

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

February, 2020 -- Anti-fascist protesters in Delhi, India fight Modi's police



India:

COMMUNIST FIGHT AGAINST FASCIST MODI

March 8 — Four days of state-sponsored fascist carnage in Delhi, India has left over one hundred dead (mostly Muslims). Thousands were gravely injured. Tens of thousands were burned out or driven away from their homes.

Prime Minister Modi and his ruling party (BJP) prepared this horrific pogrom. For weeks they spewed hate against the millions who were opposing the BJP's xenophobic citizenship laws. Modi's trusted fascist partner Amit Shah, head of the powerful state police, meticulously planned the attack. It was under Modi and Shah that thousands of Muslims were murdered in the state of Gujarat in 2002.

The BJP armed its members with metal pipes, gasoline and guns. They went on a rampage, attacking and killing Muslims and torching their homes and property. Police, acting under direct orders, protected the fascists and even joined their gruesome violence. They blocked ambulances taking the injured to hospitals. A lone judge issued an emergency ruling in the middle of the night, forcing police to provide safe passage to the injured. He was immediately transferred to another state.

Students and workers, including members of the International Communist Workers' Party, resisted the fascists and assisted the victims. Students from Jawaharal Nehru University and other colleges opened their dormitory rooms and turned them into makeshift medical emergency rooms. Many doctors and other trained healthcare providers worked day and night to take care of the victims of the Delhi violence.

"When the authorities found out that the JNU campus was being used to treat the injured victims, they sent police to evacuate us," reported a comrade. "They threatened to suspend any student involved in providing help to the injured. We had to shift the patients to private homes of many sympathetic Hindu families, to other campuses and to the local Gurudwaras (Sikh temples) who generously provided food and medicine."

ICWP members in Delhi contacted comrades in Bengaluru and Chennai and asked for financial

[See INDIA, page 2](#)

Aerospace workers debate coronavirus and capitalism

COMMUNISM: "IT'S ABOUT WHAT'S BEST FOR EVERYONE"

PUGET SOUND, WASHINGTON (US), March 7—"People in the factory may say communism is a bad system, but there are many good things about communism," declared a new Boeing worker friend. He was referring to how many Chinese people welcomed mass testing for COVID-19.

He described pictures of Chinese shoppers undergoing required testing for fever. "These things go beyond individual rights. It is about what is best for everyone," he said. He added that the tests were free and were for the common good.

We discussed how China is not a communist country. Then we reviewed the struggle for communism there, particularly the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). He still has relatives in China. He thinks that some of the good things the Chinese government did were a residue of this struggle.

During the last week, many other workers have started to question the anti-communist propaganda that has swamped us for years in the US.

A friend who distributed the ICWP immigration pamphlet liked its sharp criticism of how capitalist governments abuse migrants, but "wasn't so sure about the communist stuff." More recently, she read a draft of the article about communist relations of production. She pointed

to every paragraph about communist relations of production, saying, "That's right, that's right."

Communist Class Struggle on the Job

Then, at the morning crew meeting, right-wingers started up with xenophobic, racist and anti-communist attacks on Chinese people. "It started in China, in a lab," one said, promoting an anti-communist conspiracy theory.

"We had time to prepare, but capitalism failed us again," retorted another crew member. The fascists fell silent. The rest of us bombarded management with hostile questions: "What if we have to quarantine? Will we be paid?" "Will we have to use sick time?" "How can we trust the company when company policy took away even the Clorox disinfecting wipes we used to have to wipe down the benches and keyboards?"

The supervisor made excuses. He said he "didn't know" and to "check with him" before taking off from work. The whole experience made workers more inclined to consider an alternative communist system in discussions the rest of the day.

Some friends had rejected *Red Flag* in the past because it is communist. A number of them read the draft article. Some took an issue of the last paper, including younger workers who read it for

[See AEROSPACE WORKERS, page 4](#)

VOL. 11 #3, March 11 to April 1, 2020

SOUTH AFRICA STUDENT STRIKE PAGE 3

COMMUNIST RELATIONS OF PRODUCTION PAGE 4

PUERTO RICO: PENSION STRUGGLE SHOWS NEED FOR COMMUNISM PAGE 5

MORE ON CORONA VIRUS PAGE 7

REFUGEE CRISIS IN SYRIA & MEXICO PAGE 8

INDIA FROM PAGE 1

help for the victims of the fascist pogrom.

“Here is Rs. 1000 (\$14) to help the victims in Delhi,” said comrade Asha in Bengaluru. She is a garment worker who makes about \$110 a month. She expressed tremendous anger and pain as she read a report that fascists had tossed a four-year-old boy into a fire.

Asha led other comrades in her factory and neighborhood, and comrades in Chennai, to raise a sum equivalent in purchasing power to about US\$20,000 (over 300,000 South African Rands).

The ICWP members held regular meetings to give a communist outlook on the events.

Italian fascists in the 1920s violently attacked workers, union members and communists. Then they would claim to be the real victims. BJP and its parent organization RSS follow their lead. They accuse Muslims of being invaders, outsiders, destroyers of ancient Hindu culture.

But the pogroms were not a religious Hindu-Muslim religious conflict. By portraying Hindus as victims, fascist BJP is attacking the whole working class.

This capitalist violence is a response to the serious crisis of global capitalism. The meteoric rise of Chinese imperialism has penetrated every corner of the world. In contrast, US imperialism has steadily declined since the Vietnam war. This decline accelerated with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, US imperialists know that

they need to confront their Chinese rivals. However, they can't do that while trying to control the Middle East.

