

# IRAQ NEWS

The Iraqi Communist Party- International Relations Committee

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## Principles for Regaining National Sovereignty

The editorial of Tareeq Al-Shaab, the central organ of Iraqi CP, in its weekly edition 23-29 May, dealt with the issue of restoring national sovereignty and the mechanisms for achieving this under the prevalent circumstances in Iraq.

It pointed out that the transfer of power from the occupation authority, the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), to the Iraqi interim government on 30 June 2004, should take into consideration the following principles:

- The transfer to Iraqi ministries full authority to run their own affairs, and draw up policies, plans and specific programs as pertaining to each ministry. This is to be carried out in collaboration with various sectors at all levels to ensure the provision of basic services to all citizens, and the reinvigoration of economic activity and necessary prioritisation therein.
- Full control by the Iraqi Government over all elements of the Armed Forces and internal security organs, as well as measures to transfer responsibility for security to the Iraqis and relevant bodies, which need to be promptly and effectively formed, trained and equipped in order to carry out their tasks fully.
- Enabling the Iraqi Government to control all of Iraq's financial resources public property and land. The Iraqi Government shall freely exercise this right fully in the service of the Iraqi people.
- The importance and necessity of upholding the tenets of the Transitional Administrative Law for the Iraqi State insofar as it pertains to the long-term agreements and decrees issued by the CPA.

## At "Sovereignty and Democracy" Conferences :Iraqi CP Calls for Big UN Role in Political Process

The General Conference for Sovereignty and Democracy was held in Baghdad on Friday 28 May 2004, concluding thereby a series of conferences organised in several governorates by the Iraqi Council for Peace and Solidarity.

The Conference was attended by hundreds of people representing various patriotic political parties and social, intellectual and tribal groups. Mr Al-Akhdar al-Ibrahimi, the envoy of UN Secretary General, was among participants, along with leading political figures, among them comrade Hamid Majid Mousa (Iraqi CP leader), Mr Masoud Barzani (Kurdistan Democratic Party leader), Dr Adnan Pachachi, and several members of the Governing Council and ministers.

Comrade Mousa and a Communist Party delegation had attended an earlier conference held in the city of Arbil during 15-16 May, under the slogan "Full Sovereignty is the Basis for Democracy". More than 650 figures, representing the whole political and social spectrum in Iraqi Kurdistan, attended. Among those

present was Izzedin Selim, the late president of the Governing Council, Mr Jalal Talabani (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader) and Mr Barzani, as well as Mr Al-Ibrahimi.

In a contribution to the discussions at the conference, comrade Mousa stressed the big role of the UN in the on-going political process in Iraq. He called for developing an alternative to the existing institutions, i.e. the Governing Council and the occupation authority, that would represent Iraqi people's interests and enjoy broader and real powers, encompassing the political and ideological trends that were not represented in the Governing Council, together with bigger representation for governorates and women.

The Conference issued a final statement stressing Iraq's national unity and the need to prepare Iraqi citizens for general elections at the end of the year and ensure their success. It also called for broad representation of the Iraqi people in the interim government, without marginalizing any group.

### At International Rally of CP of Britain: Iraqi People's Voice must be Heard!

At an International Rally, organized in London by the Communist Party of Britain on 29 May 2004, during its 48<sup>th</sup> National Congress, the representative of the Iraqi Communist Party shared the platform with Sam Webb, National Chair of the Communist Party USA, Robert Griffiths, the General Secretary of CP of Britain, and Avtar Sadiq from the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

Salam Ali, member of ICP's Central Committee, delivered a message of greeting which expressed high appreciation for the internationalist support and solidarity extended by British Communists, over many decades, against successive dictatorships and fascist campaigns of terror, mass executions and physical liquidation of Iraqi Communists and democrats.

The message said: "The future of Iraq, and the whole region, depends to a large extent on the outcome of the on-going political process in our country."

It also pointed out that the *draft UN resolution*, that had been presented a few days earlier by the US and British governments for discussion at the UN Security Council, "does not adequately address the issue of proper transfer of full and real, rather than formal sovereignty and power to the Iraqi people. Many issues have been dealt with in a deliberately vague way. Our Party regards this document as only preliminary ideas for discussion, which need to be scrutinized and amended to take into account, first and foremost, the legitimate demands of the Iraqi people. Their voice must be heard. They demand full control on all internal and external affairs of the Iraqi state, including control of security, military matters, and control over financial and economic resources."

