

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



DELHI COMRADES BRING FOOD AND COMMUNISM TO THE MASSES

DELHI, INDIA, April 1 —We are vigorously involved in helping and distributing food to the migrants in Delhi who are forced to return to their villages by Modi's fascist lockdown. Five comrades of ICWP and some friends form a group of 50 volunteers. Our number is growing. But the task in front of us is daunting. We have over 2 million migrants in Delhi alone.

Our day starts early in the morning. We evade the fascist police who mercilessly beat up people on the streets. We reach a communal warehouse. Many other volunteers bring essential supplies. We cook, package and then go to distribute.

Thousands are lined up. Many have not eaten, or have eaten very little, in the last five days. There are young and old, men and women. Some women are pregnant, and some with young children. They are packed in crowded streets, near bus stations. There is no possibility of safe social distancing. Neither for them, nor for us.

PANDEMIC IS RISKY BUT NOT FIGHTING CAPITALISM IS RISKIER

We know we are taking a lot of risk of getting Covid-19. But what is our choice? Fascist Modi and his state machinery are not going to defeat the pandemic. They are literally starving the masses to death. They unleashed terror on the Muslims. Now they are using the same method to terrorize all the migrant workers.

We refuse to bow to this coward Modi and his murderous capitalist gang. We may get sick from the pandemic, but we can't let members of our working-class family die of hunger on the street. They are treating them worse than animals.

Life under capitalism is very risky. But not fighting capitalism is more risky and deadly. It

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During Boeing Production Suspension, Shelter-In-Place: WORKERS PONDER ACTIONS, RACISM, XENOPHOBIA

PUGET SOUND (US), April 7— “Does Boeing management really want us to go back to work on April 8? That sounds crazy to me,” texted a comrade's co-worker. Similar sentiments were expressed in two text groups we set up at the beginning of the production suspension that idled 70,000 workers.

The comrade answered, “This is not about crazy. It's about Boeing's priority, to keep up with the competition. That's the logical consequence of capitalism's profit-driven production.

“If they force us back, we should be prepared to shut it down!” chimed in another machinist.

Widespread reactions like this forced the company to reconsider its plans. Rapidly deteriorating conditions virtually stopped delivery of parts and subassemblies from the supply chain. Officially, more than 150 Boeing workers have contracted COVID-19. The real numbers are likely 5 to 10 times higher.

But we should have no illusions that Boeing will suspend production until it is safe. The executives postponed suspending production until the deaths started to mount up. Even now, they

are pushing for the resumption of production sooner rather than later.

Boeing friends and *Red Flag* distributors are circulating (via text groups and social media) reports on private meetings of top CEOs (including Boeing CEO Calhoun), billionaire financial speculators and the federal government. They “fear a lack of urgency on the part of many to go back to work.” “Some are willing to risk some horrors to avoid others,” Bloomberg reports.

As of Wednesday, April 8, 30,000 Puget Sound factory workers will join the tens of millions newly unemployed in the U.S. alone. The horrors these capitalists are willing to risk always falls on the backs of the world's working class.

Our friends are among those bombarding the union. Many are demanding that the company spend at least some of the \$100 billion government stimulus on us workers.

But the union is playing its usual social fascist role. They try to make workers feel impotent, rather than expand the struggle to mobilize the vast power of the working class for communist revolution.

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THIS IS A 10-PAGE, TWO-WEEK ISSUE (ELECTRONIC ONLY)

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COVID-19 and Capitalist Contradictions:**RACISM, XENOPHOBIA, ISLAMOPHOBIA WON'T STOP
RISING COMMUNIST SURGE**

"I feel like I'm being invaded by this [anti-Chinese] hatred," said a Chinese-American videographer in Syracuse, New York. "It's everywhere...It's worse than this disease."

Trump's racist ranting about the so-called "Chinese virus" builds this xenophobic hatred. Racist attacks—insults and physical assaults—are on the rise in the US, directed at people of Chinese or other Asian descent.

But it's not just Trump. The US capitalist class has to deflect responsibility away from itself for the COVID-19 pandemic, for its inability to respond, and for its collapsing economy. Faced with increasingly angry and hostile masses, it needs to divide the working class with racism and distract us with anti-communism.

And it's not just the US capitalists. The Chinese rulers ("communist" only in name) pushed the story that the US military had created the virus to spread in China. The US/China propaganda war reflects their fierce competition for world domination. It signals their preparations to fight it out—over the dead bodies of the international working class.

**Covid-19: Pinprick That Burst
Capitalism's Bubble**

The world's rulers are blaming COVID-19 for the collapse of their global economy. But this pandemic was only the pin that burst their overblown bubble. Their system was rife with overproduction and debt.

Auto production was projected last year to decline in 2020 even as more plants came on line. Last October, a global conference of steel industry associations called for "urgent action on steel excess capacity crisis." In both cases, US-China competition was critical.

As the oil market struggled with "too much supply," the US was "about to flood the world with a lot more." Financial analysts expected lower returns on investments, due in part to huge debt burdens.

So Covid-19 did not create the economic crisis. But the way the capitalists-imperialists of the world have reacted to it has accelerated its timing and deepened its effects. It has brought us closer to World War III.

**Pandemic Expands Basis for Worldwide
Communist Revolution**

Workers worldwide, and others, are suffering and dying from the same capitalist crisis and the same disease. Both crises expose systemic racism at the same time that they cut across all the divisions the rulers use against us.

Those who sicken and die in the greatest numbers are poor, immigrants, and refugees who are often crammed into overcrowded slum housing or camps. Industrial workers whose jobs expose them to respiratory diseases are also at high risk.

In the US, Brazil and South Africa, black workers are especially vulnerable. Because of racism, they suffer more from underlying conditions, like diabetes and hypertension, that make coronavirus more fatal.

Today, billions of workers worldwide are questioning capitalism and looking for radical alternatives. Often the most oppressed give the sharpest leadership. Many are responding to ICWP's call to mobilize the masses for communism as the only way to end the horrors of capitalism-imperialism. As we grow and intensify our efforts, many more will rise to the occasion.

The capitalist rulers need xenophobia, racism and nationalism to divide and divert us from putting the blame squarely on their deadly profit system! They are trying desperately to prevent the rise of a worldwide revolutionary communist movement that will end their bloodthirsty rule forever.

But they are doomed to fail. Instead their crises are creating the basis for unity of the international working class. This is our experience from El Salvador to the US to South Africa to India.

In India, the Modi government has blamed the virus on Muslim worshippers to divide these workers from the majority-Hindu Indian working class. Modi has mobilized the police and fascists goons to viciously attack them.

But also, Modi's lockdown has forced millions of hungry, moneyless Muslim and Hindu workers to walk hundreds of miles back to their villages. This creates the material basis

**US BOSSES' ATTACKS ON
CAPITALIST CHINA PUSH
ANTI-COMMUNISM**

When the COVID-19 epidemic began in China, the US rulers said it was China's problem. They attacked the way China, their main imperialist rival, handled the crisis.

China is not a communist country. It is a capitalist imperialist country which exploits the Chinese masses. China is sending research, medicine and materials to many countries confronting the virus—to build support and infrastructure for Chinese imperialist dominance.

This capitalist-imperialist competition prevents any cooperation for the benefit of the masses. In fact, a researcher who developed a quick test for coronavirus in China had been a professor in Florida until the US government fired him for sharing research with colleagues in China.