The Delhi pogrom was planned and executed to coincide with Trump's state visit to India. As Trump and Modi effusively greeted each other in Delhi's vast Presidential Palace, smoke from the massacre billowed just 6 km away. Modi was letting Trump know that India could be a junior partner in countering China. His ruthless violence sent chilling signals to the Middle East and beyond.

Capitalists worldwide are witnessing falling rates of profit and stockpiles of unsold commodities. Their response is to attack workers internally to reduce wages. For this they use racism, xenophobia and fascism. Meanwhile, they require new markets. This contradiction is leading us closer to imperialist wars. The working class is forced to choose between fascism and communism.

In Delhi, ICWP comrades have encountered thousands of angry workers and students who want to change the system. Some have joined ICWP. These new members are full of hope and energy. They have seen the horrors of capitalism and they have a vision of the world without it. Their confidence and their utter disgust with bigotry is an inspiration to the international working class.

Bangladeshi Workers and Youth Protest Anti-Muslim Fascism in India

The official visit of India's fascist Prime Minister Modi to Bangladesh was 'postponed'. The official said that due to three cases of Corona Virus, the trip was not possible at this time.

This is a lie. There are massive street demonstrations against the recent killings of Muslims in Delhi. The night before Modi's proposed arrival, half a million marched in the Bangladeshi capital city of Dhaka.

We have many comrades and friends of ICWP in the garment industry. We are horrified and outraged by the brutal violence against Muslim workers in Delhi. We read all the news from India in *Red Flag*. We are in communication with the comrades there.

The bosses are extremely scared in India and Bangladesh. We have to form closer relationships with the comrades in India. Communism will get rid of Corona Virus and rulers like Modi.

—Comrades from Bangladesh

Our job is to recruit, recruit and recruit more to build a formidable force that will demolish capitalism forever.

New Comrade In India Inspired by Comrades in the Streets of Delhi

I am a 26-year-old male. My name is Mاهش. I grew up in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. My native language is Awadhi. My parents are extremely religious, and they support Modi and the BJP. I came to Delhi to study at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) six years ago.

When I was young, I saw very serious discrimination of Dalits and poor Muslims who lived in our area. I had many arguments with my father, who is very prejudiced because of the propaganda and brainwashing of RSS. My family was very poor as well but because of our caste, my father thought he was superior.

In Delhi, at JNU, I met students from all over India. Many of them did not believe in any religion at all. I was very attracted to them. I always thought that all religions kept people in dark while the charlatans made money. Eventually I met some members of Communist Party, Marxist (CPM) and I started attending their youth organization.

This was the time Modi came to power in 2014. His fascist party immediately attacked JNU. The administration was taken over by criminals associated with Modi's RSS. We had many fights and massive demonstrations. We fought the police, tear gas and water cannon.

With each attack on us, I became determined that not just Modi and the police, but the entire system had to go. I raised questions to my comrades in CPM. Their answers did not convince me. They talked about democracy, nationalism, secularism. No talk of revolution, changing the system. It frustrated me.

The four nights of carnage against the Mus-

lims in Delhi completely changed my life. I saw areas where Muslims used to live turned into war zone. Dead bodies thrown into drains, pregnant women raped, frenzied mobs organized by RSS and protected by police ruthlessly beating up Muslims, burning their homes and property.

This is when I met women and men members of ICWP. They were involved in bringing the injured to safety. They were not alone. Masses joined in the effort to restore humanity. I was very moved as the ICWP members told me that capitalism is the root of this fierce attack on Muslims, but it is an attack on the entire working class. Discussions with a woman comrade who speaks Awadhi helped me understand the political analysis of ICWP. I decided

to join the party right on the spot.

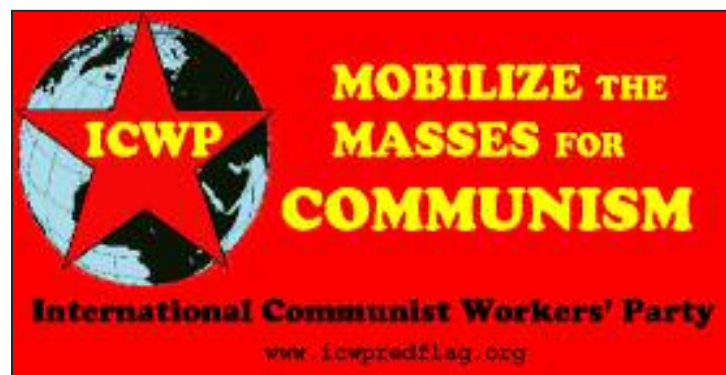
I know there are thousands like me. I don't know much about communist theory and practice. But I am convinced that I can learn. I want to learn dialectical materialism as the comrades are preparing for classes to teach. I want to be a better communist; I want to recruit more people to our party. I have no fear, I am willing to dedicate my life. I have full confidence in my comrades here. They are the most wonderful and selfless people you can imagine. I am very lucky to be part of ICWP.

Help me to learn and grow. Laal Salam, Inqilab Zindabad. (Red salute, long live communist revolution)

—New Comrade in India



Protestors in Bangladesh denounce Indian Prime Minister as a terrorist



VOL. 11 #3, March 11 to April 1, 2020

Join the International Communist Workers' Party
www.icwpredflag.org — Twitter @RedFlagBandera
 E-mail: icwp@anonymousspeech.com
 Instagram: @icwprf
 Write to: P.M.B. 362
 3006 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90007, USA

STUDENT STRIKE CREATES OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVOCATE COMMUNIST REVOLUTION AND RECRUIT TO THE PARTY

PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA, March 8—Students here have been struggling and striking for a week, including at a college that a comrade attends. Our collective has been involved, distributing *Red Flag* and engaging with the students about our solutions to the problem.

