

Sovereignty Belongs to Public and must be Transferred to Them
MQM's Message of Peace has knocked on the Doors of the Oppressed of Punjab
Speakers at the Public Gathering at the 14th Annual Convention of MQM USA in Florida

Communication & Media Cell, MQM USA; Fort Lauderdale, Florida; May 23, 2010: The speakers at the public gathering event on the second day of the 14th Annual convention of MQM USA have said that the sovereignty belongs to the public and must be transferred to them, and that the message of MQM is the message of peace and has already knocked at the doors of the common oppressed man of Punjab. The three day annual convention of MQM USA was held at a local hotel in the city of Fort Lauderdale, Florida from May 21-23 and was attended by hundreds of MQM USA workers and office bearers from all over USA along with people belonging to all nationalities of Pakistan. The convention was also attended by Member provincial Assembly Sindh Moeed Siddiqui and Member National Assembly Pakistan Ferhat Khan. Those who spoke at the public gathering include the Central Organizer MQM USA Kamal Zafar, Patron, MQM USA and Canada Ibad Rehman, MPA Moeed Siddiqui, MNA Ferhat Khan, and the former federal minister and member national assembly and the Patron-in-Chief MQM North America Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui. In his address the Central Organizer Kamal Zafar said that MQM is the voice of all in Pakistan and the representative of all. He said that the workers of MQM USA are taking the message to the representatives of all the nationalities of Pakistan living in USA to apprise them of the essence of the message. He said that the workers of MQM USA are standing shoulder to shoulder to the efforts of the leader of MQM Mr. Altaf Hussain in eliminating the feudal system and restoring the public sovereignty. He also congratulated the people of Pakistan and especially the people of Punjab on the success of the Punjab Convention and said that the rescue is knocking at their door and to open the door is their discretion. Ibad Rehman said in his address that by making the Punjab Convention a success the people of Punjab have given the indication and affirmation that they have wholeheartedly accepted the philosophy of Mr. Altaf Hussain and MQM and are ready for the change which is imminent. He said that MQM has strived at its best, both in the government and out of the government, to raise voice against tyranny and for the transfer of sovereignty to the public. The MPA Moeed Siddiqui said, while addressing the public gathering, that MQM has proved that it is the only party that can establish good governance by showing the perfect models of good governance in their jurisdictions in Karachi and the other parts of the province of Sindh. The MNA Ferhat Khan who also hails from Florida, said that out of hundreds of MNAs in the National Assembly, the members belonging to MQM are only 25, however, they still carry more weight than the rest just because of their character and the public service they render. He said that MQM has introduced the culture of common man's sovereignty in place of the legacy politics and will fight for its thriving until it takes place. The former federal minister and member National Assembly, and the Patron-in-Chief MQM North America said to an all-ear crowd at the public gathering in the 14th Annual Convention of MQM USA at Florida, that the success of the Punjab Convention shows that the people of Pakistan and Punjab have identified their friends and foes. He said that in a country where there had always been either martial law or feudal law, the rule of people's law was as difficult as anything; however MQM took the burden of this and a young man started this all alone and now after 26 years the voice of that single young man has manifested in an immense public power. He appealed to the politicians of Pakistan that they must set aside their differences and their vested interests and work together to save Pakistan. He said the first step towards this should be that all politicians must announce that they will keep themselves and their relatives out of power and will give tickets to their workers and people from educated middle-class. He said it sounds difficult, however the leader of MQM Mr. Altaf Hussain has personally proved this by staying away and keeping his relatives away from the power and the electoral processes.

In the meantime the 14th Annual Convention of MQM USA was held successfully at local hotel in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The details of the convention are as follow:

Day 1 (Inaugural Session):

The Inaugural Session was formally inaugurated by the Patron-in-Chief MQM North America Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on the evening of Friday, May 21, 2010. The session was opened by the Joint Central Organizer MQM USA Nadeem Siddiqui. After the recitation of Holy Quran, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui formally inaugurated the 14th Annual Convention of MQM USA. The formal inauguration was followed by the welcoming address from the Central Organizer MQM USA Kamal Zafar the welcoming words from the Incharge Host Unit MQM South Florida Chapter Ali Hasan. The welcoming addresses were followed by the dinner.