At first, the Chinese government quashed news of the novel coronavirus. But soon they organized an aggressive response, including mass quarantining and testing. The US media said this was horrible. Actually, in the quarantine areas, food was guaranteed. Disinfectant was at the door of every apartment building. These measures, although started too late, contained the virus.

Those now "sheltering in place" in the US are left to scramble for food and scrounge for disinfectant.

The US rulers know China isn't communist, but they are using anti-communism to build US patriotism against their imperialist rivals. More importantly, they fear that masses of youth and workers who are fed up with capitalism will turn to communism as the solution.

to unite them against the very system that wants to divide them. ICWP comrades are there fighting shoulder to shoulder with these masses, spreading and organizing the fight for communism.

We Need Communism!

The profit system stands in direct contradiction to meeting the needs of the masses. No reform can fix it. Our response to xenophobia, racism, economic collapse and the coronavirus crisis must be to mobilize the masses everywhere to fight for and build communism, nothing less.

In communism, nothing will be bought or sold. Communism will abolish nations, borders and money. No more racism or xenophobia!

The communist masses will mobilize to prevent or prepare for future epidemics. During an epidemic, nothing will be produced except what is needed to care for and protect the masses. Millions will mobilize to find cures and to treat the sick. In the process millions more communist organizers will be created.

Rather than compete for masks, vaccines, ventilators, we will produce plenty for all and share our knowledge for the benefit and future of humanity.



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SAILORS DEFY NAVY SECRETARY, EXPOSE US STRATEGIC WEAKNESS

April 7— “What the f---!” defiant sailors shouted on the deck of the USS Theodore Roosevelt. They were interrupting Acting Secretary of the Navy, Thomas Modly. He had been dispatched to calm their near- mutinous anger over the firing of their captain, Brett Crozier.

Captain Crozier was fired after writing a letter complaining of the dangers the crew faced on his Covid-19 infested aircraft carrier. The letter had been leaked to the press, exposing the whole world the US naval vulnerabilities in the South China Sea.

Today, Modly himself was fired for failing to calm the sailors. This episode, and the chaos in the military chain of command, is yet another defeat for the “Pivot to Asia.”

“The Pivot to Asia” is a US strategy meant to contain China’s development. It involves continually deploying two aircraft carriers to the region, installing new missile systems in South Korea and deepening trade, commercial and military ties through the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). It has not been a success.

The TPP collapsed whereas China’s trade and commercial agreements took hold. The Philippines leaned away from the US and toward China. The assignment of two aircraft carrier groups backfired. Instead of showcasing imperial strength, it revealed US over-reach.

The impressive hi-tech Navy is staffed by exhausted, overworked sailors. As a result, the state-of-the-art warships kept crashing into passing merchant ships or stationary rocks!

Now comes the latest defeat in the low intensity “Battle for the South China Sea.” Both aircraft carriers assigned to the zone are temporarily out of commission. The USS Reagan is docked in Japan. The USS Roosevelt is battling Covid-19 and near mutiny.

So, if the personal protection equipment (masks and gowns) made in China that the US ordered are now in transit across the South China Sea, they are guarded solely by the Chinese Navy!

Captain Crozier was fired for asking for help in fighting the virus on his ship. Higher-ups

claimed that his letter was a betrayal of his mission. As he walked off his ship, thousands of sailors cheered him. He is now in quarantine in Guam, diagnosed with Covid-19 as are 150 other members of his crew.

The top military leadership fears a revolt by rank-and-file sailors that could have been fueled by their captain’s solidarity and the slow efforts of the navy’s leadership to help. A sailors’ revolt could have echoed throughout the military.

That worries the bosses more than the letter itself. Sailors’ support for the captain was in open defiance of the high command. So was their reaction to the Acting Secretary of the Navy, Modly.

Soldiers and Sailors: Key to Communist Revolution

For the bosses, rank and file sailors are expendable. But these sailors have the power to destroy the capitalist system by turning the guns around and joining the working class in communist revolution. Covid-19 has crippled one of the most powerful assets the bosses have to control the seas. But a sailors’ revolt could spark a revolutionary situation.

The organized militance of soldiers and sailors has played a key role in sabotaging imperialist war. Examples include the 1905 mutiny on the Russian battleship Potemkin and the uprising in the Indian navy at the end of World War II. During the US war in Vietnam, US soldiers killed their own officers and refused, en masse, to engage on the battlefield. Sailors organized petition campaigns, rebelled on the Kitty Hawk, refused orders to deploy on the Constitution, and totally sabotaged the Forrestal and the Ranger.

It’s true, as Crozier wrote, that the US is not technically at war and no sailor needs to die. But thousands of service men and women have died



American sailors and soldiers were active in the fight against the US war in Vietnam—from the video *Sir! No Sir!*

for the bosses’ profit and power in recent conflicts around the world.

The Covid 19 crisis must be a wake-up call to our working-class sisters and brothers in the Armed Forces. The ruling class doesn’t fight its own wars but sends us and our family to fight for them. It’s way past time for sailors, soldiers, airmen/women to take our future in our own hands. We’ll build a communist system where the safety and health of all humans will be a priority .

READ OUR PAMPHLET: “Soldiers, Sailors, Marines: Crucial to a Communist Workers’ Revolution”

available at
icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf

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opens the doors to fascist pogroms, pandemics and wars.

COMMUNISM WILL BE VERY DIFFERENT

We are making very close relationship with our comrade volunteers. Everyone here knows that they will be getting the virus sooner or later. This gives us opportunity to talk about how things will be very different in communism.

Communist society, based on needs of the working class, will be quickly geared up to fight

such pandemic. Communist passion and not social distancing will fight the disease. We will be able to quickly test the masses and identify those tested positive. Those tested positive will be isolated and taken care of with all the resources we need.

The capitalist profit system is unable to mass-test for the virus. This is what is creating its rapid spread. This rapid growth of the pandemic shows the rapid decline of capitalism worldwide. In communism, mass production of test kits and

other medical equipment will stop the virus in its initial phase.

In communist society, too, masses will have profound knowledge and good preparation for epidemics. This will also prepare us to quickly train many to fight diseases. The research required to fight diseases will not take place in handful of

labs of pharmaceutical companies out to make super-profits from those diseases. Communism will teach us to do many things because we will be living in collectives to help each other.

RECRUITING TO ICWP BRINGS HOPE

We come home or to the volunteer centers exhausted. The hardest part of our food distribution is to witness the faces of the people in the line when we run out of food. It is unbearable and very painful. But this makes us very angry and committed to fighting for communism. When we are back, we talk to other volunteers about joining ICWP and why we need a mass party. People are thinking very seriously to join. We are hoping to recruit many.

Some of the volunteers feel very depressed and sad seeing the pain and suffering of the masses. But when we talk about why this situation is caused by capitalism and how only communism provides safe future for our class, their depression dissipates into hope.

In the coming days and weeks, we expect the situation to deteriorate rapidly. Mass unemployment, causing hunger and homelessness, will create rebellions and food riots. We received the news that some of our comrades in Bengaluru will face eviction in a month.

We are fighting, learning, growing and getting stronger. Laal salam – red salute!



“ALL OF US OR NONE!” – COMMUNISM MEANS “PEOPLE NOT PROFITS”

April 6—The world has changed already. Even before the coronavirus struggle has reached its height, our views have shifted dramatically. And they will shift even more in the days and weeks to come.

Today, like yesterday and the days before, millions of health care workers from doctors to janitors went to work “on the front lines” in an attempt first to hold back and eventually to defeat the deadly virus.

