

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

LONG LIVE MAY DAY!



“TO EACH ACCORDING TO NEED”- PRACTICE COMMUNIST PRINCIPLES TODAY

EL SALVADOR, March 15— “We have to collect something to help the comrades who haven’t gotten paid this past two weeks,” said a worried ICWP worker leader. “Let’s start with the comrades of the F&D factory, since they have not been paid anything and at least we got a paycheck for two weeks a month ago. They always go with us to the extended meetings, and they are always there on May Day with their families.”

This telephone conversation had a big impact on the Regional Committee. It put in practice the communist theory “To each according to their need, from each according to their commitment.” This was how the Committee started to ask itself where we could start to provide. We concluded that there were savings that had been earmarked for another task of a comrade of the International Communist Workers’ Party. We decided that at this time the priority was to help the women workers, many of whom are single mothers, who have the greatest needs.

And because of the current reality of this Covid-19 pandemic, the ICWP collective in the maquilas organized ourselves and proposed allocating a food basket with basic staples such as rice, beans, and sugar, among other things, to supply the basic needs of the Party’s working class families.

“Already with this pandemic it has been proven that the capitalist system does not work for the working class,” said one worker leader. “Only workers can help each other.”

Many comrades and *Red Flag* readers have not been able to receive wages as a result of the obligatory quarantine. The bosses of the maquiladora companies still don’t want to pay their wages, saying that they have no money, because production is held up and that’s why the

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INDIA: “STARVE THE BOSSES TO DEATH, FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION”

April 20 – “Look at this endless queue of hungry people,” said a comrade. “They have built the cities. They toiled long hours every day to build apartment complexes, highways, bridges, supermarkets. They worked in the farms to produce food. They worked in thousands of restaurants, cooked food, cleaned dishes. Now they are hungry, homeless and trying to walk hundreds of kilometers back to their villages.”

A comrade of the International Communist Workers’ Party in Delhi reported that “Our efforts to feed the hungry masses have reached a critical stage.” He and at least sixteen other comrades and friends of ICWP are among several thousand volunteers around India. These brave young women and men are relentlessly feeding migrant workers who face hunger, eviction and death due to the countrywide coronavirus lockdown.

“When will this end?” ask exhausted volunteers and the migrants lining up for food.

These ICWP comrades were involved in the mass fight against fascist citizenship laws a few months ago. They wrote a very short pamphlet entitled “STARVE THE BOSSES TO DEATH, FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION” and are circulating it with food parcels.

In the streets of Delhi, we see hungry masses and feel tremendous hatred for the capitalist system that brings them misery and death. We need to smash this murderous profit system. Communism will allow no profit-hungry bosses. It will feed the masses, create housing and health-care based on our need.

The volunteers with whom we work day and night are very receptive to our communist solutions. We emphasize the need for many of them to join ICWP to prepare the masses for communist revolution. Our comrades are spread among various relief camps. Our pamphlet and electronic copy of *Red Flag* unite us when we cannot effectively communicate with each other. We

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MAY DAY 2020: END PANDEMIC CAPITALISM BY BUILDING COMMUNIST COLLECTIVES

It's hardly a secret: Covid-19 is the disease, but *capitalism is the pandemic*. Never have class divisions been starker, nor their effects more deadly. Never have so few stolen so much of the wealth workers produce—and profited so handsomely from a horrible disease.

What is the cure for pandemic capitalism? It's not a "kinder, gentler" capitalism. It's not socialism. It's communism.

No more production for profit. No distribution of goods and services only to those with money. No more private property hoarded in the hands of a few. No money! Instead, production and distribution for need.

No more xenophobia or Islamophobia, no more borders or nations. No more racism. No more communalism, the fascist Indian capitalists' "divide-and-rule" strategy. We need to fight these for our very survival. Racism, xenophobia and communalism are attacks on the whole working class!

No more sexism, no more exploitative relationships. Instead, respect, cooperation and sharing.

No more homophobia, agism or ableism. Everyone's abilities matter. Everyone's needs matter.

One international working class making and carrying out decisions collectively in the interest of the masses.

The worse capitalism gets, the more viciously it vilifies communism. So-called "communist" countries like China are not a workers' paradise. But they're not communist, either.

Real communism means: From each according to ability and commitment, to each according to need. Collective struggle to increase everyone's commitment and understanding. Abolish wage slavery, the material basis of racism and sexism. Fight for universal comradesly relations among all the masses.

We need real communism now – more urgently than ever.

Communist Labor – Key to Communist Society

On May Day 1920, the Soviet Union held its first All-Russian Subbotnik. This was a mass

mobilization to voluntarily contribute a day's unpaid physical labor to building the new society.

The material gain was secondary. Lenin explained the main goal: "the utilisation of the great First of May festival for a mass-scale attempt to introduce communist labour."

The Soviet Union was a struggling socialist society fighting a civil war against its former exploiters and their imperialist backers. As Lenin had told non-Party workers in April, it was "still a very long way from the application of [communist] labour on a broad, really mass scale." Socialism still meant wage-labor, markets, and other core elements of capitalist society.

Truly communist labor, Lenin explained, "is labour performed gratis for the benefit of society, not for the purpose of obtaining a right to certain products, not according to previously established and legally fixed quotas, but voluntary labour. It is labour performed because it has become a habit to work for the common good, and because of a conscious realisation (that has become a habit) of the necessity of working for the common good."

Communist Moscow railway workers had organized the first mass subbotnik a year earlier. Lenin called it "the actual beginnings of communism." They brought to the fore "the more important task of positive communist construction, the creation of new economic relations, of a new society."

