RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY ☆ *WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG*



Above: High school students, Paris, September 29, 2026. Signs read: "More money for education, not for arms," and "What is [Education Minister] Èdouard Gaffray doing?" and (left) a very rude attack on the fascist right.

FRANCE: FROM REBELLION TO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

October 20— Massive protests still rock France after some 800,000 workers and youth surged into the streets last weekend. They are angered by the rising cost of living, which is boosted by high fuel prices stemming from the US/Zionist war on Iran. And by deteriorating conditions in schools, universities, and social services.

Many are outraged, too, by the genocide in Palestine. And inspired by the global movement against it.

In a recent poll, 98% of respondents said they were dissatisfied with France's present state. It's both an economic and a political crisis. Many see little hope of change within the current system.

They're right. Capitalism has nothing to offer the masses but attacks, death, division, and devastation. No politicians – from the open fascist Marine LePen to the socialist France Unbowed—can change that.

President Macron is caught between the demands of the masses and the demands of big investors in the bond market. It's a class struggle. And the state serves the capitalists, whoever runs it.

Only communist revolution can sweep away this deadly system. And clear the way for the masses to build a communist society that will serve our needs.

Only a mass, international, communist party deeply rooted among workers, students, and soldiers can lead that revolution and build that society. The best way to support the rebellion in France is to build the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) wherever we are. To spread communist ideas and build ICWP collectives.

See REBELLION TO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, page 2

From the Factories to the Streets

LEARNING TO BE A MASS PARTY OF COMMUNISM

CHENNAI and NEW DELHI (India), October 26—Kumar started work as an apprentice at a Hyundai automobile plant in Chennai two years ago. He was intimidated by the sprawling factory with miles of barbed wire, military-style security, and thousands of cameras trained at every angle to watch the workers. Any mistake would be recorded. Six mistakes in a month automatically meant dismissal of a worker who performs thousands of complex tasks a day at a blistering pace.

An ICWP comrade there wanted to introduce *Red Flag* to co-workers, but no printed material was allowed. One Friday evening, he visited Kumar's rented room twenty-five kms (fifteen miles) away. During the 90-minute ride, they shared everything: communism, current affairs, and their families.

This began a deep personal relationship. The comrade asked Kumar, "Would you like to join the communist ICWP?" Kumar was not yet ready. But he was impressed by the comrade's openness and honesty. Several months later, Kumar did join ICWP. He joked, "Why didn't you ask me to join ten years ago!"

Kumar learned a lot with the ICWP collective. Every month, they meticulously discussed how to spread communist ideas where they worked. Next to the Hyundai plants are BMW, Ford, and Renault Nissan. Foxconn, Flextronics, Samsung Electronics, the giant pharmaceutical Orchid Chemicals, and dozens more employ over 100,000 workers. For years, ICWP collectives have distributed 500 copies of *Red Flag* every issue. It may not seem like much, but all are by personal contact.

When the Supreme Court of India called unemployed youth 'cockroaches', it felt like every worker in Chennai was utterly disgusted.

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FRANCE: FROM REBELLION TO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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Working-Class Immigrant Students Led the Way

The protest wave started in September with high school students in mainly-immigrant working-class suburbs of Paris. They protested racist conditions like run-down facilities, overcrowded classes, and teacher shortages. The movement quickly spread to other cities.

Student blockades and demonstrations reflected a growing sense that the state can't provide the education and opportunities that youths need. It can't. They need to overthrow the capitalist state. No capitalist schools will give young people the tools—the communist ideas and organization— they need to do that. That's why young anti-Apartheid activists in South Africa in the 1980s called for "liberation before education."

Student protests were bolstered by a nationwide public sector strike (including teachers and school staff) against the government's planned budget cuts. Adding to the masses' fury, armies of police were deployed to brutally repress the youths. They arrested thousands and injured hundreds. A 15-year-old lost a hand to a police stun grenade. A 14-year-old had a jaw shattered by a tear gas canister.

But police have not quelled the rebellions. The interior minister admitted that they "lost control" in some cities.

October 5 was the third day of national mobilization. University students blockaded their institutions and joined demonstrations. By that time, the anti-revolutionary French "Communist" Party was busy promoting reforms under its "Youth Plan 2027-2032." As in May 1968, it supports reform demands while denouncing revolutionary students.

Build ICWP to Mobilize Masses for Communism

The capitalist press has described the French protests as "riots." It whines about the looting of luxury stores in Paris. But a comrade shared a video showing young protesters distributing looted shoes, groceries and women's sanitary supplies to unhoused people. Others cleared barricades for ambulances and firefighters' vehicles. "It's a side of the story that is not being told in the US," he remarked.

A revolutionary situation would exist in France today if there were a mass communist party with an even broader base to rise to the occasion. The same is true in Albania and Spain. And probably in Argentina, Chile, and elsewhere.

This can't happen overnight. But, as we cheer the heroic rebels in France, we must do whatever we can now to build ICWP to prepare for more such opportunities that will surely arise as capitalist crisis deepens.

One bright spot is New Delhi (India). There, youth collectives of the ICWP have grown in maturity and numbers over the last decade. They are mobilizing masses for communism amidst the continuing youth protests there. That can, and must, happen elsewhere.

Read Our Manifesto:

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM AVAILABLE AT:

icwpredflag.org/mmce.pdf

FRENCH IMPERIALISM IN DECLINE: THE CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST

Is France in decline? Eighty-five percent of respondents in a recent poll said "yes." They're right. That's part of what's behind the angry mass protests against the current crisis.

Fascist politicians try to blame immigrants for the decline. But the real culprit is imperialism.

Before World War II, French capitalists controlled the world's second-largest colonial empire. By 1960, national liberation fights had challenged that control in Africa and southeast Asia. As France declined, US imperialism and a newly imperialist Soviet Union were rising to take its place.