Their commitment is applauded by millions more with pots and pans or handclapping demonstrations from their places of shelter.

Whatever else they are doing, these feet of healthcare workers hurrying to work are trampling over the sacred notion that the pursuit of profits is the motive force of humankind. Whether consciously or not, they are rubbing a core idea of capitalist culture (work hard and rise above your class) and raising a core idea of communist culture (all of us or none).

They are putting people before profits. That’s a start. Their feet and hands are following their heart. Yet we have to keep going. We have to advance from the beautiful but idealistic idea of people before profits to the revolutionary and realistic one of people not profits.

For the last 30 years or more the world’s major economies have been battling to reverse a falling rate of profit. Whatever victories they won proved short lived. Worse still each strategy they adopted has deepened the crisis we face today.

In health care, for example, they cut hospital beds. 90% occupancy means more profits. They cut supplies (like ventilators) to just-in-time, making more profits. They cut staff to make more profits. And governments cut services like the CDC. Nursing homes for the elderly run on the lowest possible costs to make more profits. Big Pharma turns its back on developing vac-

cines because manufacturing prescription pills makes more profits

Thirty years of cuts and schemes to make more profits. Thirty years of weakening defenses against a viral threat they knew was coming as surely as an earthquake in Chile or in California.

As a result, 1.7 billion people are now living under some form of self-isolation. That’s almost ¼ of the world’s population. However, the real threat from this virus lies among the ¾ of the world’s population who is not living under self-isolation.

They live in favelas and barrios so overcrowded that self-isolation is impossible. They live in townships or refugee camps where running water is a mile away. When the virus penetrates these neighborhoods, it will be unstoppable.

These densely populated, poorly served areas are no accident. They are the result of multina-

tional and global capitalists’ relentless search for cheaper and cheaper labor so that they can make more profits.

So as these millions of health care workers walk to their change of shift, they are protesting the world created by the makers of private profits. “Ideas,” Marx once wrote, “once seized by the masses become a material force.”

How powerful that force will be we have yet to find out. However, we have some clues. The workers know it is a long battle they have decided to fight. They have not decided alone but with family and co-workers. They are not just going to work. They are now a social force that in this dog-eat-dog capitalist world champion above all else not profits but human life!

They have already changed the boundaries of political debate. It is out of this struggle that the future leaders of our communist revolution will come!



March 30—Workers at the General Hospital of Atlacomulco, in the State of Mexico, protest bad conditions and lack of personal protective equipment.

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

Workers Have the Power to Destroy this Racist System

I read recently that “the virus is enhancing what is already inside of each person.” The same is true when highlighting the broken system of healthcare. The gaps in healthcare are not a result of careless health workers but rather a system full of layers and barriers.

I have always thought of the Government as the Great Wizard of Oz, but like Oz it is a make-believe land that doesn’t really exist and

is not built to help anyone. When you pull the curtain, what you find is that what you believe to be greatness simply a person looking for power to help themselves.

The good news is that Dorothy finds that she held the power all along to make choices and change where she wants it. This current pandemic has allowed us to pull the curtain on the government, highlight the false sense of security, and reexamine our role in driving change.

Recently I witnessed firsthand how a group

of lab workers decided to pull back the red tape and use their knowledge to drive change. They joined to innovate to provide Covid-19 Testing and disburse resources on their own.

The ability, equipment, and knowledge have always existed to provide more than what is currently being done, but the hurdles of bureaucracy have created a bottleneck to getting re-

sources where they are needed the most.

Some bosses have turned a blind eye to this initiative because they know it is the right thing to do but cannot risk their positions to openly support the change. As a result, they pretend not to see it and the effort is continuing.

Healthcare experts have acknowledged that minority communities in low-income areas are the hardest hit. Not only because of the volume of people, but because of an already broken system which does not offer access to care. As a result, these communities suffer many underlying health issues. Coronavirus paired with an underlying issue such as Diabetes, asthma and heart disease, which are prevalent in communities of color, create a perfect storm for Covid-19. Many people will die.

Here in Chicago, where only 30% of the people are black, 52% of positive Covid-19 cases are black people. A shocking 72% of those who have died are black.

But there is currently a movement led by those ignoring the hurdles and layers of bureaucracy to help and maximize access to care to help the most vulnerable. People are noticing and jumping on board and it is working.

We need to continue to spread awareness that we hold to power to make a change. We hold the knowledge and can decide to use it. We can all do our part by acknowledging a broken system and the desire to want more and do more.

—Hospital worker in Chicago, USA



CHICAGO, USA, April 7 – Solidarity Caravan circles Cook County Jail, site of the largest outbreak of Covid-19 in the US so far, calling for the mass release of detainees.

THE CRAZY LOGIC OF CAPITALISM

Our Boeing friends tell us the bosses' response to COVID-19 is illogical.

In the US they knew in January that it was coming but they did nothing. They didn't ramp up production of masks or PPE and didn't implement social isolation. Even now, there is no crash program to do so. In France, the government got hold of a supply of masks – and gave them, not to the health service, but to Airbus (!) so it could resume production. In the US, GE, which actually makes ventilators in normal times, will not convert any of its jet engine facilities to ventilator production.

It looks like a combination of stupidity and incompetence with a bit of greed and downright insanity mixed in. But this is a misunderstanding; the bosses' response has its own logic.

It's the logic of competition. Even before COVID-19, the sharpening crisis of overproduction had raised competition between the US, China, and Europe to a fever pitch. Airbus was

surging ahead. The MAX fiasco crippled Boeing. China was preparing to enter the shrinking plane market with its own airliner.

The coronavirus outbreak forced the Chinese bosses to divert a lot of capital to fighting it. They had to temporarily shut down production. This gave Europe and the US a break, but it did not last long. Now the US and Europe risk falling behind while they try to get a grip on the pandemic. To save lives, they have to spend billions on masks, hospitals, ventilators, etc. and they have to lose billions – maybe trillions – shutting down large parts of their industry.

There are increasing signs that they feel they can't do this (if they want to stay competitive). Their media is reporting calls to end what the French call "confinement" and send everyone back to work. Hundreds of thousands (if not millions) of lives could be lost.

One reporter put it this way: if we end confine-

ment too soon, we risk a health catastrophe; if we end it too late, we risk an economic catastrophe. Given a choice, which do you think our psychopathic rulers will go for?

For the moment they've failed to make aerospace workers "die for the Dow." During the last two weeks of suspended production, their calls to shut down the factory have skyrocketed.

In communism, there will be no corporations, banks or stock markets to protect. No economic competition to get in our way. No more risking our lives to make planes that go directly to the parking lot after they get out the factory door.

Instead, the immense power of communist masses will be devoted to harnessing the forces of production necessary to make masks, tests, ventilators and whatever else we need to defeat this pandemic.

Working class logic demands a communist revolution. So, join the ICWP now to prepare the way.

BOEING from page 1

Boeing Workers Must Take on Racism, Xenophobia to Expand Struggle

In one Boeing text group, a *Red Flag* distributor highlighted the racist disparity of US deaths from COVID-19.

"Here we go again. Twice the proportion of deaths among blacks in Louisiana. Detroit, Chicago, Georgia, Mississippi," he wrote. "We [the working class] are in this fight together and what effects one affects the other, so WAKE THE HELL UP."

He was particularly concerned about the devastation coronavirus will cause in Africa. In fact,

the whole group of Black, White and Asian Boeing workers were concerned.