Communist Labor Starts Now

Building communism, said Lenin, meant "transforming the very habits of the people, which have been defiled and debased by the accursed private ownership of the means of production, and also by the entire atmosphere of bickering, distrust, enmity, disunity and mutual intrigue that is inevitably generated." This would be "the work of decades."

Lenin thought that socialist revolution had made that work possible. We know now that so-



May Day, 1920, Moscow

cialist relations of productions were, at core, capitalist. Private property was abolished legally ("in the main"). But maintaining the wage system created a class divide: Soviet officials and managers on one hand, wage laborers on the other. Socialism was state capitalism. It turned dedicated communist fighters into a new capitalist class.

In the struggle between capitalist practice and communist ideology, practice was primary. Real communist labor and habits, the legacy of the 1920 May Day Subbotnik, could not thrive—nor even survive.

The International Communist Workers' Party has learned a painful lesson. Wherever and whenever we lead masses to revolution, it must be communist revolution. The new society we build must be communist society.

Guarantee the End of Pandemic Capitalism: Build Communist Collectives Now

Building communist habits and relationships is the work of decades. But those decades start now.

Our communist labor today includes writing, reading, producing and distributing *Red Flag/Bandera Roja*. Deepening relationships with an ever-wider circle of coworkers, friends and relatives. Communist class struggle in many forms. Engaging in practices that can root and grow communist consciousness.

Most importantly, it means building Party collectives that become the nucleus of the new society. Each member becomes a leader. Each collective links to a wider circle of future communists. Each collective links to other collectives in similar structures on an increasingly larger scale. This is the International Communist Workers' Party.

It is our plan to answer Lenin's call a century ago:

"Let us build a new society! We solemnly and firmly promise one another that we shall hold out and win in this most arduous struggle. We shall work to do away with the accursed maxim: 'Every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost' and bring into the day-by-day life of the masses, the rule: 'All for each and each for all!' We shall work for the gradual but steady introduction of communist discipline and communist labour."

That is the cure to pandemic capitalism. That is the task of May Day 2020.

JOIN US IN AN INTERNATIONAL MAY DAY VIRTUAL RALLY

Capitalist crisis and the global Covid-19 pandemic are attacking our class.
But around the world, workers are stepping up in anger at the system and solidarity
with their fellow workers and neighbors.

Workers are seeing the need to end capitalism and its horrors.

This May Day we will bring together comrades and friends to review our forces and
strengthen our commitment to recruiting masses to communist revolution.

We will share greetings from comrades in many places
and communist art of various kinds.

We will meet online on Sunday, May 3 at 10:00 am in Los Angeles and Seattle,
7:00 pm in South Africa and Spain,
11:00 am in El Salvador and noon in Mexico.

Please contact comrades in your area for the link to the meeting or email us at
icwp@anonymousspeech.com

LONG LIVE COMMUNISM! LONG LIVE MAY DAY!



VOL. 11 #5 April 22 to May 6, 2020

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IN CRISIS AND CHAOS, THERE IS ALWAYS OPPORTUNITY

PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA— The virus has created opportunities for us as a collective and as a Party, which we need to seize.

Most of the working class sees that we are not the bosses’ priority—that the main thing for them is profit. The government is prioritizing giving millions and billions of rands to their companies. This is not the government’s money. They took it from the taxpayers, the workers. Instead of giving it back to the workers, they’ve given it to the workers’ exploiters.

We urgently need a communist system without bosses, money or cops. The masses will mobilize to meet our needs for food, housing and everything else using our collective knowledge, skills and creativity. We need to continue to take this message to the masses and use it to recruit workers to our cause.

Concrete Steps in Zwide Township

We distributed *Red Flag* to high school students in Zwide even before the virus. We made plans to revive our collective there. Our comrades in Zwide have come back in response to these plans.

They are distributing *Red Flag* and our pamphlet about the Coronavirus in the high schools, in their communities, following up contacts and trying to recruit. These developments need to be encouraged because they help advance building our collective there.

We will also be doing the same thing in our neighborhood, because all the workers are here. We will be taking this message directly to the masses.

New Front in Motherwell

We are now in a better position than last time to advance in Motherwell, one of the largest townships in the area. We have taken the *Red Flag* and our pamphlet there.

A comrade who was with us there had retreated and then he came back in response to the fight against the bosses’ exploitation during this pandemic. He recruited his father. His father promised that after the lockdown, when he returns to work, he will spread the word and our material in the factory. Our comrade is also a worker. He will be able to take the *Red Flag* to work.

We will consolidate this work and the contacts

we will be getting. We supplied them with the RF and also our pamphlet.

Virus Has Exposed Capitalism’s Fault Lines

Even though things are bad, in every crisis and chaos, there’s always an opportunity. Workers are seeing with their own eyes the brutality of the system. It’s up to us to come up with the solution, which is communism. Even those workers who were ignorant are starting to see the need for what we’ve been advocating: for a communist revolution and communist society.

We will be taking this message directly to the masses, as hopefully also other comrades in other places. We’ve been inspired by the comrades’ work in India and in the US and in the Americas. We hope this work also inspires other comrades.

The comrades have taken the communist message to the workers and they are recruiting. Now it’s up to us to consolidate their work leading up to May Day—to struggle with all these new contacts so that they can become members of the party.

TRANSIT WORKER: “COUNT ON ME—I DON’T SEE ANY OTHER WAY OUT OF THIS SITUATION”

LOS ANGELES, USA, April 20 — Nationwide, more than seventy public transportation workers have died from the coronavirus. Hundreds more have been infected

In early April, bus drivers in Detroit carried out a successful work stoppage demanding protective masks and other safety equipment.

There is a lot of anger against the bosses and the union for the belated way they are “protecting” these so-called “essential” workers to transport those who are still working or going to hospitals.

