

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

INDIA



PLANNING AND PERSISTENCE: BUILDING ICWP IN THE FACTORIES

EL SALVADOR—“I have read *Red Flag* with my partner,” said a friend with eight years of experience working in the factory. “It has served as a model for us, because little by little we have understood that to be a communist is to leave sexism aside, for me not to feel superior to her. We are enthusiastic about reading the newspaper.”

Then he added, “On the other hand I have a friend and co-worker from the factory who I will talk to about the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP). He is reliable, and I think that he will be one more in the struggle for communism.”

Recently, the members of the factory workers’ leadership cell met with comrades and readers of *Red Flag* to talk about how we can recruit more members to the Party and change this rotten capitalist system for a better world, the communist world.

In one meeting a comrade and a reader from another factory told us, “We are upset because the bosses immediately opened the factory. They have imposed schedules on us from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. That takes up a lot of our time, but even so they don’t stop us in our battle to defeat them.

“We have done the impossible to meet with you and share news about the capitalist situation and our anger. We want to continue to spread the *Red Flag* and we will continue doing that, so that the masses of workers inside the factories join the Party.

“We must continue fighting and seeking change. The ICWP through *Red Flag* has taught us to believe that in the future we will work in a just way. We will produce what we need. There will be no more bosses who take advantage of our labor power to produce their commodities and

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India:

RED FLAGS OF COMMUNISM WILL DEFEAT CAPITALISTS’ DEADLY “GREEN REVOLUTION”

DELHI, INDIA, December 15— “I am a son of a poor farmer, I am here to support them,” said Shyam, raising his fist defiantly. He was among over 1.2 million farmers and their supporters who are camping outside the capital.

Fascist Prime Minister Modi and Indian capitalists are pushing a “Made in India” campaign to convert vast farmlands, currently supporting 600 million people, into large agribusinesses. The farmers are pushing back. They have overcome roadblocks, frigid weather and live ammunition. They are prepared to stay for six months. On November 26, 250 million workers went on strike to support the farmers. Comrades participated with co-workers and have massively distributed *Red Flag*.

Shyam has lived in Delhi since age 17. He could no longer live on the small plot (less than

1 acre) that his father shared with five of his brothers.

ICWP members distributing a leaflet about communism spoke with Shyam. “Your father and over 170 million others are on the verge of crushing poverty,” they reminded him. “They pay for water, electricity, fertilizer, pesticides, cattle. And the little they earn is largely taken by middlemen who buy and sell to the markets.

“Instead of your father working alone,” comrades continued, “imagine 170 million farmers, with millions more workers, producing everything, not for profit, but for the masses’ needs. We would abolish banks and money.

“Without money, we will produce healthy food instead of the pesticide-soaked fields of Punjab and elsewhere. We will produce houses, health care, everything without police, unemployment,

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To Meet Everyone's Housing Needs:

COMMUNISM WILL ABOLISH PRIVATE PROPERTY

LOS ANGELES (USA), December 11 – “We expect a tsunami of evictions to arrive in January and February,” warned a housing activist. “There are no legal social safety nets.”

Some say “there will never be a communist revolution in the US because people are too comfortable.” The current housing crisis – and long lines for free groceries—should make them think again.

Before Covid-19, over 66,000 people in Los Angeles County were unhoused—13% more than 2019. Black people are 8% of the LA population but 40% of those without homes.

“Everyone is equal but not in capitalism,” commented a friend.

Now some 600,000 people in LA, and possibly 12 million households nationwide, face eviction. Children and older adults are especially at risk.

Most working-class people have social networks that can help them through a crisis. But now the staggering numbers of potentially homeless people make a qualitative difference. Friends and relatives who might have helped financially or with temporary shelter may face unemployment or eviction themselves.

Reforms can't solve this profound and deepening crisis.

In 2017, LA voters approved a ten-year investment in reducing homelessness. Since then, annual housing placements have doubled. Most remain in their new homes. Responding to Covid-19, LA County housed another six thousand people in hotels, shelters and trailers. Yet the number of unhoused people continues to rise.

Now housing reformers are considering projects like Community Land Trusts and Social Housing where governments or non-profit corporations buy land and build affordable housing. They think about housing as part of community-building. They are seeking a solution that only communism can provide.