Another text group discussed the caravan demonstration at the Tacoma immigration prison (within 30 minutes of the plant). Over 300 detainees were on a hunger strike to protest the massive spread of the disease.

The caravan rolled out to support these hunger strikers. If Boeing workers walked out to join the caravan, it would send shock waves throughout the world.

"It's a weird world," texted more than one in both groups when they heard what was going on in the Tacoma detention center.

More accurately, it's a capitalist world. A

world in which social distancing is impossible for prisoners (mostly Black and Latinx), immigrant detainees and factory and farm workers. A world that puts our whole class, the working class, in jeopardy in the never-ending competition for commercial, military and political dominance amongst various national ruling classes.

No matter what actions we take—strikes, walkouts, confrontations in the plants, caravans—we must be clear about our goal. The "craziness" of capitalism—and the resulting murder of our class brothers and sisters—can only be ended with communist revolution. Mobilizing the masses for communism must always be our aim.

Workers Produce Everything – Need Communism

EL SALVADOR, March 31— "I'm hungry! We've been here since 3 a.m. without eating!" shouted a 65-year-old woman on March 30, in great desperation, when she went to look for \$300 in economic aid for food during the quarantine, at the National Center for Attention and Administration of Subsidies that President Bukele announced at his last press conference.

Because the people had gathered and could not keep the required distance of one and a half meters and they could not get an answer, the National Civil Police sprayed them with pepper gas. This upset the people even more. They protested with tremendous outrage against the cops and the government. Some ended up in jail.

Now that the workers are at home and the economy is collapsing, they are realizing that the rich don't generate anything, that it is the hands of the workers that generate wealth for the boss. ICWP (the International Communist Workers' Party) and *Red Flag* have said so in every edition.

The government is using the information for electoral purposes, recommending that people "stay at home." Staying at home is a class privilege. In the densely populated neighborhoods of El Salvador, sometimes up to eight people live together. Social distancing here does not work. There is also the need to go get food, since there is no pantry full of provisions to allow for a week at home.

The privatization of health care worldwide has caused the health care system to collapse. In Communism, the ICWP will prioritize humanity. Its health will not be a source of profit. This



In El Salvador, thousands gathered outside a government building in the capital San Salvador Monday to demand the \$300 government checks President Nayib Bukele promised to some 1.5 million households who work as street vendors and other jobs in the informal economy. El Salvador has been on a nationwide lockdown for nearly two weeks.

worldwide health crisis makes it clear that capitalism is more dangerous than the coronavirus for humanity.

It has also shown that it is the workers, men and women, who keep the lives of millions of people in the world functioning. But in general you can see the inequality in this rotten economic system. The truth is that this is the time for an urgent change of system.

Capitalism has failed. This pandemic will be the excuse to disguise the capitalist crisis. Governments will take advantage of this crisis to justify why they will not be able to carry out anything they had promised.

In Communism, it's not that there won't be situations like the ones we are experiencing, but there will be better mechanisms to handle them. Communication and education about health issues will be a priority. Medicine will be in the service of all humanity. The ICWP is fighting to make this change possible. Join ICWP. Read *Red Flag!* Let's fight for Communism!

Garment Workers Discuss Communism While Waiting for Paychecks

On March 27th, a group of us workers from a factory in El Salvador were called by the bosses to collect a check as wages for two weeks we worked, after President Nayib Bukele said that the maquilas would have to close for a period of time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We had to wait a long time to receive this check, because the boss didn't like that production was stopped. He said, "I had to comply with the request." He told us that he was going to ask the president in a closed-door meeting to give him a chance to finish the week's work. That day the maquila representative had a meeting at 10:00 am so he asked the workers to wait for the response until the return of the maquila representative. We had to wait for many hours for them to give us the check.

We took advantage of the time there with the workers. Many of them commented that everything that was happening seemed like a political show without any solution, because the countries have not been able to control this pandemic or are not prepared for it. All these events were explained a little quickly to these workers for security reasons: that this system we are living in, capitalism, is not prepared for these situations, because capitalism prioritizes profits and not people's health.

We explained that we need a new system that is Communism, where health will be primary and we will not go through these medical calamities as we do today, but that to achieve this change we must organize. Then we were interrupted, because it was time to go into the office to sign the form. We could no longer continue to explain our communist line to them. But we will continue with our struggle when the work starts soon and with those who can we continue to communicate with in other ways.

—Comrade in El Salvador

Mobilizing for Communism in Difficult Times

MAY DAY 1992: DEFYING MARTIAL LAW IN LOS ANGELES, USA

In the current crisis, actions and demonstrations are supposedly not possible. But we must mobilize to put boldly forward the communist solution to this crisis now, in the days ahead, and for May Day 2020. Experience shows how.

On May Day in 1992, communists proudly and defiantly marched in the face of martial law in Los Angeles, USA. Demonstrations had been declared illegal after a massive multi-racial four-day rebellion against capitalism's racist police terror and the capitalist courts.

Four white cops had viciously beaten and kicked black motorist Rodney King after stopping him for traffic violations. This was videotaped and televised. Masses were furious. They wanted the cops convicted. The trial took place outside of LA in Simi Valley with no black people in the jury. On April 29, 1992 the jury delivered a "not guilty" verdict for assault and excessive use of force for all four cops.

That night, a crowd tore down the kiosk in front of the main police station. The crowd included black, latin, asian and white youth and workers. There were protests at many police stations. Businesses were burned and looted.

The next day, the rebellion grew as youth and workers joined in from all over LA. Party members in cars with megaphones drove to the most combative points in the city, distributing communist newspapers and flyers.

The masses, fed up with racism, pushed the terrified police back. It became one of the biggest and most multi-racial rebellions in US history.

By Friday, May 1st, the National Guard, Marines and Army were in the streets to try to quell the rebellion. Martial law and a curfew were declared. Gatherings were prohibited. Communists continued to distribute our literature to the masses. Some members of the national guard stationed in front of an unemployment office gladly accepted our newspaper and leaflet.

Saturday, May 2nd was quieter. Our communist group had planned a May Day March for International Workers' Day, against racist capitalism and for communism. It was set for noon in downtown LA on Broadway, usually crowded with workers, many of whom supported the march. However, with martial law, downtown



LA was deserted except for cops. Our permit had been revoked but the communists came to march.

We met at the march site with a truck, sound system, banners and red flags. The police declared it an unlawful assembly. They ordered everyone to get back in their cars or be arrested. We got in our cars. A sound truck led our car caravan with red flags flying and banners calling for ending racist capitalism with communist revolution. The cops followed the caravan through

downtown.

But as we headed toward south-central LA, where there were still many angry workers out in the streets, the police cars faded back, afraid of the masses. Smoke from the fires set by the angry masses filled the air, mixed with tension and anger.

Our caravan slowed down at the LA Coliseum. The National Guard was staging there—mostly sent from Oakland. We gave speeches calling on the National Guard troops to side with their brothers and sisters on the streets instead of the racist rulers who wanted them to attack the masses.

Several Guard troops put their fists up in support and agreement. Some took our leaflet which called on them to join us in the fight for communism. This inspired and emboldened us more.

As we turned south, more people were on the street. Many cheered the multi-racial communist caravan. We slowed to a crawl as participants got out of cars and distributed literature. People listened to the revolutionary speeches and joined the chants.

As the caravan headed south and the crowd grew, we parked the cars and marched—defying martial law by relying on the angry masses. Some joined us. We ended by singing the Communist International.