French imperialists battled fiercely from 1946-1954 to sustain their exploitation of the Indochinese masses. The war was so unpopular that the government couldn't risk a draft. Instead, it relied on its Foreign Legion, composed largely of German "ex"-Nazis. And on its French Expeditionary Corps.

These troops were primarily Southeast Asian and African men. They came from French colonies, including Senegal, Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria.

The Viet Minh offered anti-imperialist political education to captured colonial troops. Released prisoners refused to fight for France. Some later organized and fought against it. France lost its Indochina war. US imperialism then tried to seize the prize. It failed, too.

From 1954 to 1962, French imperialism tried unsuccessfully to suppress the Algerian war for independence. This war, too, was unpopular. An estimated 15,000 French soldiers disobeyed orders, deserted, or joined the Algerian rebels.

President Charles deGaulle managed the transition from direct colonial rule to neocolonialism. After the May 1968 student-worker uprising, he warned that France was losing its status as a global power.

The word déclinisme officially entered the French vocabulary in 2016. When Macron became president in 2017, some saw him as its antidote. But France's military budget continued to drop, from 5.5% of GDP in 1960 to 2.0% in 2025.



THE REGION CUTS BACK, SO WE RESIST!

October 8—Students at the Sonny Rupaire High School walked out and marched to the city hall of Sainte-Rose, Guadaloupe, a French department in the Carribean.

Since 2020, anti-French imperialist protests have surged in the Sahel. In June 2026, former French colony Burkina Faso cut all ties with France. Along with Mali and Niger, its rulers are pursuing closer ties with Russia.

Without colonies to superexploit, capitalists turn the screws tighter on both native-born and immigrant workers within France. While trying to divide them with racism and Islamophobia.

No worker should mourn the decline of a racist neo-colonial power like France. Or seek alliances with any other capitalist power. Instead, workers and soldiers should organize for communist revolution to destroy capitalism everywhere.

And prepare to build a new world without borders or wage slavery. Without wage-slavery or money. A communist world where all workers are welcome everywhere. And where the masses ourselves make the decisions that affect us globally.

ON THE WEB:

The website: **www.icwpredflag.org** has the following additional articles and letters this issue:

Serbia, Brazil, Israel: Elections Won't Defeat Fascism

The Time is Now!

Capitalism can't meet masses' needs—Communism Will!

CHECK OUT THE ICWPEDIA: Available at **icwpedia.org** and the QR code to the right

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WE CAN'T VOTE OUT CAPITALISM

LOS ANGELES (USA), October 28— The results of thousands of local and state elections will mostly be known by the time you read this. Some of our readers and friends will either be celebrating or despondent. Some may be cautiously optimistic but still anxious that Republicans might not abide by the results.

As communists, we challenge the illusion that US Senate and House elections can make a qualitative change in anything. Even if a "blue wave" flips the Senate.

"Real decisions are made in corporate board rooms," remarked a teacher comrade. "For example, it was the banker J.P. Morgan who took the US into World War I."

When war broke out in Europe in 1914, Morgan pulled strings to become the exclusive US purchasing agent for Britain. His company earned $30 million (equivalent to almost $800 million today). Within two years, J.P Morgan & Co. had also facilitated $$billions in loans and credits to the Allies. The US government was pressed into guaranteeing these loans to keep munitions flowing. That dragged the US into the war to guarantee an Allied victory.

Capitalism's drive to maximize profits shapes our jobs (if we have them). The food, water, and air available to us. Our access to medical care – and what that care is like. Our entertainment. Whether giant data centers suck up resources to power AI. All that and more.

The capitalist propaganda machine cranks up before elections to convince us that "your vote is your voice." What they mean is: Shut up and vote.

But the machinery of government mainly exists to help the capitalists exploit and repress us. Secondarily, when it works smoothly, it helps capitalists manage their differences. That's not happening now.

So we see "No Kings" protests focusing on early voting. Energy drained into "get out the vote" postcard writing. So many people in the US are angry with fascist immigration cops, anti-Black racism, genocide in Palestine, and the rising cost of living. But we don't see mass protests like the ones rocking France, Spain, Albania, Greece, Italy, Mexico, and Argentina.

That's why we need to speak out loudly and clearly about the need to destroy the capitalists' state power with communist revolution.

Communism will transform production from profit maximization to meeting the masses' needs. It will create real popular decision-making through local collectives linked globally as a mass communist party.

We start learning how to do that today. By building communist social relations based on mutuality, respect, and struggle. By learning and teaching communist revolution.



Do Elections Matter?

"Most folks I know don't vote. Or do so reluctantly, due to widespread corruption," said a comrade. "At times, local politicians are decent allies."

"Most people I know are 'Vote blue [Democrat] no matter who' types," said another. "So conversations don't really go anywhere."

"So both alternatives make no difference??" asked the first comrade, a bit incredulously.

"Not really. Especially since most Democrats run as unopposed incumbents. Or are in such a blue district they win by default. Very few races have third-party options. Most judges run unopposed. The ballot measures are important though."

A third comrade agreed. "It can matter for local things and propositions, and it's easy enough to do. So I do vote. But I specifically don't put a lot of energy into electoralism."

Many of our friends get enthusiastic about "third-party" candidates. Especially those who oppose the genocide in Palestine. But some friends have rightfully become disillusioned with social-democrats like New York Mayor Mamdani. He gives lip service to Palestine and material support to Zionism. This "anti-establishment" fake recently met with Jamie Dimon, CEO of J.P. Morgan Chase. The bank that's been running US foreign policy for over a century!

The party we need is not one that calls itself socialist (or even communist) but in actual practice draws angry youths into capitalist electoral politics. We need the International Communist Workers' Party.

With our line of mobilizing masses for communism starting now. With our strategy of organizing concentrations among soldiers and industrial workers as well as youth. With our doors wide open, waiting to welcome you and your friends.

