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From: "Iraq Occupation Focus" <iraqfocus@riseup.net>
To: <iraqfocus@lists.riseup.net>
Sent: 15 October 2006 13:28
Subject: [iraqfocus] Events this month around the occupation of Iraq

Key events in London during October related to the occupation of Iraq:

21st October - [Meeting: Women, the 'War on Terror' and Fundamentalism](#)

27th October - [Booklaunch: Maya Anne Evans, 'Naming The Dead - A Serious Crime'](#)

28th-29th October - [Actions: 'No More Fallujahs'](#)

WOMEN, THE 'WAR ON TERROR' AND FUNDAMENTALISM

A meeting organised by Women Against Fundamentalism

Speakers:

Pragna Patel - Southall Black Sisters

Nadje Al-Ali - Act Together: Women's Action for Iraq

Mai Ghossoub - writer, artist and founder of Saqi Books

Chair: Julia Bard - Jewish Socialists' Group

Saturday 21st October , 2pm - 5pm

Upper Hall, University of London Union

Malet Street, London WC1E 7HY

Entrance £5/£2

Women, the 'War on Terror' and Fundamentalism

Women Against Fundamentalism is alarmed at the threat to and silencing of trade union, socialist, feminist, anti-racist and other progressive movements - in the mainstream as well as in Black, migrant and refugee communities - by the state's 'War on Terror'. It is alarmed, too, by the collusion of elements on the Left with fundamentalist religious leaders who are attempting to undermine rights and freedoms, including in their own communities.

These are some of the questions we think the left needs to address urgently. Do you share our concerns?

- * What are the implications for freedom of expression in minority communities of religious groups emerging as their leaders and defenders?
- * What is the effect of the State's encouragement (through funding and other mechanisms) of religious definitions of 'identity' and its promotion of religious institutions as representatives of minority communities?
- * Should the Left's support of communities under pressure include working with religious and/or fundamentalist leaders who are themselves trying to silence

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secular and dissident voices and to undermine established rights and freedoms?

- * Does defining the Middle East conflicts in religious terms undermine our ability to challenge the economic and political issues that underpin the wars in Iraq, Israel/Palestine and Lebanon?
 - * Is the coalition between key left organisations with reactionary, fundamentalist organisations enabling the Left to win people over from a narrow, religious perspective or drawing the Left into colluding with religious oppression?
 - * Western governments distinguish 'moderate' Muslims from 'extremist' Muslims, and promote 'non-professional' Muslims into areas of which they have no experience. Is this promotion of certain 'acceptable' Muslim groups actually fuelling fundamentalism?
 - * Is the 'War on Terror' putting pressure on communities to close ranks and demarcate themselves from the surrounding society? If so, what impact is this having on dissidents, women and vulnerable members of those communities?
 - * Can the term 'community' be rescued from self- and government-appointed community leaders to incorporate diversity, dissent and conflict?
 - * Can we support women's movements across the world struggling against the re-invention of religious and tribal laws, while backing the resistance by fundamentalist religious organisations to US/UK/Israeli invasion?
 - * How can we challenge Bush's fundamentalist Christian morality agenda - on sexuality, abortion and contraception, for example - and should we support anti imperialists who hold almost identical views on these issues?
 - * Is secularism a divisive 'Western' philosophy, or the only basis from which we can struggle globally for equality, democracy, civil liberties and human rights?
 - * How can we protect and expand secular spaces on the left?
 - * How should the human rights movement analyse and hold accountable terrorist and fundamentalist political groups?
 - * What is the impact of the growth of fundamentalism in a wide range of religions across the world - from fundamentalist Buddhist monks in Sri Lanka to fundamentalist Jewish settlers in the West Bank?
 - * Is there any role for identity politics in the struggle for human rights?
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NAMING THE DEAD

Booklaunch: Maya Anne Evans, 'Naming The Dead - A Serious Crime'
Housmans, 5 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross tube
Friday 27 October, 7.30pm

Maya Anne Evans of Justice Not Vengeance gained national recognition after 7 December 2005, when she became the first person to be convicted of participating in an unauthorised demonstration in the vicinity of Parliament under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act (2005).

On 27 October she will be launching her book 'Naming The Dead - A Serious Crime' (co-written with Milan Rai) at Housmans Bookshop in Kings Cross. Two days later, on 29 October, she will once again read the names of the dead in an

unauthorised demonstration in the vicinity of Parliament, this time in Parliament Square (see www.rememberfallujah.org). Her appeal against her conviction will be heard in mid-November. By taking part in the No More Fallujahs protest, she will be risking a breach of her conditional discharge imposed on her in December 2005.

'Naming The Dead' tells the story behind the action and the conviction that caught the headlines and featured on the front pages of the Daily Mail and the Independent.