The root of the problem is capitalist private property.

“All land title in the Americas is based on land theft from indigenous societies who had no concept of private ownership of land,” another friend posted in a Zoom “chat” during a meeting about the housing crisis.

“Destroy all titles and mortgages,” responded a comrade. “People can stay where they are, if they have an appropriate place to live. Survey and list vacant properties and reallocate them based on need. Then start looking at underutilized housing. Yes, that would take a social revolution.”

It would require ending all private ownership of the means of production, not just land and housing.

Big corporate landlords own most California rental units. But most landlords are not corporations. Many are workers whose rental units are their retirement plan. They, like many homeowners, are at risk of foreclosure. After the 2008 housing crisis, one corporation alone (Blackstone) bought 50 thousand houses. Capitalism inevitably moves toward ever-greater concentra-



tion of wealth.

Capitalist State Power Guarantees Property Ownership

An emergency order from the US Centers for Disease Control officially halted most evictions from July through December. It's been extended through January, but once it expires, all back rent will be due.

Meanwhile, the number of illegal evictions is skyrocketing. Landlords lock tenants out, cut utilities, threaten violence—and police let them. If landlords bother to post eviction notices, tenants have only five days to file complicated paperwork to appeal. Those who go to small-claims court without a lawyer always lose.

Many see direct-action groups like the Los Angeles Tenants Union as the best short-term hope.

But they are fighting the capitalist state, not just landlords. “Ownership” means that capitalist governments use official organized violence to support the “owner’s” ability to deny others the use of “their property.”

“Decisions about the wealth society produces are made by people far from the lives of those in need,” said another Chat participant. “They direct human and material resources into uses far from the necessities of life. Those far from the resource allocation decision-making cannot satisfy their needs under the present distribution.”

Communist Workers' Power Will Guarantee Production for Need

Only communism can organize the masses to make the decisions about how to allocate resources to meet our needs.

The comrade in the online meeting was invited to give a closing reflection.

“For most of human history there was no private property,” she said. “This should be our vision for the future. Private property is a power relationship,” she continued. She mentioned the LA cops who broke into homes with a battering ram on Thanksgiving morning to evict people living there “illegally.” Those homes were actually owned by a government agency – still an example of capitalist power.

HOUSING FOR THE MASSES: A GLOBAL CAPITALIST CRISIS

An estimated 150 million members of our international working-class family – including 100 million children — have no roof over their head each night. Two billion more make do with criminally inadequate shelter.

Some subsist in the impoverished and storm-ravaged countryside of Honduras and Nicaragua. More struggle to survive in the sprawling slums and townships of India, Brazil, South Africa and the Philippines. Many are trapped in refugee camps in Greece, Jordan, Kenya, Chad, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

And all the while, tens of millions of homes are vacant in the US and Europe alone. Exclusive real estate agencies list hundreds of thousands of luxury homes for sale every day. Many of the workers who built those homes, who clean and maintain them, live in squalor.

Shelter is one of the most basic of all human needs. In capitalism, we get only what we can pay for. In communism, we will produce and share what we need. What we need to build right now is the International Communist Workers' Party that can lead the masses to win a world in which everyone is truly at home everywhere.

“Imagine a government that would use its power to guarantee meeting human needs,” the comrade urged. “That would eliminate all records of ‘ownership’ and ‘debt.’ That would allocate available housing and reimagine ways to build new housing that would change the ways we live.

“Instead of individual households fending for themselves, we would collectively take responsibility for all. No markets, no money – instead, cooperation and sharing. This demands revolutionary vision and practice. If not now, when?”

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REPORT FROM INDIA: GARMENT WORKERS SPREAD COMMUNISM

December 6—In the garment work we have six active members who are distributing *Red Flag* to the masses. We know all of them at some level, but our main task is distributing *Red Flag*. We do engage with people during the distribution and that is how we gauge who to invite and struggle with in our cells and study groups.

The six comrades distribute *Red Flag* to the close coworkers who work exclusively in the garment industry. However, many of them, including our comrades, are laid off. They see them in their homes on a regular basis. Many of our friends and neighbors distribute *Red Flag* occasionally.