We fight for a communist world where education is to fulfill the needs of the international working class—in a world where production is to meet the masses' needs, not for profit. Eliminating bosses and money, we will eliminate racism and sexism.

One main reason for the strike is that students from outside Port Elizabeth were promised free housing and education. But once they arrive, they find that this is not actually happening. The landlords are kicking them out of student residences. All the colleges have been striking against the government, the landlords, and the brutality of the police who are trying to suppress the students.

It's not unique here. It happened in Marikana and it's happening in India. The working class needs to join together and create a Red Army that will fight against the brutality of these criminals and for revolution, and to safeguard the benefits of the revolution.

A few days ago, some students who were kicked off campus were sleeping outside. Two women students were raped. This was reported to the police, who did nothing. So, the students of three campuses joined to hunt down the perpetrators. They reportedly apprehended and punished them.

This shows that once we rely on the unity of the working class instead of the puppets of the bosses, the police, anything is possible. It is important for ICWP to wage this ideological struggle.

Many parties are trying to exploit this—especially the EFF (Economic Freedom Fighters) student command and the ANC's SASCO (South African Student Conference). Each is trying to

outdo the other, to the detriment of the students, to further their political gain. We were there on the ground engaging with the students to expose these opportunist parties.

The strike continues. It has presented the party with an opportunity to recruit more because now more people are starting to see the EFF and the ANC for what they truly are. Most people disagree with some methods they are using. They see that they are opportunistic. We can organize the students who are feeling cheated and disillusioned with these organizations. We need to intensify our efforts to distribute the paper and ask students to join our fight against capitalism.

Our collective hasn't fully seized this opportunity. More needs to be done to help our student comrade reach these students and recruit them.

A comrade said, "As we were sitting outside talking, a classmate asked if we should consider setting up an ICWP student command in the college because he sees the corruption of the EFF command and SASCO. He knows that, based on our line, we are not looking for material gain, unlike other parties. He was asking if we would consider doing this so we can genuinely help the students.

I told him that these are good ideas that we are discussing inside the party, whether we should wage class struggle while at the very same time advocating for communist revolution. I think we need to consider these things more, moving forward as a collective in South Africa, because these are the cries of the working class. They don't see any alternative. He sees us as an alternative to these reformist parties, because they know that they have been sold out many times by



South Africa -- Technical College students protest withholding of much-needed financial aid

these parties."

The strikes starting, from industrial workers to students, are the clear results of the weaknesses of capitalism. These are the responses from the working class against the bosses' exploitation, xenophobia, racism, and sexism. Students are not immune to these, especially from the colleges we are in. These are technical colleges where everyone is being prepared to be workers. The colleges rigorously enforce their ideology on workers to make them more obedient to the bosses.

But workers and even students are responding to the violence of the police with their own fight-back. The party should be at the forefront. We are actively trying to recruit in this strike. After May Day we will have a dialectics conference. We are trying to recruit as many people as possible to be part of that conference, so that together we can improve our understanding of dialectics.

We have had some progress. Right now, we are struggling with around ten people on one campus. This is a first step. The goal is to win all the students on the campus to our cause.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO ICWPREDFLAG@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.ORG

The Bosses are the Real Thieves

I am indignant. Today I have personally experienced what we workers have constantly denounced in *Red Flag*.

I was unjustly accused of having stolen some garments from the factory where I have worked for years. In that moment I remembered the flyer that some time ago ICWP (International Communist Workers' Party) handed out in the factory, "WHO IS STEALING FROM WHOM!" For years the bosses of this factory have stolen my labor power, since with each hour of work by the men and women workers, the bosses pocket thousands of dollars in profit.

The servile chief of human resources and the bosses hire agents dressed in civilian clothes to watch over us every day. When I left work they followed me for a long time. I boarded a bus and from there a soldier and a police officer took me off. They asked me for my identity card and I presented it. They directed me to a car with dark windows. Inside were four men. They told me that I already knew why I was there. I answered, "I really don't know."

I was very angry, because I didn't know what I was facing.

At that moment they interrogated me and offered me money to tell them if there were co-

workers stealing clothes.

"I've never seen anyone take clothes," I said. Then they proceeded to arrest me. They treated me like a criminal and presented me in the bourgeois press as a thief. The thieves are the bosses!!

They kept me locked up for several days and I suffered a lot of mistreatment in prison. This experience has made me stronger, to continue fighting and organizing for the party. Today I am free and I am grateful for the solidarity of my family and my other international family, which is the people of the ICWP.

For the last meeting of the ICWP, I went and brought four more people. I will continue to make known to everyone that I can about "WHO STEALS FROM WHOM!"

—Comrade in the maquilas in El Salvador

Maquila Worker: It's Time to Take a Stand

Cordial greetings, comrades of the ICWP
I'm a worker from a free trade zone in San Salvador.

Because of the position I hold in the factory I had always remained neutral, or rather a little pro-boss, but my experience has changed me and I believe it's necessary to take a position.

The reason I am writing this letter is to tell you about the abuse by my co-workers on the board of the union of which I am a member. At

one point they asked me to hand over a list of co-workers to be fired. I opposed this, and from there the harassment by them and the bosses began.

As I was part of the board of this union, they could not fire me because I had union rights. So they looked for a way to hurt me. They went to my daughter who also worked there and fired her without any justification, as usually happens with all the men and women workers.

Although I am in a position of leadership, I felt cornered. I approached a comrade in the ICWP to ask for advice. And indeed he gave me good guidance about how to handle the situation in legal terms. But he also suggested that I read *Red Flag*, and that I should join the fight for communism, to get rid of the bosses and this unjust system that keeps us exploited and divided.