For capitalists, ALL workers are expendable. Many have been able to see that aspect more clearly. But the most important thing is that many have been able to see more clearly the need to build a new communist society based on the well-being of ALL workers and not any longer on the bosses’ profits.

Prior to the coronavirus outbreak, workers

who are members and friends of ICWP at the MTA (public transit) in Los Angeles were meeting weekly and organizing study groups in a couple of divisions (shops).

Recently we have recruited new friends to the meetings that we sometimes have outside the workplace, to take advantage of the presence of other members and their families.

For a few days, on-the-job meetings were interrupted because most left work with permission to help care for their children or adult relatives. We stayed in communication by phone. But this week some have started to return, and we are planning the meetings at work.

Meanwhile, those who were still working maintained an ideological struggle with other workers, with whom a political relationship already existed. The responses have been very positive, and it seems that the Party is solidifying even more.

A mechanic who reads *Red Flag* told us, “You all are right in what you say; we need to organize ourselves.”

Another mechanic said, “In the next meetings, count on me, because I don’t see any other way out of this situation.”

A bus driver who has always collaborated with bringing *Red Flag* newspapers to the drivers’ cafeteria, told us, “From now on, I want to help organize among the drivers.”

There are many comments about suspicions of the bosses’ plans to murder millions of workers in order to continue exploiting and perpetuating their profit system.

Although we are not at the point of taking bolder actions as we would like, it is clear that we have fertile ground and a plan to grow our party and expand the fight for a communist society.

Garment Workers:

FIGHT FEAR BY ORGANIZING FOR COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES, April 21— “I am afraid of catching it, and infecting my family. But I have needs, that’s why I come to work in these conditions,” said a garment worker, expressing the worries of hundreds of workers at the Los Angeles Apparel factory.

This factory opened a new section, hiring hundreds of workers, to produce millions of face masks, destined for sale for profit.

“They tell us to keep six feet away from the next worker, but it’s hard. Although we have gel and wear masks, we believe that it is not enough. We are all afraid. Either the virus kills us, or hunger kills us. We have to keep working,” said another worker. These are the working conditions in these sweatshops that expose the workers to infection.

Fearful or not, the workers, many of them undocumented, continue to work in an industry where conditions were previously unhealthy. Now with the pandemic they are a time bomb, which can infect and kill thousands of workers.

There is only one alternative for workers: to fight for Communism. Millions of workers around the world face the same situation. The bosses are the only ones responsible for this pan-

demic crisis. They created the conditions for the virus to spread rapidly.

The bosses knew that the virus was super-contagious and deadly, and they continued to leave hospitals without supplies to protect their workers.

To the capitalists, their profits are what matter, before, during and after this crisis. What should matter to us workers is to finish them off right now. These are difficult times for workers, but it is not the end of the world, as some are proclaiming.

The working class has a promising future. We are in a crisis, but we also have the opportunity to crush the capitalist system, by building the International Communist Workers’ Party.

We are organizing worldwide, through our *Red Flag* newspaper. We have comrades in India

and El Salvador who work in garment factories, who suffer the same needs as garment workers in Los Angeles.

Women and men there are also organizing to build a Communist society. Let’s organize the ICWP in the factory, in the hospital, in the field, everywhere. Communism is our solution!



Bangladesh, April 15, 2020—Garment workers demand wages

Workers are Fighters, Not Victims:

COMMUNISM WILL PUT AN END TO BOSSES WHO TREAT US LIKE GUINEA PIGS

PUGET SOUND, WASHINGTON (US)—Twenty-seven thousand Boeing workers were ordered back to work the week of April 20-27. We can dismiss the company propaganda about how their first priority is our safety. Boeing executives continue to flout even the inadequate recommendations of the official medical advisory groups.

Corporate executives cite the law to justify risking our lives and the lives of those we interact with in the community. Federal and state laws say Boeing can continue “essential production.”

A worker asked her boss what is essential. The boss answered, “Anything we say is essential is essential.”

In what circle of hell is making planes essential when 62% of all Boeing jets are grounded, about 7040 aircraft?

Desperate airlines have already requested a cascade of jet delivery deferrals. Hundreds of MAX orders have been canceled.

Usually, Boeing delivers over 80 planes a month. In March, they “delivered” a total of 12 widebodies. Ten of those are now sitting in the Everett plant’s parking lot. The few that are assigned to customers may never get picked up.

Another friend summed up the situation when he heard that Boeing was forcing us back to work. “To do what?” he questioned with astonishment.

It’s certain there will be thousands of layoffs. The only question is how many tens of thousands. And how many millions of subcontractor workers, a disproportionate number of whom are

black and Latinx?

This circle of hell is called capitalism. The premature resumption of production is based, in part, on a desperate attempt to get the fatally flawed 737 MAX back in the air. The company needs us to prepare the Renton factory for production, even before the FAA clears the plane to fly.

In addition, a small number of planes are commercial adaptations used by the military. About 2,000 workers involved in their production started working last week, along with hundreds assigned to maintain the growing number of commercial jets sitting in company parking lots.

International capitalist competition drives this reckless rush to production. China is scheduled to start commercial production of its competing jet next year. Even the hobbled Airbus is in a better position to face the new competition.

The same grim scenario is playing out among 2.6 million European auto workers. Auto bosses have ordered their assembly lines to start rolling. They have openly admitted this is an experiment—with the autoworkers as guinea pigs. Meanwhile, sales have dropped 85 percent. And so it goes everywhere in this capitalist world.

Capitalist Science Serves the Bosses

To Boeing, beating the competition and securing its profits is essential. But that rationale might not fly with most workers. In order to win over workers, the company has turned, in part, to capitalist science.

