

## **MASSACRE IN FALLUJAH: MASSACRE THREAT IN NAJAF**

**Why have neither of the headlines above been splashed across Australian newspapers in the last few days? Or been prominent in TV or radio bulletins? The evidence is compelling. Because of this, NOWAR will directly draw the attention of the Adelaide public to the bloody events in Fallujah in the past fortnight, and the real possibility of an even larger bloodbath in the Shia holy city of Najaf, which the US are still threatening to assault. This Friday, from 4.30 pm, NOWAR will conduct a die-in on the steps of Parliament House. We challenge the Adelaide media to cover the event, and more importantly the brutal reality of the war in Iraq whose victims we are commemorating.**

**Doctors in Fallujah hospitals estimate that over half of the mortalities of the recent US attack on the city of Fallujah were women, children and old men. This makes nonsense of the US Marine commanders claim (from *outside* the city) that "95%" of those killed were combatants. People continue to die in Fallujah as a result of the US siege as we speak.**

**If the US attacks Najaf in pursuit of militant cleric Moqtadah Sadr and his followers, as they have been threatening to do, the death-toll in Fallujah will likely pale in comparison. The resultant explosion of rage across the Iraq and the whole Middle-East will lead to an incalculable further toll of casualties. Withdrawal is the only answer. NOWAR adopted the following statement of our position at its last meeting:**

The recent massacre in Fallujah, and the threatened US attack on the city of Najaf makes clear once again how utterly illegitimate, illegal and unjust is the US and coalition occupation of Iraq.

Therefore, NOWAR demands the withdrawal of coalition forces from Iraq by June 30<sup>th</sup> 2004, to enable the Iraqi people to achieve self-determination and a new representative constitution and government. NOWAR recommends the support and mediation of the peacekeeping and diplomatic resources of the United Nations as a very valuable aid in achieving these ends. However the choice of employing the UN is a matter for the sovereign Iraqi people to decide. The scope and duration of any UN role in peace-keeping and mediation should likewise be a matter of negotiation with representatives of the major communities of Iraq.

This includes establishing the economic resources of Iraq under the control of the Iraqi people through such a constitution and government. All measures of privatisation and corporatisation initiated under coalition occupation must therefore be declared null and void.