FROM THE FACTORIES TO THE STREETS, continued from page 1

New Delhi students started their protest.

The unwritten company rule of 'no political talk' no longer made sense. ICWP comrades initiated political discussions, taking plenty of precautions. A new vocabulary was invented to talk about communism.

As our party's influence grew in New Delhi, many Chennai comrades and other workers began making small donations to the party. While millions marched in New Delhi, our Chennai comrades distributed nearly a thousand copies of *Red Flag*. Migrant workers from northern states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar responded enthusiastically. This strengthened our confidence.

Two weeks ago, we took the bold step of sending comrades to visit New Delhi. Everyone selected Kumar because he is young, friendly, speaks Hindi, and knows many people in Bihar. We also sent comrade Sarita, who was laid off from her garment factory in Bengaluru.

She had returned to her hometown in Bihar, where she continues to build a *Red Flag* network. Bihar is a very volatile state. It has the highest unemployment rate. Comrade Sarita has accepted our call to set up and build collectives in Bihar.

Sarita arrived in Delhi by train. Kumar came the next day. The New Delhi ICWP comrades were thrilled to receive them. They enjoyed a wonderful Delhi-style dinner with dozens of comrades, neighbours, and family. We talked all night about our actions over the past two months.

Everyone was impressed to meet an ex-garment worker. She described in native Bhojpuri Hindi her struggle in the factory against racist, sexist bosses. Her passion for communism left an indelible impression. Comrades also wanted to talk to Kumar about life in a huge factory and how workers see communism.

We participated in several small flash rallies over the next two days. The police had taken over the main Jantar Mantar protest area. They had kidnapped over 80,000 students. Because of the defeatist, nationalist outlook of Cockroach Janta Party's leaders, mass rallies were mostly impossible. But at the flash rallies, we could talk more openly about communism.



Jamia Millia Islamia University (JMI), October 2026

The highlight of the trip was a visit to Jamia Millia Islamia University (JMI). Its students have a long history of fighting racism and xenophobia. Now they are on an indefinite strike against the administration. Students from all over Delhi came to support them.

Comrade Sarita made many contacts, mostly with women students who were giving speeches. Their most popular slogan was "Jamia ki ladki ne, rasta dikhay hai." (Women of Jamia are showing the way). We led a modified version: "Jamia ki ladki ne, Samyavad dikhaya hai" (Women of Jamia are fighting for communism).

Before we left, we called on the youth to follow the heroic struggles of France, Spain, Italy, and Albania. We got heartfelt support when we spoke about the need to fight the genocide in Palestine with communist revolution.

Above all, we learned that workers and students have a lot in common. Our diverse cultures, languages, and customs strengthen and unite us against the capitalists, whose only interest is maximum profit.

We are learning to be a mass party of communism.

LET'S TURN ANTI-FASCIST RESISTANCE INTO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

LOS ANGELES (USA), October 10— The fightback against capitalism's increasing fascism and imperialist wars is undying. It keeps gaining strength. Our party's message to these workers, youth, and soldiers around the world is to turn resistance into a communist offensive in which we all together mobilize the masses for communism.

Over a thousand people took to the streets in downtown Los Angeles today to denounce the ongoing war on Gaza. It marked three years of bombing, genocide, starvation and occupation. Over 73,000 deaths and 173,000 injuries. The displacement of nearly 2.3 million.

Nine comrades and friends of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) joined the march. We distributed 300 *Red Flag* newspapers and 150 pamphlets, Genocide in Palestine Demands Communist Revolution.

"A new comrade and I offered someone our communist paper," said a comrade. "They were like 'wow' and looked taken aback. They took the paper. This prompted the new comrade and I to talk about the importance of calling ourselves communists," she emphasized. "It's what we are, and our critics will call us communists anyway. It's better to share our communist ideas with people," she concluded.

"More young people picked up our paper," another comrade noted. "We met someone who knows us. He was glad that we were still in the fight and reconnected with us politically."

At the same time, in nearby Pasadena, the Pasadena Community Job Center made a call for resistance in the face of increased ICE attacks. Since January 2025, over 1.1 million have been deported. Over 8,500 minors have been placed in concentration camps. At least 59 people have died in ICE custody. ICE agents have shot and killed at least nine citizens , including Renee Good and Keith Porter, Jr.

"We are excited to participate in the Latino Heritage Parade and continue to build unity in our community," said a speaker from the Job Center music truck. "Joy is an act of resistance. We need to celebrate the power and love we have for ourselves, for each other, and for the community."

The Job Center contingent marched with multiple beautiful anti-ICE banners. Four ICWP comrades joined the group, quickly distributing 320 *Red Flag* newspapers (all we had) among marchers and onlookers.

"We workers create everything, but the capitalists own it and control it," said a comrade to bystanders as they took papers. "With communism we will decide what to produce and we will control it, without any bosses or owners. We will run the world!"

Another comrade was impressed by how many people already knew *Red Flag* through several comrades involved with the group. That's part of why we were received so well. And welcomed in the contingent with our communist signs. Long-term communist relations among the masses are critical.

ICE terror and the genocide in Palestine are connected. Both are brought upon us by capitalists who are hell bent on imposing fascism and war to maintain their power. We must overthrow them with communist revolution and prepare the foundations of a new world. One with no borders, no classes, no nations. Where all humanity will share everything for the benefit of all.



Pasadena (USA), October 10

Read Our Pamphlet:

FIGHT FOR THE DAY WHEN NO WORKER WILL BE CALLED FOREIGNER

AVAILABLE AT:

icwpredflag.org/ffde.pdf

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES, AND SUGGESTIONS TO: CONTACT@ICWPREDFLAG.ORG

From Factories to Jails: "The Pitcher Will Eventually Break"

I have concluded that here we are just a few days away from starting eleven-hour workdays for four days a week. We know what that means for the lives of all workers: more wage slavery and oppression in the factories. However, due to our household needs and responsibilities, we have to work those hours just to survive in this inhumane system. A system that forces us to work longer hours for the same wage, and as always, it is the workers who bear the brunt of it.