Today, ICWP fights for communism and nothing less to end capitalism's racist terror and build a world that meets the masses' needs. We aim to build communist collectives everywhere and under all conditions.

A key lesson from May Day 1992 is that we need to strengthen our work in the military. The National Guard is again being deployed on the streets in many cities during this crisis and the drums of imperialist war are beating.

Learning from this experience – and from our comrades in India working under fascist conditions today– we are starting to plan now to celebrate May Day 2020 as boldly as possible in as many places as possible. Join us!

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Put International Communist Working-Class Solidarity into Action

A recent car caravan in Tacoma (USA) demanded the release of immigration detainees and prisoners at high risk of COVID-19.

I sent the following email to family, friends and former co-workers. The response was favorable. For example, a college teacher where I volunteer said she would join a caravan. She thought two of her colleagues, who are immigrants, would also join.



With the coronavirus pandemic has come an increase in racism and xenophobia, in the US and around the world.

Undocumented workers [around the world] are locked up ("detained") or live in squalor in migrant camps. They have minimal access to health care and are especially vulnerable to getting sick.

Only communism can address these issues in a way which will eliminate them once and for all.

In communist society, if a health concern were discovered, there would be no benefit in hiding this information. Everyone would be expected to look out for the greater good of the community.

There would be no question of how much it costs, because there would be no money, nor risk of people being laid off. We would mobilize workers, students and soldiers to work in whatever way necessary for the good of our class.

We would be able to mobilize factories to quickly re-tool for whatever we need to fight the disease. Medical equipment would already have been stockpiled for emergencies. Plans to change manufacturing would already be in place for potential health crises.

There would be no proprietary information, copyrights, patents, etc. to impede the sharing of information and the building of medical equipment, testing medicines, etc.

Right now, groups in Washington have sponsored caravans at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma. Two hundred fifty detainees there, in cramped, unhygienic conditions, went on a hunger strike over the COVID-19 virus.

We can join these caravans to protest the internment of these workers while talking [via the internet now and in person later] to participants about the need to end capitalism.

Most importantly, there will be no immigrants or foreigners in communism, only cherished members of the international working class!

—Seattle comrade

SCHOOLING IN THE CORONAVIRUS ERA: WHAT FUTURE ARE WE CREATING NOW?

LOS ANGELES (USA), April 6 – “Starting to hear about colleges not hiring part-time faculty for the Fall and telling full-timers they have to teach more,” posted an instructor. “How do we fight this?”

Another shot back: “General strike. Or guil-lotines.”

Here, schools and colleges closed first. They “reopened” on-line. Teachers and students struggle to cope. Especially parents who are supposed to be “home- schooling” their kids. Especially single mothers.

Teachers are stressed, fearful and angry.

“The denial of reality and of socioeconomic inequities is making me feel outraged,” a teacher posted to a group of 20,000+ teachers.

“What if we all went on strike?” asked another. “Enough is enough and this is not human or humane.”

The COVID-19 pandemic exposes just how inhuman and inhumane capitalism is. A forced internal migration of millions of starving day-laborers in India, with constant fascist propaganda blaming Muslims. Bangladeshi garment workers – 80% of the workforce – thrown onto the streets. Tens of thousands of immigrants and millions more prisoners locked in death-traps in the USA.

Yes, heads should roll. The world desperately needs revolution – to replace deadly capitalism with a communist society. “From each according to commitment and ability. To each according to need.” That’s communism – there’s no other word for it.

A general strike for communism – not reform – could be a step forward. Toward the health care and food and housing, the work and education we need. Toward the social relationships that can unite and sustain us without oppression or exploitation.

This is not a time to chill, aiming simply to survive. Nor a time to burn ourselves out trying frantically to “do it all” as if there were no crisis, or one that will soon pass.

This is a time to use every opportunity to engage in practice that builds the consciousness and relationships necessary to create the communist world we need. The young comrades in Delhi, India are showing the way.

Schools and the Intensifying Capitalist Crisis

A comrade teacher posted: “The crisis exposes the fault-lines and fundamental wrong-headedness of our whole system of schooling. An assembly-line model of education separated from work, packaged into components, motivated by extrinsic rewards. All within a market system where our ability to sell ourselves to an employer determines our very survival.”

More teachers are questioning this system. Why grades? What “standards”? What do students really need to know? Aren’t relationships more important than “course content”?

For a “human and humane” educational system we need a human and humane social system. No labor markets. No gulf between the masses and a ruling elite. Instead, we’ll organize ourselves to produce what’s most needed and get it to those who need it the most.

With capitalism utterly failing us, many are coming forward to act on this communist principle, though most don’t yet see it that way. It will take mass communist practice/consciousness to fully unfetter our generosity, creativity and solidarity. It will take revolution, and communist education starting now.

The alternative is a system more unequal, more exploitative, more racist and more fascist than it already is.

More online schooling: What happens to those lacking computer resources at home? Or internet. Or help. Or privacy. Or those with no home.

Online schooling sharply reduces the social dimension of learning. Social media and Zoom are no substitute for sharing a classroom – or a meal.

“Acknowledging that we need each other is an essential ingredient,” said a new comrade. “If we cannot defend the importance of physical presence and if we pretend that doing it all via remote is good enough, then our goose is cooked.”

The massive move to online speeds up the de-skilling of teaching and increased top-down control. It intensifies exploitation, especially of part-time instructors. It “doesn’t work without lots of UNPAID LABOR by the employed and



the unemployed, by students and often other members of students’ families,” a teacher warned.

Some universities have “partnered” with the publishing giant Wiley to “manage” programs. Professors create online classes and teach them a few times. Then the classes are turned over to lower-paid instructors to run without being able to change it at all. “This online learning experiment may serve as a catalyst,” one professor wrote.

There’s no going back. The future will be very different from the past. It’s up to us: Intensified corporate control and fascism – or communist revolution?

NOTE: *The final version of this article incorporated suggestions made in an on-line meeting of four co-workers as well as ideas of other comrades.*

READ OUR PAMPHLET:

“Communist Education for a Classless Society”

available at
icwpredflag.org/epe.pdf

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NOW IS THE TIME

When Macron became president of France, he went out of his way to insult working people. He called them illiterate, “the ones who are nothing” in contrast with his own class, “the first of all” (the ones who succeed). Now this contempt for the working people and the disregard for their lives is blatantly obvious.

For Boris Johnson (U.K.) and Bolsonaro (Brazil) the solution to the pandemic is to let millions of people die to acquire immunity for the rest of the population. In that way, they would reduce the monetary cost of treating and eradicating the virus.

As for the other rulers, they procrastinated as long as they could from taking necessary measures for fear of losing their profits. They created the current crisis, and these so called “risk-taking captains of industry” are showing themselves for what they really are. Useless. Dangerously useless. The only thing they are still capable of doing is lying to cover their incompetence and foolishness. With all their contacts and invaluable expertise supposedly

worth millions of dollars, they cannot even get a factory to produce simple paper masks or swabs.

Who are really “the first of all” right now? The doctors, of course, but also the nurses, the cleaners, the truck drivers, the people who work in the warehouses, the cashiers. They go to work every day, often without protection, because they need the money, but also because it is their job and they do it willingly and with pride. Without them, everything would have stopped.

And the elite (as they think of themselves) could do nothing about it. They need the workers. We don’t need them. We can run the world because we know how to do it. We do it every day.

Yet as party members know too well, it is hard to convince workers to join our fight. Why?