During the 4-week shut down, many of us got our information about the company plans from a

specially designed website. The website featured pages upon pages praising the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

We noticed the CDC started to change its guidelines. Many in our text groups and those who came over to pick up masks saw the handwriting on the wall. Self-quarantine and completed tests for Covid-19 were waived. These changes (and others) were shaped to accommodate the capitalists’ need to preserve their shaky position in inter-imperialist competition.

When it was announced that the federal government was forming a new coronavirus task force consisting of top financial and business executives (including Boeing CEO Calhoun), we were certain. Safety—and maybe our very lives—was being sacrificed on the altar of profits and competition.

The only way out of this circle of hell is with communist revolution. More workers are seeing this. **Red Flag** is filled with their stories. And this is happening even as our comrades are physically separated from their co-workers because of the pandemic.

Collective communist production centers will make whatever is needed, especially during an emergency. We will no longer be hamstrung by the need to protect profits and beat the competition. Communism will unleash the most powerful force on earth: billions of workers dedicated to building a communist society. Join the ICWP to hasten the day.

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

We Are Not Just Victims; We Can Be Fighters for Communist Healthcare.

If you want a preview of the deadly mayhem that will ensue when the capitalists decide to “open the economy,” just look at the hospital I work at. We’ve been living (and dying) under rules similar to the newly revised CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) policy.

My co-workers no longer self-quarantine for 14 days if they are exposed to Covid-19. If they are not dying on their feet, they are required to continue working. Completed tests are not required to get back to work, just some masks (if they are available) and daily temperature checks.

My co-workers call me every day. They tell me that they miss me, but I should stay away from the hospital. Every floor except one is “hot.” Over a hundred confirmed Covid-19 cases.

Who knows how many cases there actually are? The bodies are piling up.

The U.S. profit health care system has not only made it difficult to treat those with the virus, but workers who have other health care issues are not able to get the care they need. I am one of those workers.

I recently was told that I needed surgery to

rule out a possible malignancy. They considered it emergent enough to schedule me. Nationwide no elective surgeries are being done, only emergencies.

Twenty-four hours before my surgery that changed. My surgery is now not considered an emergency. I could have to wait up to three months to get it.

I am not alone. Surgery for people who already have a cancer diagnosis is being postponed. Heart patients that need bypass surgery are being told by their doctors to stay in bed until they can schedule their surgery.

Epidemiologists call deaths that are caused by these kinds of delays “excess mortality.” It’s a huge, unrecorded number during medical crises like this pandemic.

Furthermore, I can’t enter the operating room if I test positive for Covid-19. That’s why my co-workers tell me to stay away. Despite two doctors’ affidavits that I am at high risk, the hospital hasn’t yet even granted me non-paid leave.

Many other healthcare work-

ers face similar grim choices: lose their jobs or lose their health.

In another, better way, I am not alone. As soon as I get **Red Flag**, I pass it on to co-workers, family and friends. A relative of mine always thought that achieving communism was impossible. He’s changed his mind.

Capitalism does it again. Billions go to bail out corporations and workers have to fight for their lives. If we have to fight for our lives, let’s fight for communist healthcare.

—Healthcare comrade in New Jersey (US)



New York—Harlem hospital workers demand PPE

EL SALVADOR: COMMUNIST PRINCIPLES, from page 1

salaries are frozen. Although the current right-wing government has mentioned that imports and exports should not and have not stopped, it is always to the benefit of the bosses.

“We can’t get to the meeting point, because the police and the army won’t let us through,” said some worker comrades who came from the interior of the country. So one of the leading comrades from the factories brought them the food

and met them as far as they could go. Examples of communist solidarity like this have occurred under the banner of our Party.

This has been an example of communist practice with comrades on the basis of need. They were very happy to receive the food for which they said they were grateful to the ICWP. They were looking forward to the meetings of the cells to which they belong and also the broader meet-

ings.

This is only a small example of the solidarity among Party comrades. But we also have **Red Flag** readers who we want to support in these hard times of the Covid-19 crisis, which has finished unmasking this rotten bosses’ system.

We therefore ask the comrades and friends of the International Communist Workers’ Party to show solidarity in one way or another with these contingents of Party workers and **Red Flag** readers.

ANGRY WORKERS ARE POTENTIAL COMMUNISTS

PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA—Some of us, listening to the news, get infuriated whenever the President or the ANC opens its mouth. They are arresting people for being outside. The police and soldiers are terrorizing the communities. They can't comprehend that people are outside because they don't have a choice.

The government supposedly has a plan for everyone: they are going to give small and large



CAPE TOWN, April 19 —Hungry South African workers defy lockdown, loot shops that sell mainly food. Soldiers have shut down the whole area, killing at least one person.

businesses many millions of rands. Some workers are going to get their unemployment fund.

But what about the unemployed workers? Many of them are young people. It's also people who have families, in the millions. Before this pandemic, the mining sector was bleeding jobs. The gold and platinum sectors each lost 50,000 to 70,000 jobs. The government doesn't have a plan for them.

They tell people to lock themselves inside their houses for 42 days. Lots of families will go these 42 days with nothing to eat. How is this possible?

The government also has the audacity to assume that everybody has a shelter. Even the shelters that we have are 42 square meter two-bedroom houses. How can a family of 8 or 10 people isolate themselves, lock themselves in, in that kind of house, no bigger than a match box?

That is the problem with capitalism: rot and corruption.

This is looting of the workers' surplus in broad daylight. They are simply rewarding themselves with millions of rands instead of giving this money to the people who need it. Shops are open but people with no money can't buy anything.

This crisis has demonstrated the divide between the workers and the bosses. Some of them sit in their own islands. We are trapped in these townships. They have the privilege of testing to see whether they have the virus. We workers

can't afford the 850 or 900 rands to do the test. How is someone who is unemployed, who has been locked in their house for over 3 weeks, going to afford the test?