Over the past several years, thousands of workers have been imprisoned through no fault of their own, simply to meet the monthly quotas set for police and soldiers to arrest people. In this country, people are afraid to speak out or protest, as they may be accused of vandalism or terrorism. This oppression by the capitalist system must be fought by the working class, by organizing ourselves into the International Communist Workers' Party

Property owners set fire to markets by causing electrical short circuits, leaving many people without their commercial spaces. They intend to remodel them and rent the premises to business owners with government backing. To prevent the informal vendors who emerged from those burned-down markets from working, the police confiscate their goods, beat them, and arrest them under the state of emergency. They deny them even the rights afforded by capitalist laws.

Business owners saved on labor costs by putting prisoners to work. And now they want to avoid paying bonuses by extending the workday to 11 hours.

Everything is going so well for them that they've forgotten the saying: "You can carry the pitcher to the river so many times, but eventually it will break." And that will happen when the people wake up and find the courage to protest against this system, no matter what it takes. Just as in past movements and actions by the working class that say, "enough is enough."

An example of this is the struggle being waged by our comrades in Spain, France, Italy, and other countries. But the most important thing in all of this is organizing for communism.

No reform will be enough, no matter how much hope they may offer. The only alternative is the communist system.

—Factory worker in El Salvador

What Will Work?

I think *Red Flag* is a cool paper.

It reads to me as propaganda more than news. And I personally don't think communism is the only solution, as the paper proposes. But rather that the solution to the problems of imperialism, racism, inequality, and such will be a combination of things that haven't been brought together under one ideology before.

I think the best thing would be a blend of anarchist principles of mutual aid and non-coercion, communist organization and planning, as well as the communal ownership of goods like water, food, electricity, farming equipment, factories, and so on. Indigenous principles of living in reciprocity with the land and respecting the sacredness of all living things. As well as a healthy dose of pluralism and democracy.

That's just my take, though. I really think the thing that will work is something that hasn't been tried yet.

It has been my experience that many communists in the US are devoted deeply to their ideology. Sometimes so much so that non-communists can have difficulty collaborating due to the evangelical nature of some communist organizers.

But many are kind and rooted in principles of genuinely working to create a better world.

I think discussions like this are so important.

—High school student in California (USA)

Red Flag responds: Lots to talk about here! We hope that readers and party collectives will discuss and write on these topics.

Who Wins When Workers Get Sick?

FAST FOOD, CHRONIC DISEASES, AND THE CAPITALIST BUSINESS OF OUR HEALTH

EL SALVADOR, October 7—"The health of the working class is shaped by the capitalist system. While millions of us work long hours for wages that barely cover our basic needs, large fast-food chains and manufacturers of ultra-processed foods place cheap products within our easy reach," said C.

"The problem isn't simply that a worker buys a hamburger or a sugary drink. The contradiction lies in a system where it is often easier and cheaper to consume processed food than to have consistent access to healthy food, which only a portion of the population can afford," commented A.

Why is food that can make us sick accessible to us, while healthy eating becomes increasingly difficult?

"Diseases linked to excessive consumption of sugar, fat, and sodium are associated with obesity, diabetes, and high blood pressure. These diseases also create markets for doctors' visits, medications, tests, treatments, and hospitalizations. Health ceases to be merely a human need. It becomes a space where profits are made, while the consequences fall on our families," concluded D.

"How much money does a preventable chronic illness generate?"

This question reveals a contradiction: the working class produces value, but different sectors can accumulate profits off our basic needs: food, housing, health care, and medicine.

"Capitalist theft doesn't just happen when they directly take our wages away. It also happens when the value we produce is used to sustain businesses while our needs remain unmet," said F.

"We need to put a stop to this theft. We workers must discuss, organize, and fight for a communist society where production and services are aimed at satisfying human needs and not at enriching a minority," concluded A.

Let's all discuss: Who controls the value we produce? Who benefits from our illnesses? Why are our needs turned into business opportunities? Why does a society that possesses the resources and knowledge to prevent many diseases allow our basic needs to become opportunities for profit?

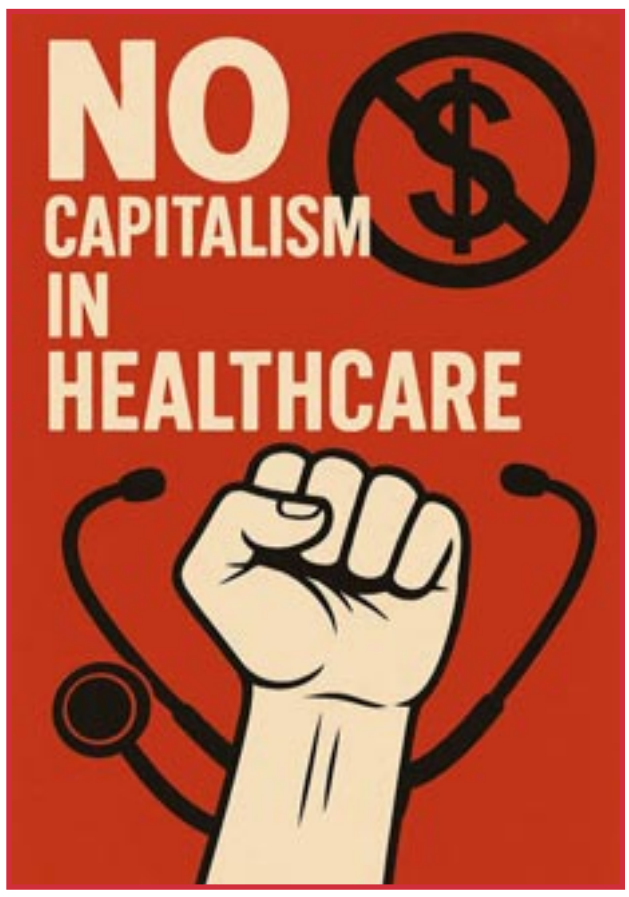
Capitalism turns our needs into commodities and can transform their consequences into new markets.