Maybe one reason is that our friends lack confidence in other workers. They get discouraged. They think it is too difficult, not attainable. But look at the current situation. How

quickly it happens. Who would have predicted it? Who is caught unprepared? Who is taking the lead and saving lives?

The doctors, the nurses who make ventilators out of diving masks when the profiteers sell them at exorbitant prices. Who gets together and sews masks when the politicians spent three months pretending they were not useful?

Who goes every day to the retirement home without a mask because there is no one else to take care of old people? The women Macron calls illiterate in order to justify their low wages and appalling working conditions. Who helped the old people in the French ghettos? The youth abandoned by a racist government. Who thinks of the homeless and helps them?

We do everything useful and of value to humanity. We take care of each other. They do nothing. They just shamelessly take.

Remember the communist anthem, the Internationale:

“We have been naught we shall be all.”
Now is the time.

—Comrade in Canada

STUDENT COMRADE FIGHTS FOR ANTI-RACIST WORKING-CLASS UNITY

SOUTH AFRICA, March 11—Colleges here went on strike a few weeks back. Recently, an ICWP comrade encountered some members of EFF (Economic Freedom Fighters) at a student meeting at his college about the strike's outcome. Most of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) members there are EFF members. At the meeting, they were hostile to white and coloured (mixed "race") students. Our comrade sharply exposed them for this.

Our college is mostly working class. The white students come from poor white neighbourhoods like Sydenham, Uitenhage, and Korsten. They are just like black neighbourhoods of New Brighton or Zwide.

The EFF spokesperson knows that we try to recruit people, that we look at them in a class context instead of a racial one. He had a problem with this, as if race is primary over class.

I told him, "You are racist because you are discriminating against your class brothers and sisters based on the colour of their skin. That's a literal definition of a racist. Since you are black, you seem to think that you are immune to racism."

This is not exclusive to him. Most black people in South Africa have this tendency, which the EFF perpetuates and exploits for its benefit.

The EFF's leader, Malema, used to sing a song called "Shoot the White Man." It says, "we will chase them to the sea." Some young people listen to these racist songs daily. It makes their mentality and behaviour toward their fellow white and coloured students more hostile.

As a communist and a black person, I felt the need to speak out against this. I risked being

accused of being the white man's stooge rather than remain quiet while my class brothers and sisters were being wronged. ICWP members' main task is to recruit the working class, regardless of their colour. Had I let that slide, it would seem to these that I agreed with those guys from the EFF.

In front of everyone I said, "Our class brothers and sisters didn't benefit under apartheid at all. They suffered like we did and are suffering today like us. That's why they are here with us. Their parents have to work to put food on the table. They aren't there with trust funds. Like us, they get to school on public transportation. The only difference is the colour of their skin."

It was important to talk about similarity and difference. The EFF emphasizes the difference in

our skin colour but ignores what makes us more similar than different. We come from the same class; that is more important.

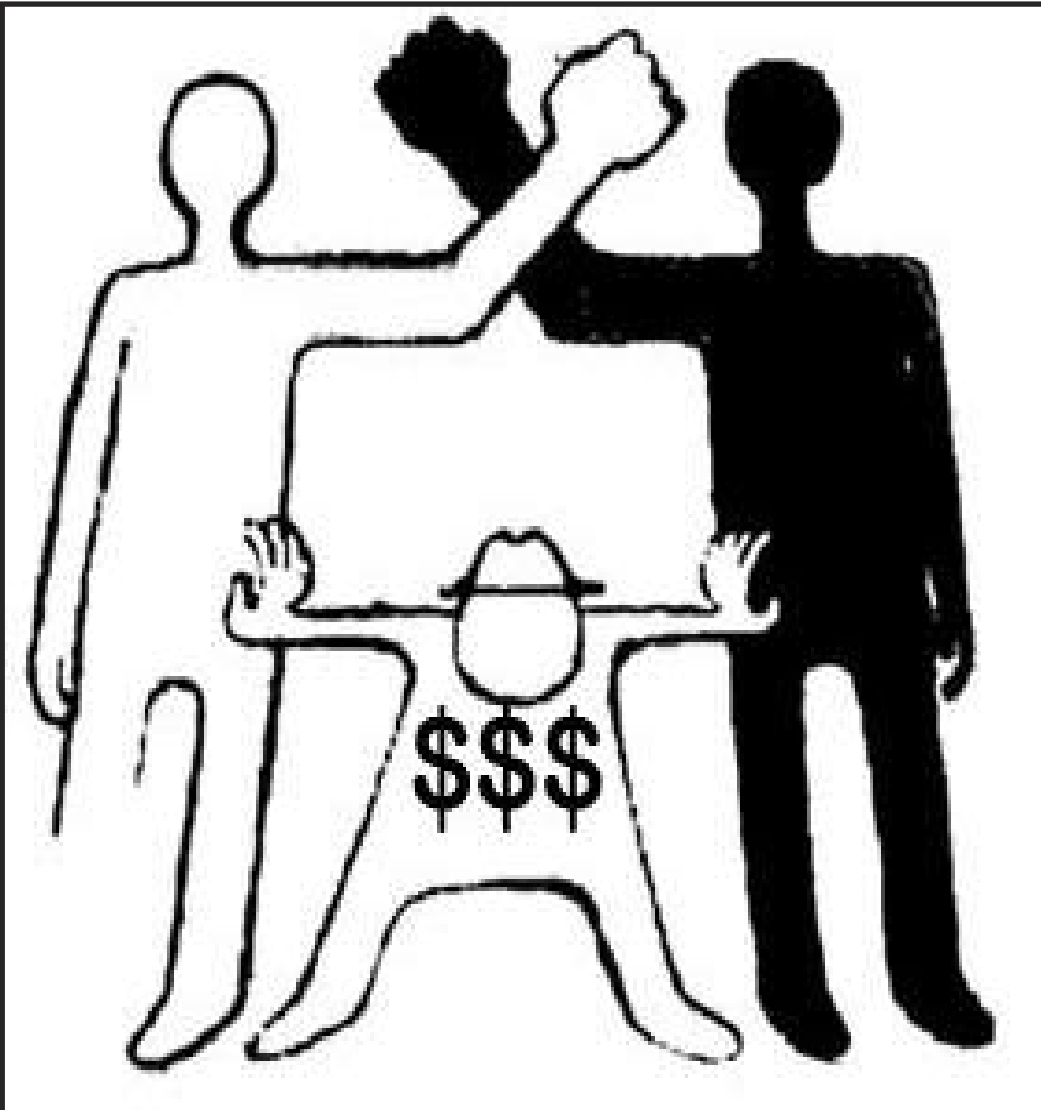
The response from other students, black and white, was overwhelming. They embraced what I was saying. They are open and receptive to ICWP's communist ideas. They agree with us on racism and sexism. We have many things in common. We need to be more aggressive in recruiting them and others.

These colleges and universities are recruiting grounds for the EFF and ANC (African National Congress). ICWP members need to expose them as traitors to our class, people who have sold out the masses for peanuts. Their attack shows we're doing something right. It gives us the confidence to intensify our efforts.

We need to change the mainly black composition of our collective, to win white and coloured students so that our collective can better reflect our Party's view—not only in words but also in practice.

It is up to us to intensify the struggle. It is not mechanical. There's no switch button that will make them agree. It's a process. The more we struggle around our ideas, the more these become accessible to them. Recruiting them as active members of our collective will show that we are against racism in practice.

It was the same with sexism. A few years back, we were only male comrades. We made a commitment to fight sexism not only in words but by having female comrades at the forefront for communist revolution. We have recruited female comrades. Our next step will be to recruit more white and coloured people into our Party.