'Naming The Dead' documents the evolution of an activist through her work with Merseyside Stop The War (which lost her a job because of a street blockade), Voices in the Wilderness US in Chicago (where she met Nobel Peace Prize nominee Kathy Kelly), Justice Not Vengeance and Hastings Against War down on the South Coast (which saw her helping to film and edit a documentary on the 'war on terror'), and the Hiroshima Peacewalk in Belgium in summer 2005 (during which she was arrested and stripsearched by the Belgian police).

Maya Evans will be reading from her book, autographing copies, and answering questions from the audience.

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Justice Not Vengeance www.j-n-v.org
44 (0)1424 428 792 44 (0)7980 748 555

NO MORE FALLUJAHS

A weekend of nonviolent resistance to the occupation of Iraq on the 2nd anniversary of the November 2004 US/UK massacre in Fallujah
www.rememberfallujah.org

28-29 October 2006, London

SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER:

- * PEACE JOURNEY FROM THE UK'S MILITARY NERVE CENTRE IN NORTHWOOD. Meet 11am, Northwood tube station. Finish 4pm, central London.
- * NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION WORKSHOP AND LEGAL BRIEFING. 4.30 – 7.30pm, Diorama 3, 3-7 Euston Centre, London NW1 3JG (tube: Warren Street).

SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER:

"UNAUTHORISED" 24-HOUR PEACE CAMP IN PARLIAMENT SQUARE to demand an end to the occupation. ASSEMBLE 12 NOON, PARLIAMENT SQUARE.

The camp will begin with Maya Evans and Milan Rai reading the names of 100 Iraqis who have died as a result of US/UK military action in Iraq - one year after their arrest for doing this in Oct 2005. N.B: Under the Serious Organised

Crime and Police Act participation in such an "unauthorised" demonstration is a criminal offence punishable by a fine of up to £1000.

For more information, including a brochure about the weekend, see www.rememberfallujah.org

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation will be available on request on the evenings of 27 and 28 Oct. Contact 0845 458 2564 or e-mail gabriel@voices.netuxo.co.uk

BACKGROUND

In Nov 2004, the US - with British assistance - launched a massive assault against the Iraqi city of Fallujah, almost totally destroying it, killing hundreds of civilians, forcing tens of thousands of people to flee their homes, and using white phosphorus - a substance that burns down to the bone - as a weapon. Since then at least 21 more Iraqi towns and cities have been attacked by US-led forces and Fallujah itself has been turned into a virtual police state.

According to the October 2006 Lancet report, coalition forces in Iraq have killed 186,000 Iraqis since the start of the 2003 invasion and were responsible for at least 26% of all violent deaths in Iraq during the period June 2005 - June 2006. According to a recent poll conducted on behalf of the US State Department "[a] strong majority of Iraqis want U.S.-led military forces to immediately withdraw from the country, saying their swift departure would make Iraq more secure and decrease sectarian violence" (Washington Post, 27 September 2006).

WHAT WE'RE DEMANDING

- an immediate end to the US/UK military occupation of Iraq
- massive reparations and debt cancellation so that Iraqis can rebuild their country free from foreign interference
- prosecution of those responsible for war crimes

ORGANISED BY THE MASS ACTION GROUP AND SUPPORTED BY:

Act Together; Women's Action for Iraq; Birkenhead CND; Birmingham University Against the War Society; Blackpool and Fylde CND; Bolton CND; Brent Stop the War; Bristol Stop the War Coalition; CND; CND Cymru; Darlington for Peace and Justice; Falmouth Peace and Justice Group; Greater Manchester and District CND; Hastings Against War; Headingley and District CND; Highland Justice Not War; Huddersfield STW; Hull Stop the War; Iraq Occupation Focus; JNV; Kingston Peace Council; Labour Against War; Leicester Stop the War; London Catholic Worker; London Federation of Green Parties; London Region CND; Milton Keynes Gulf Crisis Group; Musicians Against Nuclear Arms; Norwich Stop the War; Nottingham Stop the War; Oswestry Coalition for Peace; Oxford for Justice & Peace; Peace Plan Group; Radical Activist Network; Redbridge Against the War; Red Pepper Magazine; Sevenoaks CND; Sherwood for Global Justice and Peace; Smash EDO; South Tyneside STWC; Stevenage Coalition for Peace; Stop the War; Voices UK; Wallasey CND; Wandsworth Stop the War; Warwick and Leamington Green Party; West Midlands CND; Wrekin Stop War; Wrexham Peace and Justice Forum and Yorkshire CND.

WHO WE ARE

The Mass Action Group is an ad hoc collection of activists - most, but not all, of whom are based in London - who were involved in organising the 2 April "Naming the Dead" mass act of civil disobedience in Parliament Square (the first mass act of civil disobedience against the occupation of Iraq to take place in the UK since the 2003 invasion - see <http://tinyurl.com/orq9e>).