



PARTIDO COMUNISTA PORTUGUÊS

Message of Greetings from the Portuguese Communist Party
on the occasion of the
100th anniversary of the founding of the South African Communist Party

July, 27, 2021

The Portuguese Communist Party conveys its warm and fraternal greetings to the South African Communist Party, on the occasion of your Party's Centenary. A long and difficult, but heroic struggle began on July 30, 1921, when the Communist Party of South Africa was founded. Throughout the past century, the history of the South African working class and people has been inseparable from the history of the South African Communists.

The South African Communists founded the first Communist Party on the African continent, marking the world-wide nature of our Communist movement. Throughout their one hundred years of history, South African Communists have always been at the forefront of the struggle for national and social liberation, against racial discrimination and apartheid, for the rights of the multi-racial South African working class, for social progress, peace and socialism. As a pillar of the Tripartite Alliance with the ANC and COSATU, the SACP suffered decades of harsh persecutions and violent repression. Your courageous clandestine struggle, taking on all forms, was fundamental in bringing about the historic victory over the remnants of colonialism and the apartheid regime, with the creation of a new democratic South Africa. The names of Chris Hani, Joe Slovo, and many other South African heroes – like Nelson Mandela, who also fought in the ranks of the SACP – are forever enshrined in the history of your people's liberation.

The common struggle against colonialism and imperialism in Southern Africa united our Parties, and this common struggle helped to bring about common victories. The wars of national liberation in the former Portuguese colonies were a major contribution towards the April 25, 1974, downfall of the fascist dictatorship which also oppressed the Portuguese people for almost half a century. And the anti-fascist and anti-colonialist resistance in Portugal, in which the Portuguese Communist Party played a decisive and pivotal role, also contributed to ensure the national independence and liberation of Angola, Mozambique and other peoples that had been exploited and oppressed by Portuguese colonialism and fascism. The newly independent countries would, in turn, serve as an inspiration for your own struggle for freedom and national liberation, as would the heroic role played by the Communists of other countries, namely the Cuban Communists, in confronting the aggressions of apartheid South Africa across the region. And the liberation of South Africa from the shackles of colonialism and apartheid, as a direct result of the heroic struggle of the South African people, served as a source of inspiration and encouragement for anti-imperialists across the world, in the difficult final years of the 20th century, when the counter-revolutionary processes that destroyed socialism in the former USSR and Eastern Europe were bringing about dark changes, the effects of which are felt to this very day.

Dear Comrades,

The world is today once again at the crossroads. The capitalist system, which considered itself victorious only a few decades ago, has shown its true nature. It is an aggressive, exploitative, war-mongering and predatory system which cannot be reformed and must be fought. Taking advantage of the profound changes in the world balance of forces, imperialism embarked upon an offensive to reimpose its world-wide hegemony and roll back the many achievements which the struggles of the workers and peoples of the world had won throughout previous decades. This offensive, spearheaded by US imperialism, brought about widespread wars and destruction, aggressions and subversions, above all in the Middle East, but also in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe. Just recently, we witnessed one more brutal war of aggression by the USA's permanent ally in the Middle East, Israel, against the oppressed people of Palestine. For many years now, we have witnessed the blockade against Cuba and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and more recently the wave of coercive measures against Venezuela, Syria, Iran, Belarus, Russia and other countries that defend their sovereignty. An openly colonial attitude is again prevailing in the old imperialist powers of the European Union. The major onslaughts against the working class, its rights and living conditions, have brought about a dramatic fall in living standards in many parts of the world, including in the imperialist centres. These have been accompanied by obscene concentrations of wealth in the hands of a tiny minority. The Covid-19 pandemic has both highlighted and made more acute this extreme polarization of wealth and deterioration in living conditions. The governments at the service of monopoly capital are trying to take advantage of the pandemic in order to impose, through campaigns of fear and disorientation, even more extreme measures that curtail democratic rights and freedoms and lay the groundwork for far right forces, conceptions and policies.

Beneath this apparent strength of capitalism lies the reality that it is a decaying system, which is fraught with unsolvable contradictions that were glaringly evident with the explosion of the 2008 crisis, and which express themselves in growing popular discontentment and resistance, in growing inter-imperialist contradictions and in events such as the crises in the European Union and in the USA. Attempting to counter the tendency for the rate of profit to fall, capitalism is increasingly resorting to unbridled exploitation, speculation, outright criminality and parasitic plunder of wealth, which only sharpens the crisis. Incapable of accepting the emerging world balance of forces, with the ascent of new countries that do not accept a position of subservience, such as the People's Republic of China and other countries, the imperialist powers are increasingly resorting to violence and gangsterism in international relations. NATO and the US have now declared China as their adversary and are launching ever more dangerous provocations at the borders of both China and Russia.

There are clear and pressing threats to world peace and a growing danger that the more reactionary and war-mongering sectors of imperialism may lead Humanity to catastrophe. The promotion of far-right and openly fascist forces in many countries, namely in the post-Maidan coup Ukraine, is also inseparable from these war-mongering intents.

Dear Comrades,

Confronted with imperialism's violent offensive, which poses grave threats to the peoples, the resistance and struggle by the workers and peoples to defend their rights and sovereignty is of great importance and value. Communists are faced, in each of their countries, with complex and demanding challenges. This situation highlights the importance of cooperation within the framework of the international Communist and revolutionary movement, as well as of strengthening the anti-imperialist front. The struggle, which we consider that is still of resistance and accumulation of forces, has at the same time great potential to develop processes of progressive and revolutionary transformation.

It is with this confident prospect that the PCP is actively engaged within Portuguese society, both in the mass front and in the institutional arena, waging with determination the battle to defend the rights, interests and aspirations of the Portuguese workers and people, to defend the values of the April Revolution and the democratic system which is established in the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic – confronting the anti-democratic plans of big capital and the reactionary forces – and to break with decades of right-wing policies and of submission to the impositions of the European Union and NATO, for a patriotic and left-wing policy that opens the way to an advanced democracy, to Socialism in Portugal.

Celebrating its centenary on March 6, the PCP reaffirms its Communist identity, its attachment to its patriotic and internationalist duties, its aspiration and struggle for a society freed from all forms of exploitation and oppression, for Socialism and Communism.

We are convinced that achieving such changes in our country will be our best contribution to the common goals of defeating imperialism's attempts to impose its worldwide hegemony, ensuring world peace, and paving the road to a future freed from exploitation and oppression, a socialist future for all of Humankind.

We reaffirm our desire to strengthen the long-standing relations of friendship and solidarity between the SACP and the PCP, based on the traditional principles that guide our worldwide Communist movement and the relations between its Parties, thus contributing to promote friendship and cooperation between our two countries and peoples and to further the cause of peace and social progress throughout the world.

Long live the Centenary of the South African Communist Party!

Long live the working people of South Africa!

Long live the relations of solidarity between the South African Communist Party and the Portuguese Communist Party!