We had a huge success when we put out our literature in the language Kannada. We estimate that most of the papers were very quickly gone. Mostly, our close friends each distributed anywhere between 5 to 100 copies. This was our best work because out of this work we have a group of 8-10 new workers coming to meetings. The *Red Flag* gives confidence to the party that our small party is the future.

Many people initially think of us as Communist Party of India -CPI- or Communist Party of India (Marxist) - CPM. And they are unwilling to accept us. But we explain to them about our goal as immediate communism.

Some of our friends think it is impossible be-

cause small reforms will better equip the workers who are living in a misery. Similarly, we have many in the trade union who want very militant reforms.

For example, many people get injured on the job when they work on sewing machines. Their fingers get caught and they bleed heavily. The union has a demand that any injured worker will be sent to a clinic. There was no such thing before that. Many such examples give an idea that reforms are better than the workers being at the mercy of the bosses.

Sexual harassment of women is very common. Many women are young and have children. It is horrific to see them abused because they think being abused is a bitter pill they have to swallow to raise their children.

In one incident, a comrade was badly abused



India, December 15—Women farmers join the protests

and raised her voice in front of the manager. Her reaction was completely unexpected. The bosses are not used to hearing such thing. But among other women, they were in support of her. This changed the morale in the shop. A similar thing would be impossible in the trade union. They would form useless committees, lawyers and in the end very little. This support eventually led some of the women workers to be supporters of *Red Flag*.

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their profits. We are ready to fight to continue to meet in the cells and participate in May Day and any other activity that is organized,” said these comrades.

“Do you remember how I used to follow Maria even to the dining room, at lunchtime?” asked a party leader in the maquilas. “It was hard for me to talk to her,” she continued, “but we shouldn’t give up so easily. We have to find a way to talk to our co-workers in the factories.”

Time got away from us, and then it was late and we had to leave. Each participant took two more newspapers to share and thus to enlarge the ICWP. Part of the plan of work is to invite workers from different factories every week to somewhere we can discuss the best ways to organize. This is a struggle to convert those *Red Flag* readers into new communist organizers.

Finally, we want to thank the internationalist comrades of ICWP, who are always in solidarity with the workers’ participation in these factories

in El Salvador. This shows in theory and practice what it means to be members of the ICWP.

Dozens of Party members will receive the *Red Flag* newspaper accompanied by a communist solidarity envelope and toys for their children.

Thank you very much, comrades, for this demonstration of solidarity. Let’s all continue to fight to change this system of misery and to establish the system of our working class, communism, worldwide.



May Day El Salvador 2015



LOS ANGELES (US), December 6—A car caravan through south LA demanded that newly elected DA Gascon immediately bring murder charges against the racist cops who killed Fred Williams, Dijon Kisse, AJ Weber, Andres Guardado, and many others.

In the parking lot as people put signs on their cars, many gladly took *Red Flag*.

Black Lives Matter had organized a campaign to get rid of the LA DA Jackie Lacey, who refused to prosecute cops for their relentless racist murders of Black and Latinx youth.

Reform candidate George Gascon was elected instead of Lacey. While Gascon was DA in San Francisco for 8 years, he never prosecuted any on duty police for murder! He claims he was hemmed in by state law.

Capitalism needs racist terror to try to prevent the unity of all workers against the racist system of wage slavery. The courts, the DA’s, and the police represent the capitalist state that keeps the masses exploited.

To end racist police murders we need a communist revolution to destroy the capitalist state, their courts and jails. Masses need communism. There won’t be police. The masses will produce everything to meet the needs of everyone—and guarantee security. Read and distribute *Red Flag* and join ICWP to help win

US INDUSTRIAL WORKERS INSPIRED BY COMMUNIST WORK IN INDIA

PUGET SOUND (US), December 6— “And that’s how it begins,” said a comrade’s neighbor. He had just read a report from a small collective of Indian garment workers describing how they used *Red Flag* to help recruit new members and supporters.

The neighbors knew about the massive Indian protests and strikes from the ICWP leaflet the comrade gave them. They downloaded it and sent it to their friends, who now want to know more.

The comrade had attended a 1000-car caravan supporting the India farmers. He described how participants had welcomed our leaflets and *Red Flag*. Whole families read and passed them around while waiting for an hour to get out of the parking lot. Party members had numerous discussions about the potential for communism.

