

IRAQI COMMUNIST PARTY

Message of Greeting to the 31st Convention of the Communist Party USA

Dear Comrades,

We convey the warmest greetings of the Iraqi Communist Party to the 31st Convention of your fraternal party, the Communist Party of USA.

This convention acquires special significance as it coincides with celebrating the 100th anniversary of the foundation of your party. On this happy occasion, we send our wholehearted wishes for further successes, drawing on the rich experience and inspiring history of your party in its long, challenging and glorious march. It has consistently defended the democratic rights of the American workers and people, fought against racism and for civil rights, defended women's rights, raised the banner of internationalist solidarity and upheld the lofty ideals of socialism and communism.

Your 100th anniversary Convention is facing both local and global challenges. These include the onslaught by capital and the Trump administration on the democratic rights and gains of the American people, as well as imperialist wars, the threat posed by the climate and ecological crises and the growth of fascist extreme right-wing movements.

In this respect, it is crucial to further develop and strengthen international solidarity against the warmongering policies of imperialism, and to provide genuine support for ongoing struggles all over the world for peace, freedom, democracy and social progress, as well as promoting socialist ideas and goals.

Dear Comrades,

Your Convention is taking place in a world climate that is still suffering the consequences of the deep crisis of globalized capitalism, economic stagnation, increased unemployment and poverty, the imposition of austerity measures in many countries, and the stirring up of xenophobia and hate against immigrants. Imperialist powers, led by US imperialism, are attempting to push the world back to the climate of Cold War and arms race, employing economic and political sanctions on a large scale and exporting arms, especially to the regions that are witnessing military conflicts.

This situation has fuelled tensions and is instigating conflicts and wars in many areas around the world, especially the Middle East. It has produced a fertile ground for the growth of extremist right-wing, fascist and ultra-reactionary terrorist movements, gravely threatening world peace.

The external imperialist interference and intense competition among reactionary regional powers in the Middle East to impose their hegemony over the region have contributed to deepening conflicts on a sectarian and ethnic basis and internal fragmentation.

It is important to draw attention here to the efforts by the Trump administration to build what is tentatively known as the Middle East Strategic Alliance (MESA), a so-called "Arab NATO", which is a security and political alliance in the Middle East with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, Egypt and Jordan under the pretext of countering Iran's expansion in the region.

During recent days, grave dangers of a military confrontation between the US and Iran have increased. Such a war would have devastating consequences for the peoples of the Middle East and the Gulf region, as well as for world peace. A contributing factor to this dangerous situation has been the economic sanctions that were re-imposed by the US on Iran unilaterally and without international legal cover. This action followed its decision to withdraw from the Iran nuclear agreement. As the two sides exchange threats, the situation could degenerate into a devastating military conflict. This would add new burdens to the peoples of the region who are already suffering the nightmare of the war against terrorism in Syria, the senseless bloody war in Yemen, instigated by Saudi Arabia, and the instability in several other countries.

The peoples of the region, including the Iranian people, are looking for stable conditions in which they can utilize their resources and wealth for their well-being and to build their own countries. It is the right of these peoples to enjoy freedom, democracy and a decent life, and to choose their own political systems according to their will, without wars, economic sanctions and siege. The Iraqi Communist Party has called for urgent action by all peace-loving forces in the world to prevent military confrontation and war, by pressing for dialogue and negotiations to diffuse tensions and resolve the crisis.

Meanwhile, the Israeli occupiers are continuing their crimes against the Palestinian people, with blatant support by the US. We reiterate our full support for the Palestinian people and their right to return and to self-determination; to set up their independent national state on their homeland with its capital in East Jerusalem.

We also call for international solidarity with the struggles of peoples in the Middle East against dictatorial and reactionary regimes, including popular protests and strikes, for freedoms and dignified life.

In this respect, we call for intensifying international solidarity with the Sudanese people and the fraternal Sudanese Communist Party, supporting their courageous revolution and struggle for democratic change, against bloody repression by the ruling Military Council, until their just demands for handing over power to a civilian government are met.

The struggle for peace and against imperialist intervention is closely interconnected with the fight for democracy and human rights. Our party condemns all repressive measures against the patriotic and democratic forces, and against the forces of the Left, progress, socialism and communism.

Dear Comrades,

The Iraqi Communist Party is continuing its struggle, in difficult and complex conditions, to put an end to the ethno-sectarian quota system that was installed after

the US war, invasion and occupation of Iraq 16 years ago. The country is still suffering the consequences of an ongoing deep structural political crisis, with rampant corruption.

A significant military victory was achieved against the terrorist organization “Daesh” (the so-called “ISIS”) by late 2017, but it does not mean a final defeat of terrorism. This requires an integrated approach and policies on political, military-security, economic and cultural levels, as well as societal reconciliation.

The outcome of the parliamentary elections in Iraq last year, in May 2018, despite blatant interference by the ruling blocs and their manipulation of the electoral process, demonstrated the people’s strong desire to break the monopoly of political power and to open the path for change. The Iraqi Communist Party and the electoral coalition and alliance of “Sairoun” [i.e. Marching Towards Reform], consisting of Communists, the Sadrist movement and its supporters, and civil and liberal forces, achieved significant results. It won more than 16% of the seats in the new parliament. This alliance called for deep political reforms, to abandon the ethno-sectarian quota system and work towards establishing a state based on the principle of citizenship, true democracy and social justice. But the corrupt political forces in power are fighting back, viciously defending their vested interests. The Communist Party has therefore been targeted by reactionary groups, including recent criminal attacks on its offices in two provinces. The latest was a cowardly attack with a grenade that targeted the headquarters of the party’s provincial committee in the city of Basra on 2 June 2019.

Iraqi Communists and their supporters continue to be active participants in the mass protest movement against corruption and sectarian politics which began in summer 2015. More recently, the movement has organized big mass rallies in central Baghdad, at Tahrir Square, and other provinces under the slogan **“No to War! Yes to Peace!”**.

In this difficult struggle and under the current complex conditions, we look forward to wider support and international solidarity with the Iraqi people and their democratic forces, including our Communist Party, in the fight to defeat terrorism and political sectarianism, combat corruption, achieve national unity and peace, and build a civil democratic state based on social justice.

Finally, we seize this opportunity to express our high appreciation for your party’s internationalist solidarity with the Iraqi people and the Iraqi Communist Party. We look forward to strengthening and developing the long-standing internationalist ties between our party and the Communist Party USA, in the joint struggle for freedom, peace, democracy, social progress, and socialism.

With our best comradely wishes for a successful 100th Anniversary Convention of the CPUSA

Central Committee - Iraqi Communist Party

17 June 2019