I attended my first meeting as a *Red Flag* reader. I was very happy to meet more workers who are thinking, not about changing the boss through elections, but about changing the capitalist system for the working class system: communism.

I hope that like me they can be strong and always united so that we can have workplaces free of corrupt unions and bosses. Thank you for allowing me to write my story. We shouldn't be afraid to express ourselves.

—Comrade worker.

COMMUNIST RELATIONS OF PRODUCTION WILL CREATE A MORE RESILIENT ECONOMY

SEATTLE (USA) — “We’re stuck with capitalism,” asserted a Boeing friend. Is this true?

Every day the bosses’ media feed us lies about how resilient capitalism is. They tell us no other system matches it. When our faith in this system is shaken, they blame temporary, unpredictable outside forces.

Financial gurus openly worried about a worldwide recession after global stocks plunged the last week in February, and again on March 9. The bosses’ economists even called it the “coronavirus recession.”

For months, Boeing workers have been discussing the internal contradictions of capitalist production. Chief among these is the dialectical contradiction between the huge forces of production (factories, machines, workers, etc.) and the capitalist relations of production.

The capitalist owns and controls factories, machines, etc. For production to proceed, workers are forced into a specific kind of relationship with the capitalist.

These relations of production are involuntary. The system forces us to submit to exploitation in order to survive. Hence, the term “wage slavery.”

Capitalism also requires markets and production for sale. Profits are the goal. The capitalists must compete for the biggest market share. Overproduction is inevitable. It’s the driving force behind Boeing’s MAX debacle.

If there is an immediate global economic catastrophe, it will not be because of the coronavirus. It will be because the inherent contradictions of capitalism make it weak.

“All you need is to push the economy with your little pinky, and it goes over the edge,” said another Boeing worker.

Some business pundits admitted the virus was “a trigger.” They blamed other economic weaknesses like tariffs and the burgeoning trade war. But tariffs did not cause the weakness.

They were the result of the weakness: global overproduction caused by the internal contradictions of capitalist production.

Communism Beats Capitalism Hands Down, Especially in Emergencies

Communist relations of production will create a much more resilient system. Communist relations are based on mobilizing for our collective needs, not profits. This mobilization is based on voluntary communist commitment.

Such commitment does not emerge spontaneously. The ICWP is dedicated to struggling for it—now and in the future.

Workers committed to communism will view production differently. They will take initiative, not just wait for orders. This contrasts starkly to the cynicism and alienation we witness in the factory today.

Communist production is also infinitely more flexible. It is not hamstrung by the necessity to produce profits for a company or nation.

Whenever one area suffers a shock, other areas will swing into action. Whatever is produced or grown anywhere will be for the collective needs of us all. We won’t be at the mercy of a paycheck.

Sometimes capitalist producers respond to catastrophe, but usually it’s to extract exorbitant profits. Workers can’t afford whatever is produced, even life-saving medicine or treatment.

Communist relations of production will allow us to make decisions on what and how much to produce based on the masses’ welfare. For instance, we could have dozens of facilities ready to produce test kits like the ones for COVID-19. No more limits because of profitability concerns.

Working collectively for our common good will help teach us to trust one another. These bonds of trust will help lay the basis of communist collectivity throughout society. Our production facilities will not only create the

Boeing Workers Discuss Internal Contradictions and the Coronavirus

SEATTLE (USA), March 6—While discussing the weakness of the capitalist economy, we thought of other examples that prove that internal contradictions are primary. Not surprisingly, the 19 (or more) deaths from COVID-19 in the Seattle area came up. The coronavirus has rampaged through the population undetected for the past 7 weeks. Those who study the spread of disease are now estimating hundreds, maybe over a thousand, have been infected locally.

Most people who die from COVID-19 suffer from a weakness in their internal immune system caused by age and/or other underlying health issues. The battle for survival takes place within our bodies. In fact, the treatment so far is to keep the patient alive, so their immune system has time to beat the virus.

In addition to over 3,000 deaths from the coronavirus, hundreds of thousands die each year from the seasonal flu. It’s estimated that half a million poor elderly and children die unnecessarily from the flu around the world because they don’t have access to even basic healthcare.

Beyond the flu, the Lancet Global Health Commission reported in 2019 that 5.7 million die in low- and middle-income countries every year from poor-quality healthcare. Another 2.9 million die from lack of access to any care.

Communist health care will end this “everyday” carnage of capitalism.

material goods we need, but also activate communist masses. No force on earth is greater.

AEROSPACE WORKERS DEBATE CORONA VIRUS AND CAPITALISM from page 1

the first time. Everyone commented on the draft, and we incorporated many of their suggestions.

Workers Debate Communism vs. Socialism

Meanwhile, a worker at the other end of the factory texted for help. This *Red Flag* distributor’s co-workers had asked him what the difference is between communism and socialism.

He fell back on the definition he learned in school, saying: “Under communism, most property and economic resources are owned and controlled by the state (rather than individual citizens); under socialism, all citizens share equally in economic resources as allocated by a democratically elected government.”

A Party member remembered this definition from the federally mandated anti-communist curriculum he had endured in high school. It has no relation to reality.

Over the next two days, this comrade and his friend studied the draft article that caused such a stir at the crew meeting. In truth, the basic difference between socialism and communism is the mode of production.

Communism produces for the collective needs of the masses. Socialism maintains production for profit, wage slavery and the bosses’ dictatorship. Hence, it’s still capitalist and embodies all of the capitalist evils our friend hates. Democracy is just a cover for that dictatorship.

The different modes of production generate different societies with different ways of making

decisions and different priorities. Only communism prioritizes the needs of the working class and completely eliminates money. Because socialism maintains money and therefore capitalist relations, it can never meet our needs.

