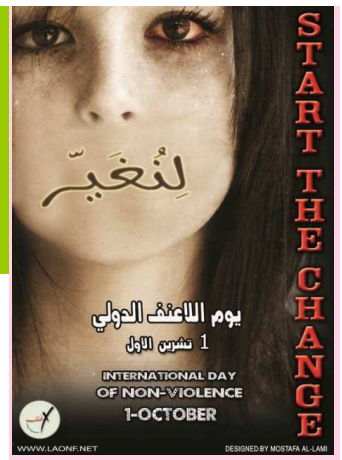


Non-violence

7 October 2010

The third number



We call on all Iraqi men and women to rally around nonviolent alternatives to express their beliefs and to make lasting change.

Legal Symposium Discusses Delay in Government Formation as Part of Non-Violence Week

Free Opinion, a media organization and member of the La Onf group, held a legal symposium on October 6, in Karabla. Present were representatives from local government, political and religious offices, political parties, and organizations of civil society.

Mr. Ala's Shakir Al Obeadi read a statement from La Onf describing the group's strategic, future aims and its non-violent struggle for Iraqi peace which is considered the only means to reach to aims. He also stressed the importance of dealing with the crisis of the informed Iraqi government.

Free Opinion Deputy Secretary Mr. Husin Abas Al Taweel delivered a speech describing the feelings of Iraqi people toward the politi-



cal arena. He stressed the need to address the legal and constitutional needs of the country in parliament so that Iraq is not vulnerable to regional and international interventions.

Mr. Tariq al-Khafaji, a legal scholar and chief of the Iraqi Center for Development and Legal Support gave a speech in the cultural forum. His words also cast light on the

ongoing legal and constitutional delay in the formation of the government. He voiced frustration that the Parliament opened its first meeting illegally and has not yet closed it.

The debate opened doors to learn more about issues that may increase violence within the community but prompted caution among listeners that the crisis could be transmitted to the lives of Iraqi citizens.

Daily newsletter issued by the operating room on occasion of the fourth non-violence

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Lectures on Non-violence Alternatives in Mosul

Mosul/ LaOnf

The Yazidii Brotherhood Solidarity Association of Mosul established a series of daily lectures of non-violence alternatives in Bashiqa town starting on Tuesday October 5, to honour the fourth non-violence week. The theme of the occasion is *The time has come for formation of the Iraqi national government and enough for the delay*. It was attended by a group of

youth, women and civil society activists from the Mosul and Bashiqa areas.

The Yazidii Brotherhood Solidarity Association is a member of the Iraq non-violence group (La Onf) and has established ongoing activities to promote a non-violent culture and peace in Iraq.



ITALY EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH IRAQIS RUNNING THE MARATHON IN ROME

At the same time that Iraqis were running in Peace Marathons throughout the country, in Rome, Italy a similar Peace Marathon was taking place. The Italian group *Baghdad Marathon* committed themselves to solidarity with the Iraqi people and its support of the Iraqi Week of Nonviolence by organizing a 5 km marathon on October 3rd. Everyone in Italy was invited to participate!

The day programmed also included a 2 km non-competitive walk, a bike race for young people and adults, a foosball tournament and a running race for children. Many participants came from Rome and also from other parts of Italy to run in solidarity with the Iraqi people.

Thanks to the warm and friendly atmosphere that was created, the event received great approval from the public, and it became an occasion of civil engagement in favor of Iraq.



Members from a number of associations took part in the day, some of them also running in the marathon, such as Une Ponte Per and "Liberal" an association against mafia. Others contributed actively to the success of the event such as the *Italy-Iraq Friendship Association*, *a Glance on Middle East*" and many sport associations.

www.baghdadmarathon.it

La Onf Erbil Group Sponsors College of Law and Politics Ping Pong Play Off

On the 6th day of International Nonviolence Week, the La Onf group of Erbil sponsored a final ping-pong final match among professors and employees of the College of Law and Politics of Salaheddin University in Erbil.

Several students and professors followed the match together with the members of La Onf Erbil group. A banner stating the collaboration between La Onf group and the College for the International Day of Nonviolence was hung at the entrance of the building. A newsletter from the Kurdistan Youth Empowerment Organization (KYEO), which is member of La Onf, containing information about the Week of Nonviolence, the Baghdad Marathon initiative, and other activities regarding La Onf group, was distributed to everyone during the match. At the end, the winners were awarded by representatives of different international and local organizations and by the dean of the college, Dr. Husseyn Faydallah

On this occasion, the La Onf group had a private meeting with Dr. Faydallah, who



was also given a copy of the newsletter. The dean affirmed the importance of starting education and training programmes about nonviolence and peace among professors and students, as the level of violence in the region has always been very high and there are many people inside the college willing to know more about these subjects. He added that the College of Law and Politics is ready to welcome and support future initiatives that go in such direction.

Theatre for Children of Samawa Condemns Violence

Samawah/ La Onf neT

The Rumaytha Association for Human Development visited a Muthanna primary school on Wednesday morning, October 6, reported Mr, Aqel Naji a member of the La Onf group.

He helped the students and teachers to understand that today can be started anew by using peace to develop the spirit of tolerance and non-violence principles among children, who represent the future of Iraq.

A theatrical performance was presented by the children which described the deadly risk of playing with weapons and the danger of planting the seeds of violence in their young minds.



In solidarity with the activities of International Non-Violence Day he restated the slogan The time has come for formation of the Iraqi national government - Enough for the delay!