The huge protests and the caravan were inspiring, but the neighbor was most interested in the garment workers’ nitty-gritty communist work. Workers like these—here and around the world—are whom he wants to talk to.

Then a retired Boeing worker contacted us. He had supported the party when he worked in the factory: from distributing and defending the paper to fighting scabs on the picket lines.

“I am frustrated by our political situation but have no idea what to do. Give me a call when you have the time,” he requested. We forwarded the leaflet and *Red Flag* with an invitation to pass them on. Almost immediately, the retiree returned a thumbs-up.

Over the last six months, our Party collective has received similar requests from former co-workers. Some had joined our collectives years ago. Most importantly, these supporters have now reached out to their friends. Our friends’ friends have made valuable contributions to *Red Flag*. They have written about their battles and their visions of a communist future. We’re a far cry from revolution, but these developments are significant.

Our distribution network has lit up! Our party collective has distributed about 60 leaflets and *Red Flags* through our network, mostly over the internet. At least 100 more have read our literature.

A current Boeing worker was impressed that the Indian struggle “could generate so much involvement from Puget Sound folks.” Another friend who was raised in South Africa has Indian friends in the U.S who also migrated from there. He and other Boeing workers have promised to get back to us after they and their friends think about the leaflet and the report. Our job now is to make phone calls, reply to those texts and DMs and organize family and party Zoom meetings.

There have been many conversations about how communism will eliminate markets and the wage system. We’ve talked and written about communist food production in the Chinese com-



Seattle, US—Muslims participate in caravan supporting farmers in India

munes of the 1950s (see page 6).

Many conversations have zeroed in on whether or not reforms can lead to revolution. Massive battles to reform capitalism are exciting and they come out of real suffering. Nonetheless, they will never lead to more communists and communist revolution.

From India to Seattle, our job is to develop more communist organizers and grow the ICWP. We have to focus on the essential communist work in the factories, schools, communities, churches, armed forces, etc. The collectives and *Red Flag* networks we build in these places are key to developing a force that can lead to revolution.

“That’s where it all begins.”

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gangs or profits for the bosses. This is communist society. We need to organize for communist revolution.”

ICWP comrades are vigorously organizing to bring masses the vision and message of communism. We are impressed by the hundreds of thousands of protesting farmers, the miles and miles of people and their tractors. They have brought their food supply. Every day they organize thousands of Langars: community kitchens where food is cooked and distributed free to everybody. They have set up free pharmacies and refuse to call them “shops.” This is what communist life looks like.

Not far away, some older Sikhs were telling stories of their sons in the army. “Our entire Sikh regiments of tens of thousands are made up of people like my son,” said one. “They told us that they are not going to shoot us.” Millions of young soldiers from farmer and worker families, when inspired by communism, will be a potent force for revolution.

Capitalism’s “Green Revolution” Was a Disaster for the Masses

Fascist Modi declared that “Farmers are misguided. They cannot cling to the past. We have to free land, labor and law.” He and the Indian capitalists dream of a \$5 trillion economy by 2024.

In reality, Modi’s “free land” means land transformed to agribusiness. His “free labor” means forcing workers into contract labor and squeezing

their last drop of blood. His “free law” means allowing judges to implement fascist laws against Dalits, Muslims and eventually all workers.

Nothing stays the same. Today’s small farmers will become tomorrow’s hungry workers or soldiers. Their only way forward is to join with communist industrial workers and fight for a new kind of society, not just to change one capitalist ruler for another.

In the late 60’s and early 70’s India was repeatedly rocked by rural rebellions. This was partly a response to the “Green Revolution” that industrialized much of the countryside.

In Mexico in 1963-64, the Rockefeller Foundation’s Norman Borlaug introduced new varieties of crops, dependent on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Small farmers couldn’t compete with agribusiness, especially during NAFTA. This quickly spread to India and elsewhere.

It produced bumper crops but left millions of peasants landless and jobless. Those still working the land were massively exposed to cancer-causing chemicals. Capitalist agriculture produced food that, for generations, led to obesity, diabetes, and fast-foods that deplete the body’s nutrients.

India is now experiencing a new epoch of the green revolution, combined with the market concentration of globalized supermarket chains (helped by e-commerce and social media).