The *Red Flag* distributor is not yet ready to completely abandon the anti-communist definition. He thinks socialism is more palatable to his fellow workers. We agreed to continue to discuss this.

We welcome workers’ interest in the detailed



workings of a communist society. The way forward will include sharper ideological and practical struggle. In many ways, workers are asking ICWP to take on this struggle.

SUBSCRIBE TO RED FLAG - \$20/YEAR

Name _____ I want _____ copies per issue

Address _____

Send to P.M.B 362, 3006 S. Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90007

Movie Review:

“PARASITE”

Spoiler Alert! The 2019 and Academy Award winning film Parasite is being hailed as an explicit class conscious film, but the poor family it depicts as “class conscious” is far from understanding that the capitalists are their enemy.

Director Bong Joon-ho and screenwriter Han Jin-won are liberals, not communists. They created an edgy social critique on class division in Seoul, South Korea, about two families; the poor/working class Kims and the wealthy Parks.

The “class conscious” Kims they created try to get out of their poverty not by organizing to overthrow their capitalist oppressors, but by getting hired by them. Like the capitalists, the Kims have no scruples about how they achieve their goals. The Kims scheme to get the workers, whose position they want, fired. Instead of uniting, these oppressed workers end up hopelessly fighting each other to the death.

The most important point of the film is to highlight a serious problem with capitalism; selfishness. Self preservation is a main feature of capitalism because elites are fully aware that they are outnumbered. Increasingly, workers are aware that inequality or “the gap” between the rich and poor is widening. Therefore, elites like

Donald Trump stoke the flames of racial and gender division. This serves the elites’ agenda, which is to divide and conquer. As long as we are divided we are more likely to blame our fellow workers for our economic oppression, instead of the elites.

Well, we say NO MORE!!! It is time that we rally working people of the world to mobilize for communism! Under communism, there will be no Parks or Donald Trumps because we will all share in the labor to create and maintain a more equitable society. Stop letting elites fool you into hating your fellow worker and join us to finally put an end to capitalism.

THIS WAS EDITED FOR LENGTH; THE EXTENDED VERSION IS AVAILABLE AT icwpredflag.org

Workers in South Korea have a long history of militant class struggle. In the picture below, autoworkers wield clubs against riot police during a 2003 anti-government rally in downtown Seoul.



STRUGGLE OF PUERTO RICAN WORKERS FOR RETIREMENT WITH DIGNITY SHOWS NEED FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

On February 22, nearly a thousand workers met in an Assembly in San Juan to demand that the colonial capitalist government and the Fiscal Supervision Board (JSF) not approve their proposed changes to the retirement systems. Also, they demanded that the Board revoke approved measures that negatively affect current and future pensioners.

An 8.5% reduction in pensions is the most recent measure ratified by JSF. The JSF is the parallel non-elected government that has greater power than the elected government. It was created by the US Congress to guarantee at all costs the interests of Wall Street and its Puerto Rican lackeys.

An agreement between the government and the bondholders will be presented in a US government court, designated by the US Congress to implement the Promesa Law (Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act). This law created the JSF.

This agreement guarantees that bondholders receive payment of 75% of the investment, regardless of the current value of the bonds in the stock exchange, and that the lawyers participating in the negotiation receive \$400 million. The Assembly demanded the elimination of the Promesa Law.

The Assembly also rejected the measures the government wants to impose on the workers of the University of Puerto Rico. These would change their pensions from a system of defined benefits to one of “defined contributions.” With the first, retired workers receive their defined pension beforehand. With the second, workers’ contributions are treated as a savings account to be invested in the stock market.

Therefore, the benefits that pensioners receive will depend on variations in the capital markets. That is, their pensions will depend on the Wall Street lottery.

Capitalist governments - be they “colonial”, “third world” or imperialist - adopt anti-worker measures to pay the debts that they have irresponsibly issued with the endorsement of and for the

benefit of the bondholders.

These attacks have caused massive worker protests in Chile, France, Greece and other countries. This reflects that capitalism is a global system and that the workers’ struggle is also global. The working class has no borders. Neither does capitalism.

But this fight should not be for reforms such as demanding the elimination of the PROMESA Law or that the JSF does not approve or repeal anti-worker measures. The struggle must be for communism: a society without money where we collectively produce everything and distribute it according to the needs of each. Communism will meet the needs of everyone from the cradle to the grave.

There will be no banks, nor bondholders. Nothing will be sold or bought, thus eliminating capitalist wage slavery: the material basis of racism, sexism, and other poisonous capitalist ideologies and practices. In a communist world there will be no borders or nations that divide us.

When the Europeans came to this continent they found many native communities living like this. The sailors, wage slaves superexploited by nascent capitalism, first saw this form of community in the Caribbean islands, including Puerto

Rico (called Borinquen by the indigenous Tainos).

This ignited their imagination. They understood that their dreams and aspirations were not vague illusions, but that “another world was possible.” Here and on their return to Europe, they organized revolutionary movements fighting for that world that they longed for and needed and that they now knew was possible.

Millions of natives of this continent were exterminated fighting to maintain “their world”. Over the centuries, tens of millions of workers have given their lives fighting for a similar world free from exploitation.

In capitalism, the capitalist class exists to exploit the working class for its own benefit. Let’s fight to eliminate social classes. This will only be achieved by building a communist society.

Today - thanks to the successes and failures of the old communist movement, especially in Russia and China - we are closer than ever to win that scientific communist world that humanity and the environment need.

Join the struggle! Long live communism! Long live the Internationalism of the working class! The working class has no border!