After the dinner the guests from Pakistan MPA Moeed Siddiqui and MNA Ferhat Khan held a session with the workers and participants to share their experiences in Pakistan as legislators. The session was presided over by Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui who also opened the session and informally spoke to the workers about their duties as the worker of MQM. He insisted on the workers that they have to negate their self from the struggle otherwise the target will be remaining obstructed behind their own self. He said that the worker of MQM can never be ignored and if this is the perception in any worker then the worker must review his own actions.

Moeed Siddiqui and Ferhat Khan shared their experiences with the participants with interesting events and incidents during their election campaign and during their term up till now.

Day 2, Session 1 (Organizational Session):

The organizational session was conducted by member Central Organizing Committee, MQM USA Asad Siddiqui and he invited the Chapters and members COC MQM USA to present their reports.

The Chapters:

Atlanta Chapter report was submitted by the Chapter Incharge Haseeb Ahmed

Orlando Chapter report was presented by Syed Rashid Alvi, the Chapter Incharge of MQM Orlando.

Hawaii: Hawaii is not a designated chapter yet, however, Syed Rehan Ali submitted the possibilities.

Houston Chapter report was submitted by Joint Incharge Ahmed.

Philadelphia Chapter report was presented by Joint Incharge Ammar Faoouqi.

Maryland: Maryland is not a designated chapter yet, however, Dr. Hasan Jalisi submitted the possibilities.

Austin Chapter report was presented by Farooque Ballapari.

Detroit Chapter report was submitted by Aamir Qazi.

Washington DC/Virginia Chapter report was submitted by Chapter Incharge Shahid Moin.

Richmond Chapter report was presented by the Chapter Incharge Kamran Haider.

Dallas Chapter report was submitted by Mohammad Ibrahim

Portland, Oregon: Not a chapter yet, however, the possibilities were defined by Tim Siddiqui.

New York Chapter report was presented by the Chapter Incharge Asima Rohail.

Los Angeles Chapter report was submitted by the Chapter Incharge Asif Farooqui.

Chicago Chapter report was presented by the Chapter Incharge Sohail Shams.

South Florida Chapter report was submitted by the Chapter Incharge Ali Hassan.

The members Central Organizing Committee, MQM USA:

Anwar Ahmed submitted the report for **Communication & Media Cell**

Arshad Husaain submitted the report of **MQF**. He also submitted New Jersey Chapter report.

Sabih-ul-Islam presented the report for **Washington DC/Virginia Chapter**.

Gul Mohammad submitted the report for **New York Chapter**.

Mehfooz Hydari submitted report for **Philadelphia Chapter** and **Entertainment Wing**.

Wasim Zaidi submitted report for **Portland, Los Angeles, and Oregon**.

Mohammad Zaheer submitted report for **Karachi Club and Pakistan Clubs**.

Nadeem Siddiqui submitted the report for **Houston, South Florida, Orlando, Hawaii, Atlanta, and Youth Wing MQM USA**.

Kamal Zafar presented the report for MQM USA

Gahwarah-e-Adab USA: report presented by Prof. Masroor Quraishy, Incharge Gahwarah-e-Adab USA.

The Patron MQM USA & Canada Ibad Rehman delivered his **comments** on the reports.

The Patron-in-Chief MQM North America Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui delivered the **final words**.

The reporting session was followed by a short session of **Awards and Recognition**.

1. **Special Recognition Award** was given to **Khawaja Waqar Ahmed** of Dallas Chapter.
2. **Special Recognition Award** was given to **Rohail Khan**, former Incharge Gahwarah-e-Adab, USA.
3. **Lifetime Achievement Award** was given to **Ali Hassan**, Incharge MQM South Florida Chapter.
4. **Best Worker of the Year Award** was given to **Arshad Hussain**, member COC MQM USA.
5. **Best Wing of the Year Award** was given to **Communication & Media Cell, MQM USA**.
6. **Best Chapter of the Year Award** was given to **Chicago Chapter**.

Services Endorsement Plaques were awarded to:

MPA Moeed Siddiqui

MNA Ferhat Khan

The last item on the agenda for this session was a group discussion competition. The participants were divided into five teams and were give the topic “**How do we contribute**”. The participants were given half an hour for preparation and 3 minutes for presentation.