"The 30<sup>th</sup> of June is therefore seen by our people as an important and crucial step along the path to restoring national sovereignty and ending the occupation."

## .Solidarity with our People and Party at Congress of CP of Finland

An Iraqi CP delegation headed by Dr Saleh Yasser (CC member) attended the Congress of the Communist Party of Finland held in Helsinki during the period 15-16 May 2004. A message of greeting was delivered and meetings were held with many delegations of fraternal parties and political organisations that were present at the Congress. A "Solidarity Appeal" (see below) was signed by several delegates expressing support for the Iraqi people, Communists and democratic forces.

The visit itinerary also included a press conference about the current situation in Iraq, meetings at the parliament with the Left party (Social Democratic Party and Green Party). A public meeting for the Iraqi community was held on 17<sup>th</sup> May and was addressed by comrade Yasser.

### Solidarity Appeal

We, the undersigned, representatives of political parties, movements and organisations, participants in the Congress of the Communist Party of Finland held in Helsinki during the period 15-16 May 2004, having considered the situation in Iraq, express our full solidarity with the Iraqi Communist Party and Iraqi democratic forces in their struggle to end the occupation, restore national sovereignty and independence and build a new unified, democratic and federal Iraq.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Party /Organisation</u>	<u>Signature</u>
Yrjö Hakanen Chairman of the Party	Communist Party of Finland	
Dr. Zuheir Elwazir Ambassador	PLO representative in Finland	
Bernt Kamin leader	Communist Party of Germany (DKP)	(Trade union
Taivo Rist Committee member	Estonian Social Democratic Labour Party	Exec .
Abelardo Curbelo Committee member	Communist Party of Cuba	Central
Svajotslav Sokol Committee member	Communist Party of Russian Federation	Central
Igor Alaksejev Committee member	Communist Party of Ukraine	Central
Phan Tien Nhien Committee member	Communist Party of Vietnam	Central
Henrik Stamer-Hedin of the Party	Communist Party of Denmark	Chairman
Nikos Seretakis Committee member	Communist Party of Greece	Central
Leena Brunberg Miko Kifiboro	Democratic Women Network of Helsinki Communist Youth League of Finland	Chairwoman Secretary

Mario Pelo  
Chairman  
Yuci Kamnil  
Chairman

Finnish Peace Organisation  
Alternative to EU

### ICP Calls for UN Supervision of Human Rights during Transitional Period

The Centre for Human Rights of the Iraqi Communist Party issued a statement on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2004 condemning the torture of Iraqi detainees in Abu Ghraib prison by American soldiers of the occupation forces.

It called upon the UN to provide "an effective and consistent supervision of the conditions of human rights (in Iraq) during the transitional period, and to support Iraqi people's legitimate struggle to regain fully their national sovereignty and achieve a democratic regime which respects the values of human rights, justice and law".

The statement said that "this new scandal comes in the aftermath of vicious violations that had been highlighted by international human rights organisations, such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, in addition to UN officials, which included the use of excessive force and a policy of collective punishment and siege of cities, as demonstrated in Falluja where hundreds of innocent civilians were killed".

It said that reports about torture of detainees in Abu Graib prison have understandably been received with indignation and condemnation by the Iraqi people "who have suffered atrocities by Saddam's dictatorship over several decades, and have been looking forward to a dignified life free of any oppression, whether by foreign occupiers, repressive rulers or extremist groups using terror as means to achieve their heinous objectives, with utter disregard for the suffering of innocent civilians who get attacked indiscriminately, including children, women and the elderly, spreading fear, and violating their fundamental rights, first and foremost the right to life."

The statement called for "a just, fair and independent investigation of the violations which have been exposed, putting an end to them, and providing legal guarantees for detainees".

### Tasks Facing Iraqi Communists

*On 30 April 2004, the Central Committee (CC) of the Iraqi Communist Party held a regular meeting to deal with the developments during the preceding 4 months since the previous meeting, a report on the work of the leading bodies of the party during the same period, as well as other documents presented to the meeting.*

*A Communiqué issued by the meeting pointed to the following principal tasks facing the Party:*

First: Giving due attention to the Party and its organisations, enhancing our political influence and organisational presence, both qualitatively and quantitatively, and strengthening our ties and relations with the masses of people, taking up their demands and defending them. This requires paying greater attention to our party work and proper utilization of available potential.

Second: Continuing our efforts to mobilise the people and their energetic forces, for regaining national independence and sovereignty, ending the occupation, building democracy, and reconstructing the country.

