



Iraqi Al-Amal Association

For the welfare of humanity



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

The General Management and Financial Monitoring Committee Report

It is possible to divide the period spanning between the Second Conference in 1999 and this Conference into two phases: the first from the Second Conference until May 2003, the date of the opening of the Head Office in Baghdad, and the second, from the commencement of its activities in Baghdad until this Conference.

Phase I

During this phase, the Monitoring Committee played an extraordinary role in both following-up the Association's work and its administrative bodies, and in exerting unremitting efforts to maintain the unity of the Association and its healthy work.

On the first issue, the Committee participated actively in all the meetings of the Association's Management Committee, providing observations and, where necessary, objections on some of the decisions taken by the Management Committee, which were recorded in the minutes of meetings.

On the second issue, the Committee had exerted every effort to maintain the unity of the Association, the healthy working environment for its members and the adherence to its management structure according to the Constitution. The Committee was seeking to resolve differences between the leadership of Kurdistan Region Branch and the Head Office amicably. Yet it failed to stop the unilateral actions of the Branch's leadership, which unfortunately, led to the separation of the Branch from the Association's body, by convening the Branch's Fourth Conference unconstitutionally in August 2003. That Conference decided to change the name of

the organisation (the branch) to (People's Aid), which meant dissolving the Branch and transferring its property to another organisation.

The Monitoring Committee had warned against the Branch having its own constitution necessary for the registration of the Branch as a local organisation. The Branch Committee used this anomaly to pass this destructive deed.

Nevertheless, the Management Committee was able, due to the excellent reputation of the Association and its active role in the region, to keep the registration of the Association in the region as an Iraqi Association, while the regulations permitted only Kurdish and foreign organisations to work in the region.

The General Management Committee took, in accordance with the Association's Constitution, a decision to expel the members who participated in the Branch's Fourth Assembly, those who worked for or supported the dissolution resolution. As a result of legal complications resulting from the duplication of the Constitutions of the Association and the branch, the General Management Committee was forced to agree to a settlement with the new organisation concerning the property of the Association. According to this settlement the ownership of the Sulaimaniya and Kalar clinics and the headquarters of the Association in Erbil were given up. The Association retained the ownership of the most important property; the Maternity Hospital in Arbil and Arbil clinic. It should be mentioned that along with this act of sabotage, the leadership of this group had seized the cash balance both from Arbil's clinic and from the branch's main office.

The Monitoring Committee endorsed this settlement on the condition that it would be presented to the Association's Third Conference to ratify it as its exclusive powers.

Phase II

There was a qualitative shift in the work and activities of the Association after the opening of the head office in Baghdad. Despite the dire security situation and the absence of previous bases for Association in Baghdad or any of the other governorates outside Kurdistan region, the Association was among the first organisations to start work in Baghdad, and was able, in a very short period of time, to start the implementation of projects under the Emergency Plan adopted before the war followed by various projects in several areas.

Despite the qualitative shift in the work of the Association, which enabled it to become prominent within the local civil society organisations, gained the confidence of international donors as demonstrated by the implementation of large projects, and becoming a reference for other organisations, we say despite all this, the Association is still lacking at the administrative level. There is no agreed internal management, administrative and financial procedures. There is a lack in clarity as an institution because of the absence of interaction and cooperation among the members of the Management Committee. It is important to pay tribute here to the efforts of the Chairman of the Association for his continued attention to all the details of the work of the head office and the Association as a whole.

With regards to the differences between members of the Management Committee, the Monitoring Committee took the view that every decision taken by the Management Committee was legally binding unless it contradicted the Constitution.

We have had observations on the financial reports and the delay in their release. We asked for more detailed reports, and we set numerous questions, in which we demanded clarification from the Management Committee. The Committee was responsive and interacted positively with our questions and criticisms. With regards to the failure in the preparation of financial reports, it appeared to us that it was not due to the failure of the Management Committee but rather due to many factors and problems such as the delay of the financial auditing and the resignation of the cashier without warning and without preparing a replacement. The Monitoring Committee did not receive any objection from members of the Management Committee.

Finally, the Monitoring Committee suggests that the Conference resolves to abide the new leadership to introduce appropriate internal procedures, which govern the administrative structures of the Association and defines its functions, set out job descriptions of staff and the mechanisms of recruitment or hiring, salaries and wages to ensure the appointment of specialist resources. This should be achieved within one year towards the establishment of a comprehensive institutional structure for the Association.

=====