Lunch Break

Day 2, Session 2: Public Gathering

The session 2 of the day 2 of the 14th Annual Convention of MQM USA was a public gathering and it started at 8:30 pm. The Pakistani community from all counties of Florida showed up in large number to attend the public gathering. Those who spoke at the public gathering include the Central Organizer MQM USA Kamal Zafar, MPA Moeed Siddiqui, MNA Ferhat Khan, Patron MQM USA & Canada Ibad Rehman, and the Patron-in-Chief, MQM North America, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui. The session was beautifully anchored by the coordinator Youth Wing MQM USA Maliha Khan and the office bearers of Youth Wing MQM Atlanta, when they used ex-prompt Urdu verses and English interjections in their introductions and invitations for the guest at the stage. This public gathering was followed by a musical night with a short break for dinner. The musical night continued into the next day after crossing the midnight till 2:30 in the morning and the participants were mesmerized with the performance of Imran Javed, a guest singer from Pakistan, and local amateur performers. The musical night session was anchored by member Central Organizing Committee MQM USA Mehfooz Hydari whose jokes and interjections made the guests laugh throughout the musical night. It ended at the famous song “Mazloomon Ka Saathi Hai Altaf Hussain” sung by Imran Javed when the guests in the hall lost the control and joined him chanting slogans for the leader of MQM Mr. Altaf Hussain.

Day 3, Session 1: Final Session

The session 1 of Day 3 of the 14th Annual Convention of MQM USA started at 11:00 am on Sunday morning and was attended by the workers and office-bearers of MQM USA. The session was presided over by the Patron MQM USA and Canada Ibad Rehman. The session was opened by the Joint Central Organizer Nadeem Siddiqui. The head of MQF of MQM USA and member Central Organizing Committee MQM USA Arshad Hussain recited the Holy Quran and then present the MQM trophy of the year to the MQM Chicago Chapter. Following this the Central Organizer Kamal Zafar delivered the final and farewell words and endorsed the organized effort and services of the member of MQM South Florida Chapter and all those who contributed to the organization of the 14th Annual Convention of MQM USA at Florida. Kamal Zafar also invited suggestions and proposals from the workers and office-bearers of MQM USA for improving further events. After the Central Organizer, the Patron MQM USA & Canada Ibad Rehman opened the session once again and invited questions and suggestions. To a question regarding the speech of the leader of MQM Altaf Hussain, Ibad Rehman said that every effort is made at all times for the speech, however, the ground reality of that moment in London decides about it. Various questions were asked about the involvement of other nationalities in MQM events in USA and Ibad Rehman answered to those with clear explanations.

Reorganization:

Ibad Rehman announced the reorganization in this session and said that due to health related reasons Khalida Shuja and due to personal and business related reasons Sabih-ul-Islam's requests for release from the Central Organizing Committee have been approved, whereas Tauseef Yaar Khan of Washington DC Chapter has been included in the COC with immediate effect. Member central Committee MQM USA Wasim Zaidi was also announced to be relieved from the organizational duties in the Central Organizing Committee and his services, in whole, have been provided to the Research & Legal Wing of MQM. However, he'll continue to be a member of the COC MQM USA in his newly assigned capacity. Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Patron-in-chief MQM North America has endorsed such changes.

Next Convention:

The Patron MQM USA & Canada announced the venue of the next annual convention of MQM USA in 2011. As per announcement the 15th Annual Convention of MQM USA will be held in Chicago in 2011. Ibad Rehman further said that three bids were submitted to get the convention of 2011; the bidders were MQM Chicago, MQM Atlanta, and combined bid from the Chapters in California. However, he said, after the reviewing the bids and requests carefully, the Central Organizing Committee has awarded the 15th Annual Convention to MQM Chicago.

The patron also elaborated on the 501-C3 status of MQF and said that the registration of MQM USA is also in progress for 501-C4. He also emphasized on the strategy of looking into the reasons of the downfalls of Chapters' performances (if there is any). The Patron also announced that, since paying for MQF is mandatory on all workers from top to bottom, in the semi-annual convention at Detroit in coming October, if any worker/office-bearer of MQM will be found to be in default, the membership of the worker and the office of the office-bearer will cease to continue till the dues are cleared.

The Patron also insisted on a very aggressive Ramadan Campaign this year under Sun Charity as the 501-C3 status of Sun Charity has been approved.

The Patron also announced that the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia is going to meet the leader of MQM Mr. Altaf Hussain in London between July 26 and 29 this year and the arrangements are being made for the same.

The Patron also insisted on all Chapters for extending help to CMC by providing cooperation needed by CMC and finding people from IT for CMC. He also insisted on the workers to build rapport with the media and asked the people who can write to start writing.

The Patron ended the session with complimentary remarks for MQM South Florida Chapter for organizing such an organized event and wished everyone good luck in their endeavors in the cause of MQM.