THE HYPOCRITICAL FLIP-FLOP OF KAMALA HARRIS EXPOSES THE TREACHERY OF NATIONALISM: WE NEED COMMUNISM

USA—Covid-19 has upended a lot of political calculations, and it's far from certain how the US presidential election will work out. But in early March, former Vice President Joe Biden was the frontrunner. He promised that if he got the Democratic Party nomination, he'd name a woman as Vice President. Immediately Kamala Harris' name was floated.

The 55-year-old US Senator and former Attorney General of California is of African American and Indian American ethnicity. As California's top prosecutor she instituted a lock-em-up program similar to former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani's "Stop and Frisk" campaign. She put thousands of Black, Latino and other working-class men and women in prison, filling the California prisons built under the 1994 Crime Act that Biden wrote.

Harris was an early candidate for the nomination herself. In January 2019, she attacked Biden as a friend of southern segregationists. She condemned this friendship as hurtful to her and all black people.

In March of 2020, she dropped out of the campaign and began campaigning for Biden. What happened?

Harris used bourgeois nationalism to attract African Americans and liberals who reject racism

to her candidacy. When she was defeated, she dropped the fake "hurt" and exposed herself as a lapdog of the Democratic Party establishment.

Harris and the other female Democratic Party candidates—like Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012—are promoted to tell the bosses' story that women and people of color in "high place" will ensure that "everything will be OK now."

Women are told that a female President or Vice President will take care of low pay, the threat of rape, the second shift of work they must attend to as mothers and caregivers, the violence of pornography, the degrading conditions they face in prison, their objectification in capitalist society and human trafficking.

Blacks and Latinos are told to trust that a President or Vice President of color will solve the problems of lousy schools, cop terror, egregious prison sentences, diseases that develop disproportionately in their communities, immigrant bashing, Muslim bans, second-tier pay at work, and the rent being too damn high as gentrification runs many out of neighborhoods they have lived in for decades into new suburban ghettos and barrios.

The Democratic Party hopes that having a woman of color prominently on the ticket will help them lure those who know that the system

does not work for them, to misguide these angry folks back into the fold. The Democrats need their votes in the Congress and for control of the White House.

But US imperialism's two-party electoral system only ensures that those with money, the capitalists, maintain and grow their system of the theft of money, property and natural resources, or predatory finance capital, while the international proletariat and the oppressed masses are driven deeper into despair.

But the working masses are the gravediggers of capitalism. They are the ones who can bring it to an end. Not on their own, but with the communist leadership they create.

Harris and company are capitalist misleaders. The working class has among it proletarian leaders, communists, who are building a mass revolutionary party. More workers must step forward and boldly and courageously join this movement to build a party to lead the great long march to human liberation, to communism.

There is nothing that the Democratic or Republic parties have to offer. A Communist Revolution is the best option. Read *Red Flag* and get involved!

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LOS ANGELES (USA)—Early morning shoppers read ICWP leaflet about Covid-19 and Capitalism. Comrades have twice gone out to grocery stores to put leaflets on car windshields.

Distributing *Red Flag* in the time of the Coronavirus

The crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has created changes in my habits and has forced me to form new ones. The use of social networks to distribute *Red Flag* has been one of the most important.

Some friends to whom I had offered the newspaper before and who hadn't accepted it, I have now sent it to them over the internet without asking them if they wanted it or not. The response has been generally good: "Thank you, it is interesting." "You have made me read something." "You stubborn fool, thank you."

With my family in Los Angeles, USA the political struggle has always been intense and sometimes I've stopped talking about politics to cool the situation down a little. But this time I intensified it again and the results so far have been good with a sister-in-law, and now, we have shared more information.

I sent her the link to the newspaper and asked her to send it to her friends. The answer was immediate, "I already did. I sent it to several friends, but especially to my friend the former guerrilla."

Every Saturday we connect to Guatemala by video, to talk to the family. This time a couple of family members told us that they had been hiding in a house for two months, and how stressful the experience was.

Then it was my sister's turn. She told of her experience when she was imprisoned for two months for fighting the Ku Klux Klan. "I was in prison for fighting fascism, not for committing any crime."

Everyone was quiet, listening, and suddenly someone began to applaud, and everyone, from Guatemala to the U.S., began to applaud. Some were crying with emotion.

Earlier I had sent the *Red Flag* link to a nephew, and he told me that he was going to pass it on to his sister. They were both present at that meeting. He told me that he had also passed it on to another cousin and other friends, all students.

This is very small, but it will do.

I have to keep talking to everyone. I have to keep struggling with them politically so that they keep passing on the paper, so that I have more opportunities to recruit workers into the party.

Now more than ever, workers are open to communist ideas. The coronavirus pandemic has created conditions to recruit members to the Party. The masses are angrier with the bosses and their governments. The workers are realizing that capitalism does not work. The masses are hungry not only for food, which is now missing from their tables, but also hungry

for economic, political and social change.

The International Communist Workers' Party is the alternative. Capitalism is rotten, it can't be reformed. Let's throw it into the dustbin of history. Let's all join the struggle for Communism.

—Comrade in Los Angeles, USA

No Help from Guatemala Authorities for Mayan Workers

The coronavirus pandemic is real. In my village of Patzún, Chimaltenango, Guatemala, the authorities did not take the warnings seriously. Now, there are several people infected. We are Mayan people with limited resources, health centers lack medical supplies.

The incapacity of the local rulers to protect their workers made it possible for more people to become infected. It is sad to see, when they know the magnitude of the problem and do not take the necessary measures to protect the population.

Now the municipality is surrounded by the army and the police, and there is a curfew. I urge all people to take preventative measures seriously. This pandemic is not a game; it is life or death by exposure.

—Mayan worker, a friend of the Party

Editor's note: *Around the world, millions of workers are experiencing the same situation. It is caused more by the capitalists than by the virus itself. They have deepened these crises by putting their profits ahead of the workers' needs.*

The Time Has Come to Practice Communism

EL SALVADOR—A former factory worker, fired by the bosses in retaliation for being in our party, and who now works in a school, thanks to the collective effort of the ICWP, wrote us the following: "My point of view in the face of this hard and difficult situation of the COVID-19 is that too many lives have been lost in many countries of the world. This pandemic is all over the world. In the face of this situation I think it is best to act immediately but we have not been prepared to confront this situation because we see that the bosses never care about our health much less human wellbeing.

"The bosses only care about money without thinking about the health of their workers. Why wait for a tragedy to happen, since we could avoid it first and act before regretting it. In communism we will be prepared for all these situations, not only in moments like this, which we are going through. We will take decisions that will benefit the working class and the whole world without expecting something in return. What we are going through is serious, it is not a

joke. The time has come to practice communism. I call on all readers to join us; one single communist struggle and let us not stop. We have a lot to learn, but we also have a lot to give, because life every day teaches us to evaluate events.

Forward! We all have to defeat capitalism with victories for our class!"

—Former factory worker and ICWP Comrade

Red Flag Needs Consistent Analysis of Global Imperialism

Some of the comrades were talking recently with some of the people I've been struggling with in my class. We talk about lots of things: the coronavirus, the oil crash, what does that mean in geopolitics, and the intensification of the rivalry between the Chinese and the Americans. The Chinese recently accused the Americans of being the ones who introduced this virus in the first place.