The working class produces food, builds hospitals, keeps factories running, and keeps society functioning. We, the masses, have the power to transform this reality by organizing the ICWP and fighting for a communist revolution.

In communist society, nothing will be organized around profit. Nothing will be bought or sold. The goods and services we produce collectively will be shared to meet the needs of the masses.

Accessible, healthy food, clean water, decent housing, time to rest, safe working conditions, and appropriate health services must be available to all, not hoarded for the few.

Health must not be a commodity! The value we produce must serve the needs of the working class!



WHAT DO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SERVICES HAVE IN COMMON?

The government of El Salvador introduced the DoctorSV app last year as a public telemedicine tool to treat diabetes, hypertension, and other conditions. The program includes technology, staff, medications, tests, and other components. Also, the contracting of specialized services and external networks, including pharmacies and clinical laboratories.

Under capitalism, both private companies and public institutions operate within a system that prioritizes profitability and the accumulation of value over the needs of the working class. Public resources often end up propping up businesses and contracts. We workers continue to pay the price.

We do not need reforms that attempt to humanize a system based on exploitation. Nor do we need companies that profit from our illnesses. So we must ask: How are public resources organized and used? Who manages the services, and who ultimately benefits financially from our healthcare needs? Do they truly meet the needs of the working class?

El Salvador National Hospital was established as a public institution. It offers services such as clinical laboratory testing and radiology. "If the government can allocate resources to health care, why not direct those resources primarily toward strengthening infrastructure, workers, and health services?" asked a worker.

What we call "the government" is the organized dictatorship of the capitalist class over the working class. We workers must prepare for communist revolution to destroy the capitalists' government. And today's system based on exploitation for profit. Only then can the working people, organized as a mass communist party, eliminate private companies and create public institutions that truly meet our needs.

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES, AND SUGGESTIONS TO: CONTACT@ICWPREDFLAG.ORG

The Health Crisis in Ecuador

"He or she who has health, has hope. He or she who has hope, has everything." This interesting phrase about health doesn't really apply today in Ecuador.

That is the harsh reality hitting our country, without short-term solutions, and even worse, without long-term solutions. In capitalism, that is. Hospitals are understocked and the healthcare system lacks primary care to improve the quality of life for Ecuadorians.

More than 20,000 patients in Ecuador depend on dialysis. Eighty-eight percent of them go to private clinics that sell the service from the IESS (Ecuadorian Institute of Social Security) to all public hospitals in the country. The state debt is US$ 400 million, and each dialysis patient costs $1,456 per month to stay alive. Currently, the state prioritizes paying external debt to imperialist banks over investing in health.

More than 4,000 deaths were recorded from 2024 to September 2026 due to lack of dialysis and medications. The shortage of medicines and devices throughout the public network is unsustainable. Supply in public hospitals dropped to only 55% in August 2026 and is trending downward.

The rise in cancer is real, with 3,204 new cases and 5,700 deaths in 2024. Guayaquil alone went from 24,425 consultations in 2024 to 37,246 in 2026. Colon cancer went up from 250 cases to almost 400, and it's still trending upwards.

Corruption is out of control in contracts with external providers and the purchase of medicines that never arrive. People are spending out of their own pockets because the hospital has nothing. The tax money that was supposed to buy medicines went into overpricing and debts.

Health has always been considered the main focus of human existence. But nowadays for capitalism it's a business and a privilege for a few capitalists who see diseases and death as a source of more profit and power.

Health should never be seen as an expense. It's the best investment because without health, there's no life. And without life, there's no revolution or change.

The capitalist system is collapsing. It can't go on anymore. We need to wake up and, as the working class, understand that the only way to win is always going to be a communist revolution to achieve total well-being. In communism, the masses' health will be the most important thing. Health care, like everything else, will be free, collective and the highest quality care possible will be available to all the masses.

—Comrade in Ecuador



Anti-government protest, Quito (Ecuador), October 8, 2026.

THE CHOICE TODAY: FASCISM AND DEADLY WARS, OR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION?

October 25— "In response to nuclear devastation, masses will turn to producing food collectively without money and share it based on need. It will be communism," said a comrade.

"People lived like that before. They grew food and shared it with neighbors. No money exchanged hands. It was a better way of life," answered a friend.

"If any imperialists use nuclear weapons, the masses across the world will rise up and demand an end to deadly capitalism. They will fight for communist revolution," said another comrade.

"Even bombing Iran with a 'tactical' nuclear weapon won't get the US control of Iran without a massive force of ground troops. You can't take over a country from the air. The US rulers would face rebellions among those troops. So would other rulers," said another friend.

A "tactical" nuclear weapon could kill everyone within a 50-mile radius and spread radioactive toxins in the atmosphere farther. The rulers use the term "tactical" to hide the truth, to trick us into passivity. They are planning mass racist murder.

The possibilities of ending the US-Iran war through diplomacy are practically zero. Iran is part of the China-Russia bloc challenging a declining US imperialism for world domination. This, however, will require a redivision of the world, which will require war on a global scale.

The 20th century saw two such world wars. The victors of World War II – the Soviet Union and US imperialism – carved up the world's territories at the 1945 Yalta Conference. The US became the world's dominant imperialist power.

Now China has risen as US and Western imperialists' main rival. This rivalry is fueling an expanding World War III. China aims for a new redivision of the world, dominated by itself.