Non-Violence Group in Kirkuk Visits Families of Terror Victims



Kirkuk/La Onf Net

On the 6th day of the fourth non-violence week, the La Onf representative body of Kirkuk visited families who have lost members by terrorists. They were presented gifts for their children and they were talked with regarding the importance of non-violence, peace, security and stability.

The Kirkuk non-violence group also stressed the slogan; *The time has come for formation of the Iraqi national government and enough for the delay.*

Fourth non-violence statement sent to religious authority in Najaf

Najaf/ La Onf Net

Iraqi non-violence group representative body in Najaf sent the fourth non-violence week statement to the religious authority in the province and the most prominent the highest religious authority Mr, Ali Al Sistani and Mr, Mohamed Saed Al Hakim, as well as to some other religious authority.

As well as they distributed non-violence banners and posters at the street of Najaf, shops and the public restaurants.

Non-violence group in Najaf noticed the large support from religious, cultural and media circle in the province, and we visited youth centre and sports clubs.



Kindergartens Visits to Raise Awareness of Non-Violence in Dhi Qar

Dhi Qar/ Net

The President of the Ur Organization for the Culture of Women and Children in the district of Shatra in Nasiriyah visited Al Waled nursery in recognition of International Non-Violence Day.

During the visit the children received small gifts and teachers were urged to help children to renounce violence and work toward peace building. The children then presented activities of homeland love, peace and non-violence.

Kirkuk Deploys Banners to Urge Peace and Non-Violence

Kirkuk/ LaOnf Net

The representative body for the Iraqi non-violence group in Kirkuk implemented an activity for International Non-violence week by flying banners urging Peace for their local citizens. They also reminded people of the danger in delaying the formation of a government, because it may create chaos and the violation of human rights.

The banners stressed the important of the concept of non-violence as a means to change and of the value of gaining rights by peaceful and democratic methods. The banners were distributed and place around the entire city of Kirkuk and its districts and villages.

The banners also carried three slogans; 1) *Violence only begets violence, chaos and violation of human rights*, 2) *Non-violence is a means of ensuring human rights, the exit of occupying forces, and the expulsion of terror*, and 3) *Non-violence has many ways to ensure your rights, including peaceful demonstrations, protests and sit-ins*.



A 'No' uttered from the deepest conviction is better than a 'Yes' merely uttered to please, or worse, to avoid trouble **Gandi**

Non-violence Statement Distributed in Al Dor and samara in Salahaddin, October 6

.Salahaddin/La Onf Net

Mr, Thamer Hamo Hasani, a member of the non-violence group in the Salahaddin, visited residential buildings in the Al Dor District with a statement of non-violence. Al Dor is inhibited by religiously diverse people from all over Iraq.

Mr, Hasani then visited some establishments in the Al Dor District and distributed non-violence statements to the director and staff, introducing them to non-violence principles for this fourth week of non-violence.

And Mrs. Lamyaa Subhi, a member of the La Onf nonviolence group in Salahaddin province, delivered a statement to the District of Samara during her visit to the Council committee. The statement was given to

the president of the committee, Mr. Omer Hassan. Mrs. Subhi then visited the mayor of the city, Mr, Yousif Mohamed Dawood, and the Tahrer Primary School, where the statement was also distributed.



Distribution of Non-Violence Statements in Dyala

The Dyala representative body of the Iraqi non-violence week distributed statements in Dyala communities urging non-violence and a new government in Iraq. The group's slogan reads; *Time has come for formation of the Iraqi national government and enough for the delay*.

The coordinator of the Dyala provinces confirmed that they distributed 100 copies of the statement to young people. He said; *“children are the future of our society. Our message is universal and humanitarian - to spread the concept peace to substitute for violence and hatred. We continue to urge the government to formalize as soon as possible and to use all its capabilities to improve Iraq's circumstances.”*



WHO WE ARE

The LAONF group is composed by organisations and individuals with different ideological and political background, gathering around the idea of non-violence as the most effective way to struggle for an independent, democratic, peaceful Iraq. LAONF is neither a political party nor an organisation: it's a free gathering of people, and any Iraqi sharing the same ideology is welcome to join it.

This group believes in a humanitarian approach to non-violent struggle, which is made real through supporting any non-violence movement and group of activists all around the world. We refuse occupation and war as a way to build democracy and establish rule of law, even when it is presented as the only possible option: we believe in promoting peace culture and dialogue instead.

The LAONF group shares and celebrates the historical culture of non-violence all along human history with a special focus on non-violence traditional movements in Islamic world and Middle East.

The LAONF group was established in April 2006 by Al Mesalla centre as leading promoter, together with several Iraqi non governmental organisations.

Vision: we look forward being the major focal point in Iraq to defend citizens' right to use non-violence means to struggle for democracy, equality and respect of human rights.

Mission: the LAONF group works to promote and widespread the culture and knowledge of non-violence as an effective way for resistance. We want to explain and teach the non-violence techniques and tools as an alternative to war.

Means: the group aims at reaching their goals through the following means:

- 1 – our website, presented in Arabic, Kurdish and English;
- 2 – organising at least one yearly happening to promote non-violent struggle and to call for reconciliation, peace and dialogue among different ethnic groups;
- 3 – organising workshops and training sessions about conflict management, conflict transformation, non-violence and strategy planning for peaceful struggle;
- 4 – implementing projects that can generate income for victims of violence, and any activity that aims at overcoming anger and hatred in the victims, to promote instead a positive attitude and support their integration in the community;
- 5 – translating, printing and distributing researches, books, studies about non-violence;
- 6 – any other activity matching with the principles of the group and with the respect of human rights and rule of law.

The fourth Non-violence week is supported by the Spanish Movement of Conscientious objectors, NOVA and UPP