Third: The security situation, terrorist operations and acts by extremists have undoubtedly greatly affected and inhibited the people's action. Consideration must therefore be given to ways and means of overcoming this situation through developing new and innovative ways that can stimulate mass action. It is important to act wherever the security situation is relatively stable, and to exert efforts to carry out some activities in this respect.

Fourth: Strengthening our relations with other political parties and forces, and activating joint action, especially with the forces that are fighting for democracy. We need to enhance the cooperation and coordination with parties that are in agreement with our Party or close in political orientation, through developing concrete joint plans. It is necessary, in this work, to consolidate democratic traditions in the relations with other forces, by adopting the principles of dialogue, respect for the opinion of others, rejection of violence, and tolerance. Proper attention must be given to bilateral relations with the forces that are active inside the Governing Council or outside it. There is also an urgent need for developing relations with the forces of the democratic trend, in its broad sense, and exerting relentless efforts to develop the "Iraqi Democratic Assembly", in line with efforts to achieve our patriotic and democratic alternative.

Fifth: Active work to mobilize wide sections of intellectuals and those concerned with civil society affairs, in order to develop the broadest possible relations with the people and prepare them ideologically and politically to face the developments and their quickening pace.

Sixth: Giving the necessary attention to the issue of solidarity on the international level, and enhancing the relations with progressive and Left forces. This should be utilized in particular to support our people's efforts to regain sovereignty and independence, end the occupation, and lay the foundations of democratic rule in our country.

### New stage in Iraq's struggle vs. occupation

Iraqi Communists are now focusing on the political and electoral struggles ahead, according to a report published by the People's Weekly World newspaper (6 June 2004).

A news analysis by [Susan Webb](#) dealt with the recent naming of the interim Iraqi government. Six of the 33 cabinet members are women. Iraqi Communist Party member Mufid Al-Jazairy continues as culture minister. Preparations are now under way for a national conference of 1,000 in July. That meeting will choose a national council of 100 that will, hopefully, exercise influence over the interim government, according to ICP spokesperson Salam Ali.

"Ali said the ICP intends to play an active role in the struggle for full Iraqi sovereignty. He noted that the U.S. is manoeuvring to get a UN Security Council resolution that will allow it to retain military and economic control in Iraq. An

amended draft submitted by the U.S. effectively allows U.S. troops to remain in Iraq until the end of 2005, he pointed out."

### Party Offices Opened in Baghdad and Basra

Two more party offices were opened in Baghdad, in Shu'lah district on 14<sup>th</sup> May, and Kadhemiyya district on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2004. Both events were celebrated by local party members and supporters, and also attended by members of the party leadership. Messages of greetings were received from patriotic, democratic and Islamic forces.

In Basrah, as part of ICP's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and May Day celebrations, party offices were opened in the Qurna district on 29 April and the Ma'qal working class district on 2 May 2004. Numerous messages were received from political, democratic and vocational organisations, including one from party veterans. The celebration included reciting popular poetry and songs presented by a youth group

### Russian and Australian Envoys Received by ICP Leader

Comrade Hamid Majid Mousa, the Secretary of ICP's Central Committee, received on 18 May 2004, Mr Ilia Morgonov, Russia's newly-appointed charge d'affaires in Iraq. The current political situation and bilateral relations between Iraq and Russia were discussed.

The party leader also received the Australian charge d'affaires in Iraq on 24 May 2004. They exchanged views about the situation and the relations between the two countries and peoples.

During recent months, comrade Mousa received at his office many envoys from many countries, including France, China, Japan and Ukraine.

### ICP Condemns Criminal Assassination of President of Governing Council

The Iraqi Communist Party strongly condemned the cowardly and criminal assassination of Izzedin Salim (Abu Yassin), the president of the Governing Council, and a well-known patriotic figure who worked hard to end the dictatorial regime.

A statement issued by the Political Bureau of the party's Central Committee, issued on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2004, said that "such heinous crimes, committed against patriots and citizens, need to be dealt with firmly, in a resolute manner, to put an end to them, especially as we approach the 30<sup>th</sup> June, the date for the transfer of power. This should be done through activating the institutions of the Iraqi state and the police, army, civil defence and other bodies, and providing them with the requirements needed to carry out their role in providing security and stability and protecting the lives of citizens".

It added: "The current situation also requires activating the role of parties, civil society institutions and the masses of people in order to take part in achieving stability and confronting the forces of terrorism and crime.