This got me thinking. I remember when I first joined the movement, every time there was a new issue of *Red Flag*, the first thing I read was the last page, not the front page. Because in most issues of *Red Flag* in those days on the last page there was an article analyzing what was happening geopolitically. This gave me insights that nothing happens in isolation. South Africa is not an island. Whatever is happening around the world definitely affects us, like the crisis of overproduction and the falling rate of profit. What is happening to the US dollar has a direct impact on the Rand in South Africa.

But now things have changed even more. This is what I would like to see more in the *Red Flag*. Just like the editorial page is constant, this should be the case with the last page, where we make in depth analysis. We are an international movement and the *Red Flag* should reflect that. We also need to analyze international problems that are facing the working class and give solutions. If we can dedicate that page to that, it will really help.

These things were new to me. I didn't understand the significance or the impact of the competition between the imperialists. Reading more of those articles gave me insight about how this directly impacts the working class in South Africa and in the whole world generally because we face similar problems.

It also gave me the awareness that we should prepare for the eventuality of war. Without these tools at the working class' disposal, they become cynical. The party should play a greater role producing this analysis. Also, all the collectives need to play a role, because for the working class to get these things, we have to make sure that workers have access to the *Red Flag*.

—Student comrade in South Africa



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March 31—Comrades in Los Angeles take communism to car caravan at immigration jail demanding that all detainees be released.

Collectivity and Class Consciousness Motivate the Masses

I have reconnected with some friends who had previously participated in May Day activities with us. They know about our communist line. One topic of conversation has been worries about how Lopez Obrador is handling the coronavirus crisis in Mexico.

One friend criticized the irresponsibility of the government. "In Cancun, many people are living off tourism and are unprotected. People have to go out to work."

As one worker said, "How can I stop working, if my family depends on it for a living?"

Another friend became more open and interested after a political discussion. She said, "Yesterday I was talking to my colleagues about the virus and I thought, it's only a matter of politics; but now that you have told me how the situation is, I see it more seriously. Obrador doesn't care about us, only his own interests. I worry about my children."

Another friend expressed her pessimism. "I think there is not much we can do, I feel discouraged. I don't understand what you're saying." But after the discussion, she felt more optimistic. "Sometimes someone has to get you thinking, like you're doing with me."

I have to keep talking to them, especially about communist ideas.

Lopez Obrador has said that he will not stop his projects, regardless of the lives of millions of workers. He is clinging to his so-called achievements, such as the lowering gasoline prices. But the fact is that gasoline prices have fallen worldwide.

On the other hand, thousands of people have confronted the lack of medical supplies by organizing to solicit or donate equipment, knowledge, experience and labor to help fight the virus where needed, without any personal interest or benefit.

Seeing this mobilization of people and the discussions of communist politics reminds us that there is no stronger motive than class consciousness, some helping others, collectivity. These large mobilizations of the working class around the world make the bosses tremble.

Part of our work as communists is to denounce the bosses and their system, not to fall into reformism, much less believe in their words. Every communist must give leadership, fighting for a communist society. We must not be afraid. There is a world to be won. Join our struggle. Join the ICWP.

—Comrade in Mexico

Small Rebellions Today Will Become Huge Storm

Capitalism has been unable to control a virus that has so far infected one million and killed tens of thousands. Most are workers who have felt the onslaught of COVID-19. Such a system should not exist. It's urgent to crush it and build a new society: A Communist Society.

The López Obrador government has quarantined the entire country as a preventive

measure because of the pandemic. But there is much uncertainty and worry, especially among the 31.3 million poor workers and those who are engaged in informal work.

These workers come from the provinces to the big cities, and face racism and discrimination. They only live from day to day. A woman on public transport expressed the opinion of many: "The rich people are to blame. They travel the world and bring the disease. We can't even dream of that because we are poor."

Like a good populist, López Obrador has offered thousand-dollar credits to small businesses. He said that in both the formal and informal economies, the beneficiaries would be "humble and hardworking people."

But millions in the informal sector are invisible to government agencies and will receive nothing. And they start to rebel: they keep going out in the streets to work. They are exposing themselves to contagion and death. Because where hunger rules, there is no presidential decree that counts.

Millions of workers voted for López Obrador. Many continue to have confidence in him and support his anti-scientific religious decisions and comments about stopping the virus. This is very dangerous because it could send many thousands, and perhaps millions, of workers to fill up the hospitals.

But little by little the confidence in López Obrador is being diluted. The protests of hospital workers, the looting of supermarkets, and the riots in the immigration centers that have left deaths and injuries, are the beginning. A small storm, which threatens to become a huge gale for the bosses in Mexico and around the world.

The coronavirus crisis and the recession that already exists in working-class homes will lead to bigger rebellions.

We in the International Communist Workers' Party are aware of this, and we are ready to assume our role in the liberation of our class.

We are fighting for a Communist Revolution. Our comrades in Mexico, El Salvador, India, South Africa, the US and all over the world where communist ideas are spread by our **Red Flag** newspaper are fighting to achieve that goal. Join the struggle for a better world.

Distribute our **Red Flag** newspaper.

—Comrade in Mexico

"Parasite" is a Lie

Because the cynical movie "Parasite" has been so hyped and also was extremely well made (therefore dangerous) I was very glad to

see its being reviewed in your pages. In my opinion, the points made by the reviewer were both valid and insightful.

I write now to elaborate a little on those points. The central characters, a criminal family, enlist our sympathy right away by being charming, engaging and resourceful. (Great script, great acting!) At the movie's end, we see the family's criminality, despite their fifteen minutes' worth of showing remorse for having committed those crimes.

Since we've been identifying with these characters for more than two hours, this film's message inevitably influences our world view. As was written about in the previews review, the message is that when people are forced to live in terrible conditions, they will hurt, and even kill, other people in their efforts to live a comfortable life.

The exact opposite is true! History has repeatedly proven that, despite extreme deprivation, most people react by uniting with, and helping, each other as best they can. Yes, a sizeable minority become predators on others, but these parasites are never the majority! There are countless examples of this fact, heroic examples we read about in **Red Flag** and heroic examples in our lives.

During the current crisis we're having—the coronavirus pandemic—I've heard a number of anecdotes about how people are reaching out to their elderly neighbors, asking how they can help them. Long-time readers of **Red Flag** know that the ICWP cares about the lives and welfare of all workers, regardless of their country or language, understanding that we workers have everything in common and an attack on workers on the other side of the world is an attack on us as well. A deep, also widespread, understanding of this idea will put us moving towards our goal: destroying capitalism and its rulers and establishing a much better world: true communism.

Power to the world's working class! Fight for communism!

—Comrade in the US

South Africa: Drowning in Corona

Aluta, Comrades! as we embark on a journey for Communist revolution. It is Corona vs. Bleach in the black Community in South Africa. The virus is spreading like bad news. Panicking is nearer because in most places, especially the people residing in the informal settlements, can't afford to buy food, gloves, masks and the expensive sanitizers. The Government is struggling to supply the masses with those things without success.

Innocent souls are killed and beaten to a pulp. Hospitals are packed way beyond capacity. It is frightening and its even very difficult to put food on the table, especially unemployed souls who depend on handouts and quick jobs in the community. The taxi industry is suffering as well.

Just now, at the month's end, people were standing in lines struggling to get food although they had Money. Old souls between the age of 70 to 80 died in one of those long lines waiting to get inside to buy food.

As a member of ICWP, I humbly ask the comrades to ACT NOW AND FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM. The future of Planet Earth is in our hands.

—Comrade in South Africa