

## **Comprehensive Sanctions on Iraq are Tantamount to Genocide**

### **UNICEF field surveys show dramatic increase in infant, child and maternal deaths all over Iraq due to prolonged sanctions**

The First field surveys since 1991 of infant, child and maternal mortality carried out by UNICEF with the technical support of the World Health Organization (WHO) reveal that children under five are dying at more than twice the rate they were before the imposition of the comprehensive sanctions on Iraq more than nine years ago. The surveys were carried out between February and May 1999.

The survey reveal that under-5 mortality more than doubled from 56 deaths per 1000 live births (1984-1989) to 131 deaths per 1000 live births (1994-1999). Likewise infant mortality- defined as the death of children in their first year- increased from 47 per 1000 live births to 108 per 1000 live births within the same time-frame. The surveys indicate a maternal mortality ratio of 294 deaths per 100,000 live births over the ten-year period 1989-1999.

The Executive Director of UNICEF, Ms. Carol Bellamy, commenting on the outcome of the filed surveys, says that there would have been half a million fewer deaths of children under five in the country as a whole during the period 1991 to 1998 if the prolonged sanctions were not imposed on Iraq.

The UNICEF report clearly blames sanctions for the killing of more than half a million Iraqi children under five. Sanction combined with the use of Depleted Uranium by the U.S and the U.K during their aggression has killed more than a million Iraqi in other age categories; mainly women and elderly people, and destroyed the social fabric of Iraqi society. It is high time to put an end to this genocide, which is perpetuated in the name of the United Nations. The International Community should tell the United States and Britain that they could no longer tolerate the continuation of this crime against humanity.