

Statement by the Conference of Iraqi Federations and Workers Unions [CIFWU]:

### **The ongoing uprising by the Iraqi people for a decent life**

Oh, people of our great nation:

The public protest ongoing in many provinces in our country is a consequence of the grave crisis affecting our society, which is a result of racism, sectarian conflict and the wrong economic and social policies.

The Conference considers this protest - where many protestors were arrested, wounded or martyred - as an expression of unity with the soul of the constitution and citizens' rights to express their opinion, to demand their rights and to exercise freedom of assembly and freedom of choice.

This is why the country's federal and local governments should unconditionally support and protect protesters' lives and guarantee their safety.

Therefore, the use live ammunition and excessive violence and the preparation of arrest warrants for well-known activists is totally unacceptable. These are the methods of undemocratic countries, not one that is building a democratic foundation.

Oh, people of our fighter nation:

The protest demands not only drinking water, electricity to protect from summer heat and winter cold, an end to unemployment, hunger, the deprivation of services and life below the poverty line. It also demands justice against the rule of oligarchs who break down the national and social fabric of the Iraqi people by force and cruelty.

The protests also stand against the corrupt rulers who stole billions of dollars from the state treasury and from public funds. They stand against everyone whom, during their period of corrupt rule, abuses the values and standards of humanity and ethics, while claiming to uphold them. The protests stand against the few people who know only how to use guns and water cannon and tear gas against protestors who have sought only their basic, fair and legal rights for years.

The protest stands against who cut social media between protestors and the public because they are so afraid of the people and they don't know any language but the language of violence to protect their position. This violence makes the people of Iraq think the old dictators were better than the current corrupt rulers.

All the angry but peaceful demonstrations taking place in our country could be ruined due to the existence of provocateurs who should be exposed by the government because they harm our peaceful protest. The government should protect the protestors and focus on the basic demands of the Iraqi people which include:

- Get rid of the corrupt political system and confessionalism that harms and humiliates the people of Iraq,
- Fight corruption and improve the deteriorated services.

This Conference believes that the crisis the country and the people are going through reaffirms the need for a truly national Government - a new Government which is far removed from confessionalism and corruption.

A new government that is committed to a national reform programme with a specific timeframe, placing the right person in the right position without any secret procedures and abstract promises, as has happened recently.

We need a clear methodology that provides a sincere will to walk the path of change and real reform, firmly address corruption and meet people needs, solving the accumulated problems and providing a decent life for our people who have had their human rights stolen.

Glory and immortality for our martyrs in the protest!

Glory to our fight and the struggle of our Iraqi people for a decent life!