India’s main crops (including rice, wheat, soya, and maize) are almost



Muslims providing “Langar” (free food) to striking Indian farmers, mostly Sikhs, who have also been providing Langar for themselves and their supporters.

exclusively produced by GMO and biotech interventions. Crops are exposed to pandemic failures and consumers to cancers, respiratory diseases, cardiovascular catastrophes.

The “Green Revolution” is drenched in the masses’ red blood. It is a form of what Marx called “primitive accumulation of capitalism” – forcing yeoman farmers off their land and into the working class for the sake of super-profits.

In communism, food production and distribution will be carried out not by private farmers but by everyone collectively. This will end capitalist profit and, with it, the unhealthy food that kills the masses and the pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, and insurance that are integral parts of the capitalist food chain.

Party members and friends in India, mainly industrial workers and youth, are giving leadership to the broader masses by distributing communist literature and contributing to our understanding of the communist society we fight for. The current strike wave in Bengaluru of Toyota workers, bus drivers, and iPhone assemblers, as well as the millions of farmers and their supporters in Delhi are creating huge opportunities for us to do that everywhere.



Biden's COVID Coordinator Is a Shill for Equity Billionaires:

NEED COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP FOR WORKERS' HEALTH

USA, December 8—U.S. President-elect Biden named his transition team co-chair, Jeffrey Zients, as Coronavirus Czar and a special presidential counselor. Zients' real job is ensuring that U.S. capitalists rake in billions. That means millions more patients and healthcare workers will die worldwide. Communist revolution is the only alternative to the relentless capitalist forces that reap such profitable devastation.

A decade ago, Zients helped roll out the Affordable Care Act (ACA) a.k.a. Obamacare. From the start, the ACA was designed to turn the healthcare industry into a pot of gold for private-equity billionaires. "Billions could flow from Washington to Wall Street," said the New York Times

And flow they did! The Harvard Business Review (October 2019) lauded the significant growth of private investment in "everything from health technology startups to addiction treatment facilities to physician practices." A similar development is now occurring in the Medicare system. Globally, this is the trend.

Biden's COVID Czar Serves His Private Equity Buddies

Zients is on leave from the private-equity global holding company Cranemere, where he was the CEO. Cranemere's Chair, Vincent Mai, makes investments on behalf of the Rockefeller, Harriman and Mellon ruling class families. He served the U.S. ruling class as a former director of the Council of Foreign Relations (CFR), the prime think tank of U.S. imperialism. Zients is also a CFR member.

Following the pattern set in manufacturing, Cranemere has consolidated medical subcontractors into huge conglomerates. A healthcare comrade correctly complained that even non-profit hospitals were run like any other capitalist business. Many of the extravagant costs of healthcare are dictated by these medical subcontractors.

Capitalism Kills Healthcare Workers, Patients

The results for healthcare workers and patients have been dreadful. For example, Cranemere took a majority stake in NorthStar Anesthesia as part of its "healthcare services acquisition strategy." NorthStar provides hospitals across the US with over 2,000 anesthesia personnel.

A comrade described how secret negotiations between NorthStar and their hospital caused them and their co-workers to be on-call almost 24/7. Many surgical aides were forced to stay in the hospital while on call. Many worry that this exhausting grind will end in tragic, possibly deadly, mistakes.

When our comrade first reviewed the corporate leadership they worked under, their immediate reaction was, "That's above my pay grade." They didn't see the importance of understanding how big bosses organized healthcare.

We should have no illusions about the enemy. The fight is against the capitalist system, not just our local bosses.

When capitalism goes into crisis, workers cannot escape the repercussions. Racist, sexist, and xenophobic attacks are the first and the most brutal. As the crisis intensifies, individual attempts

to escape the devastation become far less likely to succeed. Even mass revolts, as encouraging as they are, cannot offer relief.

Communist revolution is the only alternative.

Workers, not billionaire butchers like Zients, will lead communist health care. Patient care and the science that supports health will truly flourish, freed from the chains of corporate profits.

In communism, masses will be mobilized to work for the common good, not for pay. Nobody and nothing will be "above the pay grade" of the workers.