In communism, food won't have a price tag, and no one will profit from it. Food, housing, tests and medicine will all be free. Without communism we will continue to suffer. Communism will eradicate the material basis for this corruption, greed, and exploitation.

This pandemic has presented us with an opportunity to expose capitalism's failure and to really interact with the masses so that we can open their eyes to these things.

Now the workers are feeling more than ever that they are distant from the people in charge. We need to use that anger to achieve our goal of a communist revolution.

As a Party we need to do more to use this crisis for mass recruitment of workers and potential workers worldwide. They are the most vulnerable. They will die of starvation before they can die of coronavirus. We need to be there at the peak of things so that we can win them to our cause.

We don't have the resources, but with cooperation within our class, there is nothing we can't do. We have a communist world to win. This is the message we need to take to the masses.

Immigrant Workers in Spain: BOSSES EVERYWHERE ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN PROFITS

SPAIN—The pandemic of capitalism has been merciless! They don't care about the lives of the workers. They are simply interested in their profits. This is the conclusion we reached with a friend from work. We are transportation workers. We deliver merchandise that customers buy on the internet to their homes.

My co-worker is a Salvadoran liberal who believes that Nayib Bukele, the president of El Salvador, is doing an exceptional job in containing Covid-19 and lifting the country out of poverty. Well, we were talking about why that is not true, and we started by talking about the older people who live from day to day. If those people go out on the streets they are arrested and taken to containment centers. What do their families eat? And those who have been laid off? And if that person gets infected and dies, will his family get any benefits?

There is no plan by which a government, whether in El Salvador or anywhere else in the world, will solve the problem of working-class

poverty and famine. I asked him if his boss in Spain would pay him if he didn't go out to work. He answered that if he stopped working, he wouldn't have enough money for rent or food for his wife and daughter. I also asked him if he had any relatives or friends in El Salvador who were in the same situation, and he said again that he did. The capitalist world is death to workers! Politicians like Bukele sell us crumbs.

This rotten system is creating a fascist state like never before in history. Under the pretext of health measures, it has put the army out on the streets. The police can stop you on the street and beat you if they want to. All the technology is put in place to control the working class. It is creating a state where the workers will be controlled and will not be able to talk about "rights and freedoms". Obviously, rights and freedoms are the crumbs that the system has offered, but right now people have nothing at all.

We workers just need to know that WE DO NOT NEED MONEY, WE DO NOT NEED

BORDERS AND WE DO NOT NEED RACISM. In a communist system we will only use technology to build tools to keep the population healthy. We will work collectively (not with social distancing) but conscious of taking care of everyone. Agricultural and industrial production will be for every man, woman, and child. Health workers will have all the help they need, both technological and social, to be able to face something like what we are living through!

Capitalism is a pandemic that kills workers of the world, but it has a cure! FIGHT FOR BUILDING A DIFFERENT SYSTEM: FOR BUILDING A COMMUNIST WORLD! That is why the International Communist Workers' Party makes the call, WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE! Let's distribute our newspaper *Red Flag* through the social networks. Let's read *Red Flag* and study the communist practices. Only by being part of this movement fighting for the communist revolution can we defeat the pandemic. We can defeat capitalism.

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estimate that at least 10 people have joined ICWP.

We are trying to co-ordinate our activities with the comrades in Bengaluru and in Chennai. The garment worker comrade who started our communist activities in Bengaluru reported that one comrade received an eviction notice. We raised enough money to help the family, but this is not the only family in such dire situation.

So now the comrades are openly organizing for a rent strike. This idea is spreading like a wildfire. The house of the comrade is buzzing with activities and lively conversations about how communism will end the terror of capitalism. This is bringing dozens of garment workers and their families closer to ICWP.

In Bengaluru our comrades who work in IT have been very active in distributing *Red Flag* electronically in various parts of India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Some have joined a non-profit organization called Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC). This group reaches out to the garment workers around the world. By our participation in CCC we are able meet (online) and distribute *Red Flag* to garment workers around the world.

Before the coronavirus crisis we were preparing for a weekend activity to study the communist philosophy of dialectical materialism. Due to the lockdown, we cannot physically meet at a central location.

We believe that the looming capitalist depression will bring millions around the world into the streets looking for answers. We must continue to deepen our understanding of dialectical materialism. This will give us confidence and ability to analyze emerging contradictions and

provide communist responses to recruit the masses to our party. Three different Party collectives in India are organizing for a weekend in June when all our comrades will participate in lively discussions to build our communist future.



Volunteers feeding the masses in India.

Defeat Capitalism’s Racism and Fascism

FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST WORKERS’ POWER

USA, April 21—The first child known to have died of Covid-19 in De-
troit was five-year-old Skyler Herbert, a black child of two first responders.
Michigan has over 31,000 Covid-19 cases and least 2,391 deaths. The
Detroit area, home to the automobile industry and historically a concentra-
tion of black workers, is one of the hardest hit with 76% of the deaths.
African Americans account for more than 40% of Covid-19 cases in Michi-
gan, but only 14% of the people.

On April 15, Trump supporters carrying American flags and assault
weapons rallied on the steps of the Michigan State Capitol, demanding that
the governor rescind stay-at-home orders and re-start the economy. Trump
tweeted “Liberate Michigan!” His fascist ally Bolsonaro in Brazil shows
up at similar rallies without a mask, advocating getting everyone back to
work now.
Similar fascist rallies have taken place or are planned in many US cities.
Some have carried the Confederate flag, symbol of racism. In South
Dakota, a heroic young woman ripped the Confederate flag from a fascist’s
truck.