History shows that no dominant imperial power ever steps down without a fight. Rising powers have more maneuverability. But they don't give up without a fight either.

War then becomes these imperialists' only option. The question facing them, and declining US imperialism most urgently, is what kind of war: a conventional one or a "tactical" nuclear one?

A US conventional invasion of Iran would require one or two million soldiers. That force would take six months or more to assemble. The US rulers are trying to get allies to fight for them. There is no place they can assemble such a force outside the range of Iranian missiles and drones.

Iran has a large, mountainous territory and huge armed forces. Even if a US-led force were assembled, defeating Iran on the ground (if possible) would take months, perhaps years. Supplying such a campaign would be almost impossible.

Then is US imperialists' only option to use "tactical" nuclear weapons in Iran? They are now discussing this openly. Trump and Netanyahu threaten Iran. If neither Iran nor the US backs down, those threats could become a reality.

The rulers can't make war without the workers' compliance. An important lesson of the US loss in Vietnam was that many soldiers refused to continue killing and dying for US imperialism.

Russian soldiers in World War I didn't just resist. They deserted the front to join the fight for revolution in Russia. Workers and soldiers are the ultimate and decisive weapons.

War is the deadly logic of a system based on competition for maximum profits. Capitalists compete and fight for workers' labor power, natural resources and market share. Our labor power – bought by the capitalists for a wage - is the capitalists' most important commodity.

To end wage-slavery and genocidal wars, we must destroy capitalism and its wage system. We must abolish money with a communist revolution. As free workers, we will produce only to satisfy the masses' needs.

Then we'll share the world: without borders or nations, without the racism and sexism created by the exploiters to divide us. Without money. No more imperialists' wars to redivide the world!

Masses won't spontaneously fight for communism. This requires a mass communist party that mobilizes the international working class for communism.

Today that means spreading communist ideas by distributing *Red Flag*, organizing communist class struggle, and recruiting millions – especially soldiers, industrial workers, youth, and students – to the International Communist Workers' Party.



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From Bihar to Isfahan: Hope for a Communist Future

Friends in Isfahan could not stop looking at the photos in *Red Flag* from Bihar (India) and Arab and Jewish residents in Tel Aviv. It sends a powerful message that contrasts with the patriotic songs we hear commemorating the butcher of Tehran. One shows hope for a future with communism without borders, oppression. The other is desperately trying to revive the old, crumbling capitalism by clinging to fascism and wars against our class.

The women comrades' story inspires us. We follow their struggle in New Delhi. The conditions are the same in Tehran, Isfahan, Tabriz, Mashhad, and every town and city in Iran. Mass unemployment, abject poverty. Meanwhile, in both New Delhi and Tehran, a few super-wealthy people have built exclusive malls, five-star hotels, gated palatial condos, and super-expensive restaurants.

Joblessness is so dire that fake employment agencies funded by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps are requiring unemployed women to post revealing photos along with their CVs. They screen these women for jobs as prostitutes in the Gulf countries, Istanbul, Russia, and Central Asia.

My father, the family's only breadwinner, saw his monthly wages fall from $104 to $36. After US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent declared an economic war on Iran, the oil refineries are working at 20% capacity. Wages are falling like a brick. Ordinary items are unreachable to the masses. Iran has plenty of gas, so malls, supermarkets, small shops, restaurants, and coffee shops are brightly lit. But you hardly see a customer. It looks like a ghost city.

I went to the market with my father. Prices had already risen since the previous day, so we chose only the essentials. My father could see from my expression that we could not afford everything in our basket. We had to put back the sugar, oil, and toothpaste, reducing the total from $5.46 to $3.20. Even then, he had to charge it on a credit card whose interest rises daily.

We watch on TV, the President Pezeshkian and the foreign minister Araghchi going all around the world in their private airplanes, making deals with imperialist countries, the Oil Monarchs.

How can the Iranian workers, soldiers, the masses in general on starvation wages, wave the flag of Iran? But that is the reality. The Islamist ideology has a certain grip on the masses. But as in the New Delhi protests, this ideology is paper-thin.

The masses are hungry. The Iranian flag is not going to feed them. Actually, it is going to kill them.

I am reading the ideas of ICWP more deeply. While I agree with it, I am still learning. The stories in *Red Flag* are very inspiring. I am sure they inspire people everywhere.

I have concluded that the Iranian masses, during the uprising that overthrew the pro-imperialist Shah in 1979, overthrew one tyrant with another, with the Islamist ideology draped in nationalist capitalism. It is time to end the rule of all the tyrants.

My next letter will have greetings from other like-minded people in my city.

—Reader in Iran

MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM TO END ZIONISM'S CAPITALIST APARTHEID STATE

TEL AVIV (Occupied Palestine), October 27— "At the age of 18, I was forced to join the compulsory military service in Israel. I ended up in Hebron in 2012. We were assigned to guard more than 5,000 Palestinian schoolchildren. I was horrified to see these children tear-gassed in schools. They were physically separated, and they had to pass several checkpoints, humiliation, and assaults by the Israeli military just to see their teachers in a classroom. The children were basically living in concentration camps."

A *Red Flag* comrade shared this story in his collective to prepare for rallies here against the genocide in Gaza and settler violence in the West Bank.

This comrade said that he would have acted differently in 2012 if he had been a member of ICWP. When he was in Hebron, a majority of the Israeli soldiers did not like what they had to do. They expressed their frustration to each other in private.

"As a communist, I would take this opportunity to organize this mass frustration into a revolutionary struggle to end the capitalist system," the comrade reflected. "We faced our class siblings. Rather than fighting them, we can unite with them for a communist revolution."

