

## MUSICAL COMEDY EXPOSES US INVASION OF IRAQ

Fourteen years back, i.e., on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003, the US led armed forces had invaded and occupied Iraq. They had committed all sorts of crimes, heinous and genocidal acts against the Iraqi people. They had destroyed the properties of the state and people. They had barbarously Killed Saddam Hussein, the Head of Iraq State and set up a puppet regime.

Before the invasion, the imperialists made every attempt to make the world believe that Saddam Hussein was a ferocious demon and a man eater. Their intelligence agencies worked overtime to fabricate an evidence to show that Iraq was in possession of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and it may be dropped on the world people anytime of Saddam's choice. Finally, US led forces invaded Iraq using it as a plea. It is estimated that 1,73,916 innocent Iraqi people had perished in the flames of this War.

It took no time for the truth coming to light. It was conclusively proved that the so called evidence flaunted by the US was a blatant lie cooked by the imperialist intelligence agencies to justify their act of invasion.

Later, the world had witnessed many twists and turns and significant developments.

Welcomingly, a musical comedy produced by Charlie Fink called "BAGHDADY" was shown in New York (USA) on April 6, 2017. Coincidentally, President Donald Trump ordered a Cruise Missile attack on a Syrian air base on this day.

The theme of the show is: The US war of invasion against Iraq. The story has shown and proved that the so called evidence to show that Saddam Hussein's Iraq was in possession of WMD was a white lie cooked up by the US intelligence forces to justify the US led invasion.

The producer of the play said that their exposure of what the US rulers had done 14 years back in Iraq is more relevant than ever before in today's climate of "fake news" and "alternative facts" as some fear that Trump could drag the country into another conflict, if not in Syria then over North Korea. The play conveys the message that the responsibility for the 2003 US led invasion far and wide, not at the door of then president George W. Bush or the US govt. but the Country as a whole and the Western allies, in general. The director, co-writer and composer Marshall Paillet said, "we all messed up". He also noted that the play serves as a great vehicle to get New York theatre – goers thinking "because we open up their minds and their hearts with comedy, we are able to slip in substance -story, character and a lesson". Fink said, "we all own it" "A wound in the world that is not going to be healed with tears or laughter".

The American people have a commendable record of raising their voice of protest against the acts of invasion by their imperialist rulers. It happened in the case of US aggression against Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and several other countries of the world. They stood in support and solidarity with the struggle of people against aggression and for peace. The team of Baghdady – producers, writers, composers, lyricists, actors and technicians are only holding high and carrying this torch forward by producing and enacting a politically relevant play.

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