Race, Class and Coronavirus

Public health agencies track the “race” of Covid-19 cases and deaths.
They don’t track class, but obviously people who are poor, homeless, un-
employed, incarcerated are at much higher risk than capitalists. Because of
racism, black, latinx and immigrant members of our class are overrepre-
sented in these groups.
Millions of poor, homeless, unemployed, and incarcerated white workers
are also at high risk. But the rulers hide those statistics so we don’t see the
power that we have as a united working class. When we look at things this
way, we can see that the US working class is huge—a force to be reckoned
with, not a minority to be maneuvered.

The fascists don’t care about any workers’ lives. They advocate for
“opening the economy” and argue that the lives of workers are an accept-
able trade-off for the bosses’ profits.

New York Times Magazine (April 10) ran an on-line forum titled
“Restarting America Means People Will Die. So When Do We Do It?” The
German newspaper Der Spiegel ran an article by a Green Party sociologist
calling for reopening businesses because “dying [is] a natural process that
makes room for new life.” These are thinly disguised fascist ideas!

Liberal Reformers Misunderstand the Capitalist State

So, should we be calling on the government to provide more PPE to hos-
pitals? More test kits and contact tracing? To quarantine infected people
and stay at home longer to flatten the curve?
Many of our friends think so.

Others are fighting on behalf of working people who lost their jobs. Over
ten million applied for unemployment insurance in March alone. Millions
more are ineligible and facing a rent crisis on May 1. Organizers are fight-
ing for state and local governments to declare a moratorium on evictions,



DENVER, USA, April 19—Health care workers block fascist rally call-
ing for an end to the lockdown. These workers risk their lives every-
day to care for Covid-19 patients. They know that ending the
lockdown will mean more patients with Covid-19.



LOS ANGELES (USA), April 19—Dozens of cars and angry marchers
circled Mayor Garcetti’s mansion demanding he enforce a moratorium
on rent and evictions and use vacant hotel rooms to house the home-
less. Tenant groups are organizing a rent strike on May 1st in LA and
other cities. ICWP went with our message of fighting for communist
revolution.
Before Covid-19, 50% of LA County residents were a paycheck away
from homelessness. Only 8% of county residents are black, but 42% of
homeless people are black—the legacy and continuation of racist poli-
cies. Homelessness is increasing among unemployed workers of all
“races.” Demanding that capitalist politicians defend renters won’t solve
this. The solution lies in mobilizing to get rid of racist capitalism with
communist revolution. In communism no one will own the land or hous-
ing. Masses will build housing for all to use without rent, mortgages,
banks, or money.

rent and mortgage payments. Others demand that the government open va-
cant hotel rooms or provide food for all.

These short-term measures could help, but they are no solution. Rents
and mortgages would pile up to be paid later – how? We need a new way
of life that guarantees that our collective needs are met.

But the liberal and openly fascist capitalist politicians are only arguing
about how soon to re-open the economy and get people back to work. And
what combination of charity and police terror will prevent revolution.

As the deaths mount and people go hungry, workers are angrier and more
desperate. Capitalism can only offer a choice between starving at home or
getting sick at work.

We can’t rely on the bosses’ state. The fascists fighting for their right
to catch coronavirus, like our friends fighting for pro-worker reforms, are
making demands on the government. But the government is the bosses’
state. It exists to guarantee and protect their profits. They may throw us a
few crumbs they think will keep us from rising up to overthrow them. They
will call out their racist cops to suppress us (but not the fascists). They will
prop up their banks and make war against their imperialist rivals. But they
will never protect the working class!

And we can’t just stay at home and hope we survive. We must ac-
tively, boldly, and carefully mobilize masses for communism. The com-
rades in South Africa who are defying curfew to distribute Red Flag, the
comrades in India and El Salvador who are bringing the masses food and
communist ideas, and the comrades in Los Angeles who have taken Red
Flag to grocery shoppers are leading the way.

To end to racism and fascism, to fight for the life and wellbeing of the
masses, we need to get rid of the capitalist state and their system of racist,
sexist wage slavery for profits. In its place we must build a communist sys-
tem, where the workers – led by our International Communist Workers’
Party – ourselves make decisions and exercise power. Where no one ever
has to pay rent or buy food. Where everything is produced and distributed
based on relationships of collectivity without money, profits, or banks.

Only communism, based on human need, can protect, and advance the
masses. For that we need to build a mass ICWP everywhere, in the face of
this crisis, to mobilize for communism, and nothing less.

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“NO, YOU CAN’T PICK THEM. LET THEM ROT.”

About 40 years ago a group of us were in the San Joaquin Valley visiting farmworkers and offering them a communist paper. At one house an older woman told us this: “After they deported a bunch of farmworkers, there was no one to pick the crops on a farm near us. There were potatoes growing in one field and they were starting to rot. I went to ask the farmer if me and my friends could pick them and give them to people who needed them. He said, ‘No. Let them rot.’”

That was the murderous logic of capitalism. It still is.

Capitalism: sell it or let it rot

Today in the US, restaurants and schools are closed due to the coronavirus. As a result, food is being produced that is not sold. The nation’s largest dairy cooperative, Dairy Farmers of America, estimates that farmers are dumping as many as 3.7 million gallons of milk each day. A single chicken processor is smashing 750,000 unhatched eggs a week.

Yet across the country people are lining up at food banks that are empty or next to empty. Thousands wait at a food bank in LA. 10,000 were waiting in San Antonio, Texas and in a miles-long line in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Others, refugee seekers, huddle across the border in Mexico.

Hundreds of thousands of hungry mouths that lack one thing – money! And the capitalists today in effect tell them what they said 40 years ago: “Let them rot!”

It’s world-wide. On beautiful Greek islands Syrian refugees stuffed into overcrowded camps starve because European capitalist say in effect, “Let them rot.”