All over the world before the invention of class society, humans lived in a communist manner. This is a water-color of the village of Pomeiooc, an Algonquian village in what is now North Carolina, USA in 1585.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO ICWPREDFLAG@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.ORG

A World to Win – A Mass Communist Party to Build

The young man was wearing an anarchist shirt. He joined a conversation I was having with his friend at an anti-fascist rally in the south-Asian community of Artesia. I think he'd already spoken with other comrades who were distributing **Red Flag**.

"So, how do you plan to run the world on communist principles," he asked.

Very good question.

I said some things about the Party convincing and organizing masses to participate in making decisions on many levels. And struggling for everyone to think about what's best for all of us, internationally. About what's needed, how best to produce it and how to distribute it to meet the needs. And that we'd use communications technology that exists today (like video-conferencing) and invent more.

"But," I told him, "we don't have a detailed answer to your question now. We can't. We need a lot more people – like you! – to help

figure it out.

"Once we are able to function as a communist party of maybe 10,000 members in 30 places, I'm sure we'll have a much better plan for how to run the whole world on communist principles."

This seemed to make sense to him.

I thought about this more later. When we think about how we should be working together as a communist party now, the starting-point really should be how we think we'll lead a communist world. And how, before that, we could be a party of 10,000 members in 30 places.

The principle "From each according to commitment, to each according to need" should tell us a lot about what it means to build a mass communist party and to mobilize masses for communism. How does the older slogan, "From each according to ability..." relate to this?

"No nations – no borders!" certainly means building one International Communist Workers' Party, not a "new Communist International" made up of national parties. How should we build the international leadership collective for ICWP—one that functions and matures as a stable collective while continually developing new leaders?

Can this be done adequately through social media or chat groups? How do we conduct meetings in multiple languages – how could we do this better?

What will it look like once we've started to smash the capitalist barriers of cost and border control? Once the whole world is communist?

Our party should be proud of the breakthroughs we've made so far! But what's "good enough" today won't be good enough for long. Truly we have a world to win. But winning the world is just the start.

—LA comrade

How Does a Party of a New Kind Act in the Class Struggle?

We read the article about the ICWP Communist Party of a New Kind in Volume 11 #1 of **Red Flag**. It raises some really interesting points in our view. And these are the things we've been struggling around for quite a while now. There are many examples we've encountered in the past.

When we were in Rustenburg there was a report we submitted based on conversations with some of the miners in that side whereby they were questioning the line of ICWP because they could see those short term gains unions were putting forward. We were organizing around the vanguard line.

They wanted the party to be in a position whereby it can give also leadership inside the factories whereby they would actively fight the bosses on behalf of the workers, even though those are short term goals. But in a sense they are also important because they also serve as a recruitment tool because workers are more inclined when there is injustice, to rise up against that injustice. And the party should be in the forefront of that. So we cannot ignore this side.

But at the very same time, the article makes a point of analyzing some of the fatal flaws of organizing around this line so that we cannot repeat those same mistakes. So it's a really good article. There are many questions that we encounter in places where we distribute, because some worker would ask a question about what is it that the party can do to help us now and it always bothers me, because there's nothing.

I remember a few years back, the first time I went to Marikana. We were distributing the **Red Flag** at an old mine. Most of the workers who were working there were locked outside the premises. We met some of them. We distributed **Red Flag** to them and talked with some of them. There was this particular guy called Bulelani. I still have his contact but he no longer stays in Marikana. He was fighting with the boss and he was even physically abused by the owner of this mine.

And he went to the police and they didn't want to help him because they were siding with the boss. It's not surprising because historically the police always side with the boss. That's why they exist in the same place beside the

bosses.

And this guy asked, "What is it that you can do for us?" And the only thing we can do for him is that in the future we'll create a society whereby he can't suffer the injustice, the humiliation, the exploitation that he was facing now. And at that moment we were powerless. And this still bothers me.

So it is important for the party to really actively consider organizing around this, but at the same time we should be mindful to explore and do our utmost to completely eradicate the system. The only way to do that is to constantly struggle around the line to mobilize the masses for communism. That is our main policy. We are not for some other stage or whatever. We constantly struggle around this line and struggle against liberalism, individualism and all these liberal tendencies.

But it's really a helpful article and we really enjoyed it very much.

—Comrades in South Africa



Response to the Comrades in South Africa

Thank you, comrades, for raising these important questions.

The party should be active in workers' struggles countering the bosses' attacks by showing that the only way to end their attacks is by mobilizing the masses for communism.

At MTA, several years ago, a supervisor yelled at a driver, poking his finger in his face in a confrontation after the supervisor made a racist, sexist attack on the worker's girlfriend (another driver). The worker fought back and hit the supervisor. He was arrested and later fired.

The party put out a leaflet and **Red Flag** article supporting the driver's actions, exposing capitalist wage slavery and calling on the workers to join ICWP and fight for a communist world without wage slavery, racism or sexism. Hundreds of workers read both. This led to more workers reading **Red Flag** and many advancing their understanding of communism.

We were on the outside, not the inside, at

this workplace. Had we had a comrade working there, we could have done more.

Our communist response to the bosses' attacks depends on the base we have among the workers. We can't and shouldn't promise immediate gains. We should always stress that advancing the struggle for communism is our immediate goal: more **Red Flag** readers, distributors and writers. More study groups and Party collectives.

Whether or not we are able to win workers to understand this, we should still try respond to all bosses' attacks in some way. We can put out a leaflet denouncing the attack and showing that communism is the solution. Making this a mass issue shows workers that we are fighting back and advances their political understanding.

If possible, we could meet with the worker involved and their friends to talk about our plans to put out the leaflet and get their ideas. We should meet with them afterwards, to talk about their coworkers' response. This could lead to more ideological struggle, more leaflets and articles, as we try to organize study groups and recruit.