Science will belong to the masses, not to a limited number of MDs or private equity firms or drug companies or other organizations dominated by capitalists.

Health care facilities will be fully staffed to meet patients' needs without overworking anyone. Even in pandemics, there won't be staffing shortages. Communist organization will train people quickly to do the necessary work or to free up others to do it.

During the Chinese Cultural Revolution, many hospitals struggled to eliminate hierarchies. Dr. Joshua Horn reported "free discussion about problems of diagnosis and treatment among doctors, nurses, patients and cleaning staff." The masses can do even better in the future.

Our party will organize the masses to lead in every aspect of making sure our worldwide working class is healthy. Join us today. Our very lives depend on it!

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

Mobilize Masses for Communism to End Capitalism's Racist Violence

Greetings to all the ICWP comrades,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on gang violence happening in my neighborhood. It is a result of capitalism. In my area some coloureds [mixed-"race" people] are killing blacks. In other areas it varies. This is racial war. Racism is the most powerful tool of capitalism, which is designed against the working class. If ICWP was in power we know that racism would not exist at all.

I feel bad about this. This is really hurting me. I don't know what we can do except mobilize the masses for communism. A member of ICWP was also shot dead. It's been going on now for a long time. There's plenty of weapons in my hood, and shootings.

This is the work of the capitalism because capitalism is designed against the working class. This is no coincidence. That is why capitalism needs to be eliminated.

People are dying. That is why I feel so sad and why I feel there is a need for us to strongly push ICWP's mission very very hard. The only organisation that can stop this is one that fights to eliminate the whole system that has power now, which is capitalism.

In communist society and government there will not be racism. There won't be guns. There won't be wars. There won't be hunger. ICWP is the only organisation that can stop this violence. No other political party can stop this violence. They can say they will stop it but it's a lie. Just like the coronavirus is the work of capitalism. Everything that is bad that is happening to our society, that is killing our society, that is against our working-class, is a tool of capitalism.

The system is based in promoting capitalism and maximizing their profits. Capitalism doesn't care about peoples' lives. They only care about money. We are losing our brothers and sisters. Close friends are dying in my hood. In just one month there have been five killings. I also heard that the friend of the person who was shot has also been killed as well. It's not only his friend. Killings are escalating.

This is very much hurting comrades. This war must end. We must mobilize masses for communism harder than before, stronger than before.

—A Comrade in South Africa

End Racism and Gang Violence by Fighting for a Communist World

Dear comrades in South Africa,

I am sending my deepest condolences to the family of our fallen comrade Zipho who died in the crossfire of gang violence, his father who has also passed, and the other comrade who died of his wounds as well.

I am all too familiar with gang violence in working-class neighborhoods. Anywhere capitalism exists, anti-social behavior amongst our working-class brothers and sisters is possible.

Here in Los Angeles, for years Black and Latinx youths have been fooled to believe that we are in competition for resources and jobs in our community. This has caused so much bloodshed due to the formation of gangs. These gangs originally were created to protect their own people who were being attacked by white gangs, back in the 1950s and early 60s. That's changed, decades later, where street gangs here commit violent acts against their own working-class brothers and sisters.

It is even more of a shame that ICWP and

the working class has lost a comrade active in the struggle to end this evil system which creates the opportunity for racism and gang violence.

Now, more than ever, we have to remain strong in the fight for one united working class where the color of your skin does not matter and where our youths always feel a part of the community. We can't waver in the fight to destroy capitalism and all of the horrors it has bred. We must fight on to destroy the system that thrives on individualism and poisons youths to believe that gangs and being an outsider is more appealing than being a part of a collective which helps provide for all.

In a communist society, racism and gang violence will be obsolete because there will be no competition for neighborhoods which are thought to be owned by the people living there, but are actually comprised of homes owned by the banks. We will all work to produce what the collective needs rather depending on profits to get them.

This is the world our fallen comrade was fighting for, a communist world, and this is the world that we must win to save lives. We salute our fallen comrades and fight on as the best way to honor their memory and fighting spirit. We will not let Zipho's work be in vain. The workers united will never be defeated!