This comrade's sentiment is spreading, though not fast enough. We have a handful of ICWP comrades who regularly distribute *Red Flag*. When we distribute the paper, we engage with people and their worldview. Initially, some of them are hostile to our ideas. They have succumbed to the fascist worldview. But when we sit down with them and use the articles in *Red Flag,* they gradually feel they have been lied to all their lives. When they realize that, they begin to read *Red Flag*. We invite them to our meetings every two weeks.

Some of our comrades have formed personal relationships with activists from liberal B'Tselem and Breaking the Silence. Each of these groups has some very serious activist *Red Flag* readers.

Through our contacts with them, we participated in a Tel Aviv University protest against fascist Ben Gvir. While dozens of young students staged a confrontation on stage, we were able to get our communist ideas to the masses.

This rally was widely publicized, but protests happen almost every day. Heavy police action prevented a mass demonstration on October 7. ICWP comrades were there in force. We made several key contacts with a group of young students in a study group on Marx and Lenin.



Red Flags in Gaza

Israeli society is in turmoil. Reportedly, no-show or dropout rates among soldiers are reaching 40% to 50%. More than 90,000 young students are classified as evading military service. Healthcare is stretched to the limits, unable to meet the needs of people with PTSD and other psychiatric conditions.

Many are disgusted with Netanyahu and his wars and genocide. But the other political alternative is just as deadly. Whoever wins the election is going to continue genocidal attacks in Gaza and the West Bank. And perpetuate the apartheid Zionist state. ICWP comrades have a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to expand our mass

ISRAELI FASCIST ATTACKS SOAR AS OLIVE HARVESTING SEASON PEAKS

October 28— Brutal military occupation and settler violence attacked Palestinian farmers as the olive harvesting season peaked. This was election publicity for openly fascist Zionists. It was part of a systematic effort to drive Palestinians out of the West Bank.

Israeli forces fired tear gas canisters toward Palestinians in farm areas east of Nablus on October 17. They chased residents, set fires, and injured many. South of Nablus, and in Burin, colonists forced olive harvesters out of their own land and villages.

Israeli colonists cut down or burned dozens of fruit-bearing olive trees in the al-Qibla area east of Ramallah on October 23. Israeli occupation forces prevented civil defense teams from reaching the area.

That same day, Israeli forces gave families in Khirbet Suruj village (west of Jenin) one week to evacuate their homes and agricultural structures. Those villagers have land documents dating back to 1960. They fear the land could become a colonial outpost, and then a new Israeli settlement.

These developments come amid wider restrictions on movement in the occupied West Bank. Israeli forces closed checkpoints on routes to and from Jerusalem, disrupting the journeys of hundreds of Palestinians.

The next day, Israeli forces sealed off Hebron. They forced 2,670 Palestinians (ten percent of the population) from their homes. This looks like retaliation for a deadly attack, allegedly by Palestinian gunmen, on Israeli troops at a nearby checkpoint.

Hundreds were evicted from Deir Bahala, al-Jalda and nearby areas. Israeli forces arrested at least forty Palestinians and demolished commercial and residential buildings. Families were given about five minutes to evacuate. Palestinian city officials sheltered displaced residents, declared a state of emergency, and set up a crisis hotline.

Israel's capitalist apartheid system cannot be reformed. Only communist revolution can free the masses from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea – and beyond.

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"People Like Me Are Rising"

Prime Minister Modi, you addressed the nation at midnight and called us 'friends'. You chose a 15-year-old girl to unleash your goons on, to threaten her with gang rape and murder. While you 'offered' to apologize to the girl for her abusive language, I have become a communist to change this world where people like you will never exist. And I am 14 years old.

I want to say, I am not your friend. I am your enemy. You and your army of fascists have made it impossible for girls like us to walk freely at night. You pay lip service to your hollow slogan, "Save a girl, save the nation." How shameless you are! Your RSS and other Hindu fascist groups engage in the most heinous acts of sexist violence, gang rapes, and murders. Even in your hyper-sexist regime, 60% of your MPs have rape charges in YOUR courts.

People like me are rising. They will not allow you to continue your filth. We have realized that our future lies in ending you and your system of depravity. My mother has suffered from your sexist actions, and so have I. But the future generation will not. We will have a communist world without you.

—Young comrade in India

1968: Global Student Protests and the October 2 Massacre in Mexico

On July 26, 1968, police attacked students involved in a street brawl, chasing them and beating them inside the school. This triggered protests and a rebellion.

Due to the massive demonstrations, the repressive police lost control. The government sent in the army. It was eager to bring the conflict to a swift end in the light of the impending Olympic Games, scheduled for a few months later.

The conflict escalated into a national student strike. It reflected years of oppression. The previous decade had been marked by the repression of strikes by teachers, railroad workers, doctors, and nurses.

Capitalism appeared to be thriving, with growth rates of 6 percent. But workers suffered exploitation and oppression.

Although there were "leftist" groups that followed the Soviet or Chinese line, their aim was to democratize capitalism, not to overthrow it.

When the government claimed the movement was a "communist conspiracy," these groups were quick to deny it and champion nationalism.

The intolerant government brutally suppressed a march on October 2, leaving hundreds dead, wounded, and many imprisoned.

At that time, students in France—just as today—were also taking to the streets to protest capitalist attacks.

Since capitalist exploitation and oppression cause discontent and spark rebellion time and again, our party, ICWP, must clarify the paths to emancipation by spreading the idea of Mobilizing the Masses for Communism at every protest around the world.

—Comrade in Mexico



Mexico City, October 2, 2026: March commemorates the anniversary of the genocide in Tlatelolco Square in Mexico City

BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY: CELEBRATE ARMED STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS' POWER

On November 7, 1917 (old style: October 25) the Russia Revolution began in Petrograd, then capital of Russia with an armed insurrection organized by the Bolsheviks. They successfully took control of key locations, including the Winter Palace—seat of the government.

The next day, a full-scale uprising erupted as a fleet of Bolshevik sailors entered the harbor. Tens of thousands of soldiers rose up in support of the Bolsheviks. Red Guards occupied government buildings.