Whether we succeed or not immediately, we would have advanced many workers' understanding of communism and eventually the need to join and build ICWP to make communist revolution a reality.

This is the political base we will have inside for more responses to the bosses' attacks. These could go from direct confrontation with the bosses, to work slow downs or stoppages, to political strikes and mass demonstrations for communism. We don't raise reform demands.

When the miner asked what we could do to help him, could we have written a leaflet, or organized a meeting or rally to call on workers to denounce the boss' attack on the miner and the capitalist system? We could show capitalism makes all workers wage slaves and uses their police to enforce their wage slavery. We could call for communism as the only answer to such attacks and invite the workers to read and spread **Red Flag** and join ICWP.

In the heat of the struggle against injustice, we need to show that eliminating wage slavery, racism and sexism with communist revolution is the solution, not reforming capitalism. Whether on the job or elsewhere, this is the way to build ICWP and move the party forward.

—Comrade in the US

PLEASE SEND US YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO ICWPREDFLAG@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.ORG

CORONAVIRUS, OIL AND INTER-IMPERIALIST CONFLICT IN IRAN

(Letter to a comrade in the USA)

Thanks for sending *Red Flag* and keeping in contact with me. It is very inspiring to see the growth of ICWP around the world. It gives us hope that sooner or later communism will triumph and rule the world.

Perhaps no place on the earth displays so vividly and in stark ways the disaster of capitalism, its horrors and irony that its lust for profit is literally genocide of the poor masses.

In Iran we are under punishing sanctions. US imperialism wants to replace the regime. Since they are unable to directly confront Iran,

they have decided to starve the masses to death in order to force regime change. We cannot get any medicine; the hospitals turn back seriously ill patients leaving them to die on their own in pain and agony.

Then comes the corona virus. In a country where you cannot buy a simple pill for headache, where the surgeons are forced to perform operations without gloves and without anesthesia, you can imagine the outbreak of corona virus is spreading like wildfire.

We got the news on Friday that Saudi and Russians have declared a price war on oil.

The capitalists in Iran will be forced to confront the Saudis to break the oil embargo.

We cannot be victims and remain helpless as capitalists/imperialists prepare for wars for profit. I salute ICWP for giving communist alternatives to the international working class. I enthusiastically distribute electronic copies of *Red Flags* to my friends and colleagues. I have sent *Red Flags* to some comrades in Ahvaz where there are many oil workers.

We cordially invite you to Iran.

—A comrade in Iran

“Save your surgical masks and reuse them”

This the unofficial policy being passed around at my medium-sized hospital in Texas. As the Coronavirus surges, hospitals and clinics nationwide are having a hard time keeping surgical and respiratory masks in stock. This is an example of why profit-based healthcare is unsafe and cannot keep up with the dynamic healthcare needs of the population.

The drive to maximize profit creates an overproduction in expensive, new medications and devices. While older, necessary medications and equipment that no longer generate high profit margins are under produced and supplied by only a few companies in the world. At our hospital, we are often forced to “improvise” in order to put our patients to sleep for surgery because vital anesthesia medications are frequently on backorder.

At the same time, important medications that were not used are destroyed in mass quantities every month because of FDA mandated expiration dates. This just highlights how for-profit medicine consistently falls short of effectively treating patients.

Stockpiling vital lifesaving medication and maintaining an ample supply of necessary medical equipment serves no purpose under a capitalist society if it's not profitable.

In a communist healthcare system, medications and equipment would be produced based on need and stockpiled to prepare for viral outbreaks or increased demand.

Instead of destroying medications, we would simply ship these unused medications to a part of the world where they would be useful before they expire. With individual capitalist borders, this type of reallocation of resources isn't a reality if the shipping costs are greater than the projected profit, even if it would help millions.

It's apparent that many people notice the contradiction in a profit-based healthcare system as the discussion about health insurance becomes a hot-button issue in this country.

I find it important to point out to my coworkers that any type of medical system under capitalism will always be driven by the bottom line: money. The only safe and effective way to provide healthcare to billions of workers is to create a system based on need.

—Texas Healthcare Worker

I am Not the Virus. I am a Communist.

An incident happened during the week that disgusted me and made me raise my voice angrily. Two workers, who I consider friends, began to hide when they saw me, and to say, “Here comes the Chinese guy,” and “Hide because he's bringing the virus.” I have put up

**Indigenous Mayan workers in Justice for Janitors strike, Los Angeles US**

have the working class fighting each other, for the benefit of the bosses. It also gave me the opportunity to introduce myself as a communist to some who didn't know me and to show them the *Red Flag* website on the phone.

That has made me stronger. I have spoken with more work-

ers to find out what they think and how they are preparing in case of an eventual quarantine. Many blame Trump for inventing the crisis and accuse the news of being alarmists.

I have had two meetings with indigenous Mayan workers, to talk about the virus: its origin, prevention and consequences, and, above all, how can we stop it with a communist revolution. I have explained to them that, in a communist society, we would fight it more efficiently and with fewer casualties. We would put all our effort collectively to make sure that those who were on the front line— hospital workers, nurses, doctors, etc.—have enough material needed to fight an epidemic and to avoid these workers getting infected.

With a Kaqchikel indigenous friend we are planning to have more meetings with other indigenous workers living in the San Gabriel Valley area, in Los Angeles County, to inform them more about the virus and the prevention. Many indigenous people from Guatemala speak different dialects, and some speak very little Spanish. It will be a very interesting and good effort to promote communist ideas.

I must admit, it was hard for me, but I called the friend who bullied me and I apologized for yelling at him. He also apologized to me and we had a good political talk. It made me feel better.