In India, there are warehouses (Godowns) full of grain owned by the government, while millions are starving in the streets. And the Modi government turns its back on them.

At one Godown in Delhi, there are 73,000 tons of grain – enough to feed Delhi for ten months – but only those with ration cards can get them.

Thousands don’t qualify.

Capitalists produce for profit, not human need. They would rather plow the food under or dump the milk than give it away and cheapen their product. Plowing unsold food underground is legal. Taking it to feed a hungry family is criminal. The cops, the courts and the jails defend private property and private profits.

The things, or commodities, capitalist markets have two sides to them. One side is their exchange value – or the price they cost. The other side is their use value – or how useful they are to us. For the capitalist farmer the price, or profit (exchange value) is all that matters. For the farmworkers, the food and feeding your family and others (the use value) is the main concern.

In communism we will produce to meet the masses’ needs

Communism rejects the ideas of exchange and exchange value. We can build a society where we distribute and share things because other people need them or can use them. After a communist revolution there won’t be money, profit or private property. The masses will determine the most useful foods and produce and distribute them. Our motivation, our societies’ motivation, will be to meet our collective needs.

To capitalists it’s a dangerous idea. The very idea of communism even haunts them today. Suppose those people who are starving begin to



WASHINGTON STATE (US), April 19—While farmworkers’ Covid-19 cases spike, growers and reformist worker advocates have been wasting precious time talking to state agencies. Today, the state issued useless guidelines. For example, they recommend workers stay six feet apart “when at all possible.”

Thousands more migrants will be coming by summer. They will be forced into close quarters at housing camps, often in bunk beds, shared kitchens and bathrooms.

Communism will mobilize masses of workers—like those now unemployed—to help with essential food production. There will be no loopholes for profit-hungry growers. In fact, there will be no profit hungry growers. The masses will assure that safety for all involved will be our top priority.

read *Red Flag* and agree that producing things for exchange value (price or private profit) is inhuman and anti-social. Suppose that they organize, or support those who organize, going to the farms and directly getting and distributing food to those that need it. Food that would otherwise be destroyed.

That very idea can excite those in the food lines. That very communist idea is a nightmare to the capitalists. They know that ideas, once seized by the masses, become a material force. They will be screaming and crying at the very thought of their falling profits. And we, the masses, will build ICWP communist collectives; we will raise the *Red Flag* and reply: “Profits? Let them rot!”

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“Sometimes you have to demolish and start fresh”

Retired hospital maintenance worker: I am reading *Red Flag*. I love it. Thank you. I was thinking, will we learn something after this one. We did not after the last one or the one before. I could go back to the Spanish Flu. The bosses have all that money, yet they did not prepare. How to fix it: easy subsidy, rent control, no eviction, and no foreclosures. Medicare for all, health care reform.

Comrade: Do you really think these reforms will make a difference for us? Will they last?

Retiree: It was a sarcastic way of saying: they are good actions, but I think it is too late. I learned in building construction that renovation has a purpose. Sometimes buildings are beyond repair. You have to demolish and start fresh. It is healthy and failures from the past will always lead to a better future. How do we grow from here? I think this is a time of great opportunity.

What have we learned? What about money? Was it all worth it? Is it not a time to try something new? Fresh, with new values.

The heart and minds of the working class will welcome a radical change. We the working class are no longer willing to spill more blood so that the bosses can have more billions. No more of the same capitalism.

Comrade: Is it all right if we print your com-

ments in the paper?

Retiree: Of course! People are starving for guidance, for hope. I am up 18 hours a day talking to friends and family members. We need to provide a clear message, so no one is taken advantage of while being vulnerable. I see civil unrest. I hope to talk with you soon.

Comrade: For sure! Meanwhile, forward the paper to all the friends and family members you are talking to. I would love to hear what they think, too.

UPS Red Flag Reader Outraged by Pandemic Profiteering

“Bravo!!!! Not hopeless but a steep hill to defeat capitalism.

“Notice the ads on TV geared toward making people who make \$16/hour feel like patriots when ordinarily they are peasants to big business.

“We long to belong to the effort to beat this virus. It is a bonding experience that can take our minds off who and what the enemy is. Like I tell my ‘kids,’ most of what they see and hear is a distraction. Like the fact that some people are making billions during this pandemic!!!!”

We’d add: none more so than the billionaire CEO of BlackRock, Larry Fink.

Fink started Blackstone Financial Management (BFM) with money from Peter Peterson,

founder of the Blackstone group. In 1992, BFM was renamed BlackRock and became independent.

On March 24, the U.S. Federal Reserve appointed BlackRock to oversee its new (potentially \$4.5 trillion) corporate slush-fund. Three days later, the U.S. Congress passed an additional bailout bill. Guess who’s the key financial overseer? You guessed it: BlackRock!

It now manages \$27 trillion of the global economy. It towers over finance, insurance and real estate sectors.

Blackrock is also the largest investor in weapons manufacturing. Fink, a Democrat, is fulfilling the legacy of his original financial backer, Peter Peterson.

Peterson was known for his campaign to end defined pensions, cut social security and Medicare allotments. He succeeded David Rockefeller as head of the Council on Foreign Relations. To maintain US imperialist dominance, he famously declared in 2004, “It’s weapons or walkers!”

We’ll scale that “steep hill to defeat capitalism” when more workers like our comrade join the ICWP. Communist revolution will put blood-suckers like BlackRock’s Fink out of business for good.