That fall, more than a million workers had participated in strikes. Many were Bolshevik organizers or supporters. Industrial workers in Petrograd and Moscow, miners in the Donbas, metalworkers in the Urals, oil workers in Baku, textile workers in the Centrak Industrial Region, and workers on forty-four railway lines. Workers established control over production and distribution in many factories and plants.

The Bolsheviks had organized for "Peace, Land, Bread," an end to the war, and workers' power. They declared communism as their ultimate goal.

Pro-capitalist liberals united with monarchists in a counter-revolutionary force. Within months, fourteen imperialist powers sent troops to help the counter-revolutionaries. The Bolsheviks organized more than five million workers and peasants into a Red Army. They also organized among soldiers of the invading armies. By 1920, big revolts among rank-and-file soldiers forced the imperialists (except Japan in the far east) to withdraw.

The Bolsheviks had inherited an economy in disastrous disarray. Famine was widespread. Their short-term solution was "war communism." Its key was a state grain monopoly. It would requisition agricultural surplus from peasants and ration food for the urban population. It would jump-start production and bypass currency that inflation had made useless.

Factories sent worker-detachments to the countryside to collect desperately needed food. But the Bolsheviks had only a limited base among the peasants. And they did not mobilize the worker-detachments to fight for actual communism. Only in isolated cases did they take a sharp class line to rural wage laborers or to organize communist study as well as party cells.

Once the counter-revolution was defeated, some forces no longer supported the Bolsheviks. Serious problems arose because Bolsheviks had fought only for political leadership, not ideological leadership. For power, but not for communism.

Soldiers, Sailors, and Workers: Key to Revolution

The Bolsheviks demonstrated that the masses of workers, soldiers and sailors can be won to making a revolution and taking power for the working class. We have much to learn from them!

But their fatal error was their lack of confidence that workers and soldiers could understand the need to fight directly for communism.

The Bolsheviks retreated to the New Economic Policy. That meant more openly capitalist relationships. They incentivized the masses to seek personal gain. They retreated from the goal of building communism. Instead, they took the means of production from private capital and put it into the hands of a party-led state. But they kept capitalist economic relations (wages, money, markets). The party itself would become the core of a new capitalist class.



"COMMUNISM" Petrograd, 1917

Today we know that soldiers, sailors, workers, and youth are capable of understanding communist ideas and fighting directly for communism. We work to unite our class worldwide in one mass international communist party. Mobilizing the masses for communism is our guiding principle, now and after the revolution.

The Russian masses proved in 1917 that the working class can rise and take power. We'll do it again!

But our communist world will be very different from the socialism of the Soviet Union. Communist workers' power will immediately end capitalism's core element: a money-based economy.

Nobody will work for wages to buy what they need. Instead, our International Communist Workers' Party will lead masses to work and share based on our commitment to each other.

Workers already produce everything. In communism, the producers ourselves will decide what's needed. We'll organize the work and distribute the fruits according to need. No markets, no money, no barter, no exchange – just sharing!

Humanity will be able to live as the one huge family we really are.

Communism will have no "government" separate from the mass communist party that welcomes everyone into its ranks. The masses, organized as interlocked party collectives, will participate directly in decision-making.

This mass communist party will weld the working people of the world into one powerful force. No longer will bosses be able to use nationalism, religion, sexism, or racism to fool us into fighting our working-class siblings.

Join us in celebrating our revolutionary past and building the communist future!

READ OUR SERIES ON THE HISTORY OF THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION OF 1917

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Pakistani Rulers Launch All-Out War on Pashtun People

What is unfolding in Pakhtunkhwa can be understood as a coordinated, full-scale, all-out colonial war against the Pashtun people under Pakistan rule. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a large and strategically critical province in northwestern Pakistan.

This colonial war encompasses political disenfranchisement, economic exploitation, resource extraction. And military repression and staged military actions. Also, territorial and land seizures, control over natural resources, political domination. And the systematic dismantling of political and democratic rights and institutions.

The former FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Areas) system has not merely been restored. It has been expanded from seven tribal agencies to twelve districts. This extends exceptional rule and militarised control across a much larger territory.

The Punjab- and military-centric federal government has seized provincial legislative, executive, administrative, and fiscal powers. It has stripped the Pashtun people of even the limited political autonomy previously available to them.

The state is institutionalising exceptional rule and governance through military force. It is turning political resistance into an act that can invite lethal state repression. This is not simply the restoration of the old colonial frontier system. It is its expansion and consolidation across Pakhtunkhwa.

Some compare the establishment of a separate secretariat for twelve districts in Pakhtunkhwa with the South Punjab Secretariat in Bahawalpur/Multan. They are actually endorsing the colonial state's narrative.

The Punjab government established the South Punjab Secretariat through amendments to its own Rules of Business, within the existing provincial constitutional and administrative framework.

Punjab was not placed under emergency or Governor's Rule. Nor did the federal government displace its elected provincial government and seize its powers. Nor has Punjab faced a staged war aimed at consolidating colonial expansion.



In Pakhtunkhwa, by contrast, the federal government has imposed emergency and Governor's Rule. It has displaced elected provincial authority. It has seized sweeping legislative, executive, administrative, and fiscal powers. It has imposed an exceptional system of governance across twelve districts.

To portray this federal/military seizure of power as a mere administrative rearrangement is to conceal the political character of the colonial assault on Pakhtunkhwa. And the wider questions of military domination, territorial dispossession, control over land and natural resources. And of provincial autonomy and the national and democratic rights of the Pashtun nation.

If the Punjab-centric federal government and the army redraw Pakhtunkhwa, they must be prepared for the redrawing of Pakistan itself!

Good for us... This would open new opportunities to organize for international communist revolution.

—Comrade in Pakistan