I am not the virus. I am an indigenous Mayan. I am a communist. And I am a member of the International Communist Workers' Party.

—Comrade in Los Angeles

-



Crisis in Syria

REFUGEES HAVE NO FRIENDS BUT THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD

Sometimes we write about war as if it were something in the future—but millions of our working-class family are fleeing for their lives because of the war in Syria right now. Nearly one million have been displaced in the northeastern province of Idlib this winter. Families are sleeping in tents in the olive groves, out in the open in the snow. Many, including babies and old people—the most vulnerable—have died.

In a communist world, if people have to leave their homes due to a crisis like an earthquake or climate change, we will welcome them. We are all one working class and we must fight for a world without bosses or borders—where no worker will be a foreigner.

In a capitalist world, refugees become the bosses' pawns. Millions around the world are stuck in refugee camps. Others are attacked or turned back at the borders. The Turkish bosses are using Syrians and other refugees as bargaining chips. Turkish President Erdogan has used the presence of millions of refugees to build domestic support for military action on the border with Syria.

And in 2016, after a million refugees crossed the borders into Europe, Turkey agreed to stop them at the border in return for \$6 billion Euros. Now, as the crisis intensifies, Erdogan is upping the price. On February 22 Turkey started busing refugees to the Greek border.

This cynical move was Erdogan's attempt to pressure the European Union to come to Turkey's aid in the conflict in Syria, as well as to come through with promised funds to assist refugees.

Instead, the Greek bosses responded by mili-

tarizing its border, firing tear gas (and probably live rounds) at refugees. At least one person was killed. The Greek Coast Guard attacked boats carrying refugees to the Greek Islands within a dozen miles off of Turkey's shore in the Aegean Sea. Ursula von der Leyen, the EU president and French President Macron have supported the Greek government.

Fascists and Anti-Fascists Respond to the Refugee Crisis

The bosses' system is in trouble. The masses of workers will either fight the bosses, or be won by the bosses to attack our working-class family. In India, Modi mobilized his fascist BJP to attack Muslims, and masses of workers from all communities defended them. In Europe, the bosses are building fascism around attacks on Muslim refugees from Syria.

Greek farmers with tractors and search lights have joined the army on the Turkish border, helping the border patrol and physically attacking refugees.

A refugee camp on the little Greek Island of Lesbos—8 miles from the Turkish mainland—was burned down.

Fascist mobs on the nearby Island of Chios have attacked refugee boats trying to put ashore.

But when a couple of German neo-Nazis showed up on Lesbos, they got their faces bloodied by the anti-fascists.

In Mytilene, the capital of Lesbos, 300 people rallied in defense of refugees.

And in Europe, thousands in Athens, Thessalonica, Berlin, and Barcelona marched in solidarity with refugees. They demanded open borders and denounced fascism.

No boss—from the US, Russia, Turkey, Syria or the European Union—gives a damn about the lives of our class. The response of the anti-fascist masses in Europe has within it the seeds of the movement that we need. But to create a world where no worker will be considered a foreigner, we must go beyond fist fights with fascists and marches in the streets. We must build the forces necessary to fight for a communist world—no bosses, no borders! Workers of the world unite!



March 7, Rally in support of refugees in Sappho Square in Mytilene, Lesbos, with signs saying "Never Again"

PLEASE SEND US YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO ICWPREDFLAG@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.ORG

Comrade in Mexico reaches out to migrants on the Southern border

I traveled to Tapachula, Chiapas in Mexico to learn about the situation of migrants on the border with Guatemala. There were no comrades nearby with whom we could make a plan to be able to get involved with migrants, but there was a friend from the Navy who accompanied me and we had a brief political conversation.



LOS ANGELES (USA), March 7 – “A communist paper? I want one for my sister,” said a college student, taking a copy of *Red Flag*. The crowd at the International Women's Day rally in south LA was small but enthusiastic and multi-racial. Most participants took copies of our paper or our pamphlet “The Communist Fight Against Sexism.”

One woman, who'd read the paper before, took five extra copies for construction workers in her neighborhood. Speakers at the rally denounced racism, imperialism and exploitation but only the International Communist Workers' Party offered a way to end them by mobilizing for the communist society we need.

This friend, the lived experiences, and the collectivity of the Party give me the tools to analyze, write and contribute to the Party.

Migration around the planet in 2019 was 271.6 million people (3.5% of the world population). Many of these migrants are stranded on the borders, both in the North and South of Mexico. Despite these negative and inhumane conditions that migrants suffer in this long journey, the solidarity and empathy of the working

class is reflected in the installation of shelters and homes converted into dining rooms, which are oases in the middle of the desert. There are people who give money, food or words of encouragement. This shows us that a Communist society is possible!

Tapachula has become a city where migrants from different parts of the world live together. All have the hope of getting a permit to work and transit, especially to the North, and to be able to cross into the United States. But the pressure from the Trump government and the creation of the Mexican National Guard, have erected a wall in southern Mexico.

This has led the migrants to try to march in caravans, this time including not only Central American migrants, but also migrants from different parts of the world. All this has led to confrontations that have resulted in injuries, and arrests; and eventually mass deportations.

Self critically, I should have planned the trip better to get to that place, but being far away from the comrades, it is complicated for us to make a strategy together. It's about nine hours to get to the place, and I hesitated at first. But I was encouraged to make the trip when I found out that my navy friend could accompany me.

I did not achieve everything I had committed to, but yes, there are new strategies to form social ties with people in the armed forces to talk about communism and to fight against the anti-communist ideas that are to a large extent part of our unresolved contradictions.

For a world without borders, let's fight for our Communist society!

—Comrade from Mexico