Youth are Coming Federation	B
7	Photo Gallery	Engineering Professions Syndicate	B
8	Non-Violence Sport Photo Gallery	Baghdad Marathon Preparatory Committee	B

9	Photo Gallery	Iraq Reconstruction and Development Foundation	B
10	Non-Violence Gallery	Iraqi Caricature House	B
11	Photo Gallery	I was here campaign	B
12	Fine Art Gallery	Fahad Alsigur	B
13	Photo Gallery	General Union of Students- Mesan	B
14	Fine Art Gallery	Goodness Humanitarian Org.	B
15	Fine Art Gallery	Wissam Alfurati	B
16	Gallery of Fine Art, sculpture, painting on glass	Group of Artists	B
17	Fine Art Gallery	Our Cultural House Forum	B

There will be activities as a part of the extended forum held abroad and live-streamed to Baghdad

Preparatory committee members:

Tammuz Org. for Social Development	Women for Peace
AL Masalah Org. for Human Resources Development	Non- violence Group
Information Center for Research & Development	Kurdistan Youth Empowerment Org.
Al-Amal Association	Iraqi Council for Peace & Solidarity (ICPS)
Iraqi Federation of Oil Unions	General Federation of Iraqi Workers
Madarik for Studding Mechanisms of Conceptual Promotion	Press Freedom Advocacy Association In Iraq
Engineering Professions Union	Azidi Solidarity & Fraternity League
Ufoq Organization	Future Network
War & Peace Reporting Institution	Iraqi Network for Social Media
Gaynden Organization for Activities of Democracy & human rights	Assyria Association BANIPAL

Local supports:

Ministry of environment	Baghdad governorate
The Baghdadi Cultural Center & Al-Qushlah	Baghdad university
Tourism ministry	Cultural affairs ministry
International Baghdad hotel	Safeen motel

International supporters:

Karibu Foundation	Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative (ICSSI)
International Institute for Nonviolent Action (NOVACT, Spain)	The Council of Barcelona - Barcelona Solidaria
Friedrich Ebert Foundation	
International Babil assembly for translation	Un ponte per... (UPP, Italy)
Sports Against Violence (SAV, Italy)	Fondation Assistance Internationale

The preparatory committee would like to thank all those interested in the activities of the Forum, who helped out in accomplishing our mission, preparing for this big civil event.