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# DEPORT RICE – NOT REFUGEES!

## Why?

■ ■ On May 29th Sweden will host a conference led by the UN and Iraq. The US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and the Iraqi Prime Minister al-Maliki have been invited to this conference. It is a disgrace that Sweden should host a conference on Iraq that invites instigators of war, war criminals and the Iraqi puppet prime minister while we refuse entry to Iraqi refugees on the grounds that there is no war in Iraq! The disastrous situation in Iraq has been caused by the US illegal attack on and oc-

cupation of the country. The occupation has caused the death of more than a million Iraqis, almost 5 million (one fifth of the population) are refugees inside and outside the country. The infrastructure has been ruined; a cultural heritage that is many thousands of years old is being plundered and destroyed. The US indiscriminate bombings of civilian areas have increased in number five times compared to 2005 -2007,

By hosting this conference Sweden stands out as "Tony Blair's successor as the little European poodle of the US." ( Sverker Åström, Swedish diplomat).

## What is the purpose of the conference?

■ ■ The conference is a tool for the US to try and muster support for its continued military presence in Iraq and to win allies to exploit the country.

Despite strong pressure from the US the UN has tried to resist becoming involved in Iraq and being identified with the illegal occupation. But the US is striving to use the legitimacy of the UN and at the same time they want someone to blame as the situation in Iraq is worsening.

## Is the government of Iraq illegitimate?

■ ■ It is being claimed that the occupation forces are there at the request of the Iraqi government.

Over and over again the UN Security Council has extended the mandate for the US-led occupation forces in Iraq, recently until December 2008.

But the fact that the Security Council refers to a government that is the result of an invasion and a subsequent occupation that is in violation of international law does not change the actual situation. The principle of the right of self-determination of small states cannot be undermined that way. The Security Council was established in accordance with the UN charter and must keep within its constitutional framework. The council must act in accordance with the principle of the right of self-determination of the states. This principle is as paramount in international

law as is the prohibition of aggression. The obvious misuse of the UN charter that the US has forced on the Security Council brings to a head the issue of the limits to the power of the council. Member states cannot be under obligation when the Security Council flagrantly violates the basic principles of international law.

Neither is there an ongoing political process in Iraq. According to GAO (the US Government Accountability Office) the Iraqi government is "non-functional". Without the support of the US military it would fall. Is Sweden, the UN and the EU supposed to step in and support this non-functioning puppet?

The millions that this conference will cost should go to help the millions of Iraqi refugees instead.

## How can Carl Bildt justify the conference?

■ ■ In August 2007 the Security Council passed resolution 1770. The resolution speaks of an extended role for the UN in Iraq. It does not mention that the disastrous situation in the country is the result of an illegal invasion and occupation. The resolution refers to a so-called international partnership with Iraq (The International Compact with Iraq ICI). The UN has been given the role as a co-chairman. There is an imminent risk that the UN will be used in order to open up Iraq on American terms and integrate the country into "the global order". A critical question is the controversial law about the exploitation of the national oil resources.

**RICE NOT WELCOME – MANIFESTATION SERGELSTORG**

Thursday the 29/5 6.00 pm. Organizer: The Network against war!

**The Iraq Solidarity Association in Stockholm**