True stories of Iraq war at 4-day conference

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KUALA LUMPUR: Dr Khudhair Waheed Hussein has been unable to step into Iraq for the past nine years because of his mission to tell the world the truth about the war that devastated his nation.

But this has not stopped the former assistant professor of haematology at the University of Baghdad from delivering talks worldwide on the plight of the Iraqis.

The 55-year-old, who lives in exile in Syria, said his story was one the Western media never told as it spoke the truth about the oppression of a nation.

"I deliver true stories about the oppression of the citizens of Iraq during the occupation of the nation after the war.

"It involves something which the Western-controlled media has never portrayed. I speak about things which are totally opposite to their positive stories on how the occupation has benefited Iraq," he told the *New Straits Times* yesterday.

Dr Khudhair will be among speakers at the four-day War Criminals Conference and Exhibition at the Putra World Trade Centre from tomorrow.

It will also feature former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad who will deliver his keynote address on the first day.

Other speakers include British member of parliament George Galloway, former US congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, former United Nations assistant secretaries-general Hans Von Sponeck and Dennis Halliday and anti-war economist Professsor Michel Chossudovsky.

Dr Khudair, who will deliver a 20-minute speech on Economic Warfare tomorrow, said he would talk about how the war had devastated the country.

He cited as examples the sad state of the country's health, education, agriculture, economic and social sectors as well as the mass destruction which the war had inflicted on the nation.

"There is a cause and reason for the resistance now engulfing Iraq which the West tries to hide from the world," he said.

He said a recent poll by several world media organisations on the occupation of the country showed that 85 per cent of Iraqis polled were against the occupation.

He thanked Dr Mahathir, who heads the Perdana Global Peace Foundation and the Kuala Lumpur Foundation to Criminalise War, for organising the conference and exhibition.

"It provides a platform for the people of Iraq who have been oppressed and victimised to voice their plight," he said.

Dr Khudhair is a representative of the National, Pan-Arab and Islamic Front which is among the many resistance movements in Iraq.

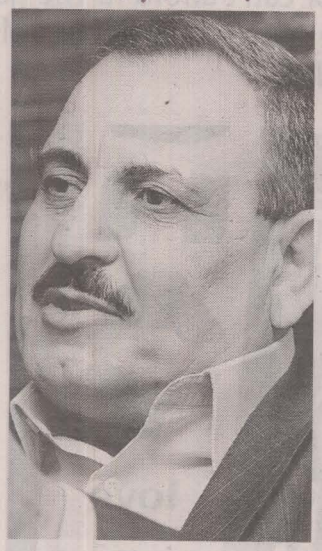
He currently lectures at University of Syria where he lives with his family.

The US-led war on terror resulted in the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan.

More than 100,000 people have died in Iraq, while the death toll in Afghanistan is estimated to be more than 50,000.

A War Crimes Commission and Tribunal will convene on Friday and Saturday to hear the testimonies of victims of torture following the invasion of Iraq.

The leaders and principal players behind the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will be on trial.



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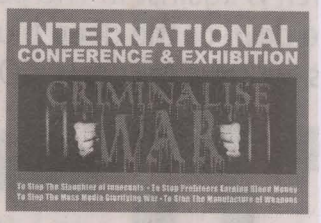
— Dr Khudhair Waheed Hussein, former assistant professor of haematology



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