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Iraqi Labor Movement  
The workers of self-funded companies Mol

Dear Brothers and Sisters

On behalf of the Solidarity Center, I want to extend our solidarity and support to the tens of thousands of workers in self-financed companies under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Industry in your struggle for unpaid wages, your efforts to protect the national industries, and demand for the respect and dignity that all workers deserve. We applaud and recognize your determination throughout the numerous protests that you have held across Iraq – in Baghdad, Babylon, Najaf, Wassit, Dewanya, and Basra since September. The call for your rights and dignity has grown during this time, reaching workers in textiles, leather, food production, batteries, petrochemical, electrical and other industries. These efforts have resulted in thousands of workers receiving one month's unpaid wages, though we understand that your struggle continues as a long term solution to ensure the timely payment of your wages has not yet been found. We are disappointed by the cabinet's decision to pass a budget that does not include stable funding for the workers in these companies. However, we recognize the significant steps you have taken, with the support of the Iraqi labor movement, to organize and mobilize in defense of your rights.

When an aware group of workers come together in collective action to demand their rights they send a strong message that they are willing to defend them at all costs. Collective action is the most effective means workers have to fight back and win. For this reason, we encourage you to continue to come together and mobilize to speak and act as one. We also stand with you as you work to build strong unions to fight for your labor rights. We recognize the legal challenges that you face, though ILO convention 87 ensures freedom of association for all workers, regardless of sector. As a member state in the ILO, Iraq is required to adhere to this convention.

We sincerely hope that you will receive all of your legitimate rights including the wages that are owed to you for all the work you performed, in a timely manner, and that there will be a sustainable solution to ensure workers receive their salaries going forward and the factories can escalate production to play a key role in building Iraq's economy. The Solidarity Center and the American labor movement stand in solidarity with you until your efforts result in such a resolution.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawna Bader-Blau".

Shawna Bader-Blau  
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Shawna Bader-Blau  
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