



Iraqi Al-Amal Association

For the welfare of humanit



Iraqi Al-Amal Association Third Conference
Baghdad, 18 -19 / 12 / 2008

Chairman's Contribution

Distinguished guests and observers

Dear colleagues, members of the Iraqi Al Amal Association's Third General Conference

On behalf of the Management Committee I would like to welcome you all to our Third General Conference. I wish the Conference would achieve its goals and wish you every success in your humanitarian endeavours for the welfare of humanity first

As we begin our Conference with these simple words... we must remember a martyr who is no longer with us, Kamil Shiaa, assassinated by the forces of darkness and ignorance, while he was still at the peak of his contribution ... Before him, we lost another dear colleague, who was close to our Association, Ahmed Al Mousawi Head of The Iraqi Association for Human Rights ... We also lost our friend Amal Mamalchi, an activist in the field of women's rights, Margaret Hasan, who is missed deeply by the civil society ...and many other bearers of the message of humanity who aspired to a society of justice and prosperity.

Back in April 2000 our Association lost Sheikh Atta Al Talabani, one of its founders, Head of Kurdistan Branch and Vice President of Iraqi AL Amal Association's Management Committee. Sheikh Atta played a substantial role in the development of its work, and who had a valuable presence and a unifying position in Kurdistan.

I am obliged to return once more to our martyr Kamil Shiaa, who was one of the Association's, founders. He participated in our first Conference in The Netherlands. He continued to follow the Association's activities until his last days. He was always close to us, inquiring about our plans and programmes, offering observations and suggestions to develop the activities. I spoke to him last March when he was in London, and we

discussed our plan to hold the Third Conference in Baghdad. He suggested holding a cultural seminar on this occasion. Kamil was one of the first to raise funds for the Association. He represented the Association in a conference in Belgium, and later he submitted an extensive report on the conference's activities, in which he addressed the topic of tolerance. We still have the report in his hand writing.

This is "the perfect" Kamil ...absent yet will always be present ... His memory, ethics and dedication will remain an inspiration to us all.

The Association was established in 1992. Its first Assembly was held in 1995 ... Our first place of activities was Iraqi Kurdistan. Yet, we always maintained the Iraqi identity of the Association and kept its head Office in Damascus.

IAA was among the first organizations to emerge in Baghdad immediately after the change in 2003. The activities of the Association extended from AL Basra in the south to Diwaniya and Najaf and Karbala in middle Euphrates ... from Babil and Baghdad in the centre to Salahadeen and Anbar in the west and, Kirkuk, Sulaimaniya and Arbil in Kurdistan and, Mosul in the North.

We are proud of our staff and volunteers for their diligent and dedicated work and their perseverance in facing the challenges, which are many ... This large tide of women and men of all ages faced tragic situations, from the deterioration of the social, political and security situation ... and the daily hardships, to endless inconveniences ... they were bearers of the IAA message, who proved that civil society organisations have an essential role in the building of new society.

We are proud of the effective and positive influence played by Al-Amal in consolidating the role of civil society organisations.

Once more, I greet you and welcome you, wishing that you will have a direct role in defining the course of the Association for the following years.

Thank you all

Noaman Muna