—A Comrade

The World Health Organization and Inter-Imperialist Rivalry

MASSES LED BY COMMUNIST WORKERS, SOLDIERS AND SAILORS WILL TAKE DOWN ALL IMPERIALISTS

LOS ANGELES (USA), April 18— “I was ready when a comrade asked me about Trump’s charge that the World Health Organization (WHO) was too pro-Chinese,” reported a comrade. “I had already looked up a little about Tedros Adhomom Ghebreyesus, the head of WHO. I’d seen the right-wing websites accusing Tedros of being a communist.”

As a young college graduate in Ethiopia, Tedros worked for the Derg as a public health expert. The Derg was the Russian-client junta that took power in 1974. When it was overthrown in 1987, Tedros went to London for graduate school. In 2001, back in Ethiopia, he headed the Tigray Regional Health Bureau. He held government offices in the Tigray-led Ethiopian national government until becoming WHO Director-General in 2017.

Tedros is no communist, but of course he’s pro-Chinese. Tedros is a smart, efficient scientist-turned-bureaucrat who knows how to look out for the main chance. But it’s not just him.

WHO and other UN agencies know that China is the ascending imperialist power and that the US is on the decline. That was true before Covid-19 and it’s even more true now.

Empires rise and fall in a process of sharp struggle. Look at Ethiopia, the second-most populous African country. Last year, China supplied 60% of its billions of foreign capital. Chinese imperialists profit hugely from these investments. They gain strategically from large infrastructure projects.

Ethiopia’s capitalist rulers have enriched themselves, but they are now deeply in debt to China. Ethiopia’s workers, who create all the wealth, pay the price. The government-established base wage for garment workers, for example, is the equivalent of \$26/month.

That’s less than a tenth of what garment workers make in China.

But in December, the Ethiopian rulers successfully sought \$9 billion from Western donors, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. This sharpened the contradiction between Chinese and western imperialism. Meanwhile, the World Bank still lends money to China. We can see here the unity and struggle of opposites.

US Rulers in Disarray

US pundits have commented on the “failure of US leadership” in this crisis, with Trump pushing xenophobia while China is sending personal protective equipment around the globe.

But the global “leadership” which the US projected during the Cold War was always based on military power and an economy prospering from imperialist expansion. The US economy will never be that strong again. And Covid-19 has changed the dynamics of military power quickly and dramatically.

The USS Teddy Roosevelt, the US’s main nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in the Pacific, will be dry-docked in Guam and out of commission for two years. Sailors are sick with the virus on three other Pacific-based carriers.

Meanwhile, China claims that its submarine fleet is Covid-free. It’s taking advantage of “an unprecedented security vacuum caused by the Covid-19 pandemic” (Asia Times) with actions to strengthen its claims in the South China Sea.

Contradictions Sharpen

The Covid-19 pandemic exposes the “unity and struggle of opposites” in the US-China contradiction. Coronavirus spread so fast because the world and its supply chains are so deeply interconnected.

“National security and public health experts fear that the two world powers are heading into a new Cold War

that could seriously undermine joint efforts to quash the virus and salvage the global economy” (New York Times, March 22, 2020). Two imperialist analysts, writing in Foreign Affairs (April 15), argue for cooperating with China now and preparing to confront it later. They oppose the hardline anti-China faction that dominates the Trump administration.

But no policy can prevent the US-China contradiction from sharpening. Both sides are preparing for when the “new Cold War” becomes a hot one.

Sailors, Soldiers, Industrial Workers: Key to Communist Revolution

“I spoke with a former co-worker from a garment factory,” reported our comrade. “Like a lot of working-class white guys, he was in the US Navy during the Vietnam War. We started talking about the Covid-19 outbreak on the Teddy Roosevelt.

““Those rich jerks don’t care about the enlisted guy,” said my friend. ‘They don’t send their kids to war! This whole system sucks! I haven’t been reading your paper but send me this one. I’ll read it. Something has got to change.’”

The Chinese military finds that soldiers and sailors garrisoned on its South China Sea artificial islands are experiencing “physical and mental strain.” Its new “mental health stations” are meant to “boost morale.” We don’t think that will keep those young workers in uniform from coming to the same conclusion as our comrade’s friend.

Workers, students, soldiers and sailors, faced with a global pandemic and imperialist war, will agree that something must change. We hope that many will join the fight for communism. When they do, the days of US, Chinese and all imperialism will be ended.



March 22-Millions of masks, gowns and other medical supplies arrive in Ethiopia, donated by Chinese billionaire Jack Ma



Garment workers in a Chinese-owned factory in Ethiopia

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Mexican Soldier:
“Those with Capital Make Sales While Workers Despair”

The following reflection is shared by a friend of the Party, with whom I have had sharp discussions. Days ago, he said that a communist society was not possible. However, he continues reading Red Flag. We continue to have discussions, and I have asked him to share our literature with other members of his unit. I have told him how valuable soldiers are in building a communist society. For now, he is one those who has remained closest to the Party.

I am a member of the army, and I had the flu. In the place where I work there were ten cases

of soldiers with possible symptoms of coronavirus. In their psychosis they said that I was infected with the virus. In my case, after three days they discharged me and told me that I was fit to work. For me it was illogical, that’s my question.

Many questions remain unanswered, but one is clear. Those with businesses or capital are the ones who are making massive sales, while the workers sink into despair.

I have read information on the social networks, and I have listened to hundreds of people. My opinion is that the López Obrador government does not know how to fight the virus that is now collapsing the country. Some

workers continue to work from their homes, and others are fired. Others were “laid off if they enjoy a wage.”

I have many questions and worries. There are many things that are not clear. How do you determine who has the virus and who doesn’t? And what if you have it, how did you catch it if you never left your State, and even more when you have been in the barracks?

—A Soldier in the Mexican Army

Red Flag responds: Soldiers, we need you. You, like the rest of the people from our class, will be sacrificed to maintain the bosses and their capitalist profit system. Join our struggle for Communism. Join ICWP.