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)



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Chinese Communes and the Communist Future

Our collective is finding that people are interested in discussing a communist future more than ever. We thought it might be useful to provide some information about collectivization and communes in China after the revolution, especially in light of the huge Indian protests. There, the Indian ruling class wants to convert vast agricultural land that supports 600 million people into large, corporate-owned farms. This is the opposite of what happened when the Chinese built the communes.

Collectivization of agricultural production in China began soon after the revolution, in the early 50's. The first stage comprised mutual aid teams. Farmers pooled their land, livestock and equipment. Next were teams called cooperatives, which also shared heavy equipment. This process proceeded to the emergence of people's communes, each of which might involve tens of thousands of people. Rural unemployment disappeared.

Leftists in China pushed a program of removing commune services from the market.

For example, because kitchens and dining were communal, food was not reliant on the market. Childcare was no longer a commodity because of communal nurseries and daycares. Some communes were more advanced than others, but most provided housing, transportation, healthcare and lighting in addition to food and childcare. They were able to become flexible. For example, it was possible for families to cook privately for special occasions.

Many people worried that collectivization would undermine family life, but the opposite happened. Families were no longer torn apart by financial worries or child care disputes. They were no longer an economic unit that people were trapped in order to survive. Relationships became better when people did not feel trapped in them.

Communes had an especially liberating effect for women. Freed from domestic slavery, they could take part fully in productive labor. Women participated as fully as men in the political life of the commune, giving leadership in

every aspect.

People's communes were the closest humanity has come to communism in modern times. They lasted nearly 20 years and were dismantled not because they failed on their own terms, but because the society they were embedded in never moved fully to communism.

The defeat of the Cultural Revolution solidified the Communist Party of China as a new capitalist ruling class. Its 1984 "Second Land Reform" dismantled collective farms and paved the way for large-scale agribusiness.

This is a mistake the ICWP will not make.

It can be hard to imagine the possibilities of life in communism; it means thinking about society and how we live together in whole new ways. We ask you to join us in imagining and fighting for life without the constraints of money, borders, and bosses; without the horrors of racism, sexism and xenophobia. This is the communist future.

-a comrade

Organizing Soldiers for Communism

Omar is a young man who joined the United States Army. He was born in the United States but his parents are Latin American immigrants. Omar participated in Party activities before entering the army. I met with him and his girlfriend. She was visiting her family and his hometown for a few days.

We talk over breakfast. "Different governments of different countries, like this one, have their own armies. And their armies are made up of people like you and me, people of the working class. They have their wars and they mobilize us to go into battle against other people like you and me in other places," I told them.

"Yes, it is like that," Omar replied. "I entered the army with the intention of having a better life in the future, of having more opportunities like most of those who enter." His gaze had a certain glow. I understood that he had his whole life ahead of him and could commit himself to the struggle for the liberation of the poor.

"From the beginning of class society, those below, the oppressed, have always struggled to free themselves from their exploitation," I told Omar and Emily. "In this process there have been three different revolutions that have marked the way forward: The Paris Commune, the Russian Revolution and the Chinese Revolution. These revolutions have taught us many lessons on how to ultimately be victorious in establishing communism. Especially the role of industrial workers and soldiers as well as the complete elimination of money."

"I think you can have conversations with some inside where you are," Emily added. "But first you will have to make good friends and build trusting relationships with each other."

"Yes," Omar replied. "And by having those relationships I could share these pamphlets with them." He had four pamphlets about the Party's military work that I had brought him.

This conversation shows the potential that the Party has, generally and in particular, to mobilize soldiers for communism. In all areas we can continue this indispensable work, or start it if we haven't already. We have a communist world to win.

Comrade in Los Angeles, USA

Respond to COVID-19 Deaths, Suffering and Fear by Building Party for World Communist Revolution

I am an education worker in the United States. In this period, I work from home three days a week and I am supposed to work in the building two days a week. Two and a half weeks ago, Coronavirus entered into the building. We didn't find out about it until a few days later.

We worked at home for two weeks, and now management has ordered us back in the building. Yes, everyone at work wears a mask and that kind of thing, but it certainly made me do some hard thinking.

As coronavirus spreads around the world, the working class and the poor continue their struggles to survive. The pandemic has killed over 1.56 million people. US capitalists have gotten financial bailouts such as the CARES Act, while people on unemployment have had their benefits cut back.

The inability to humanely distribute COVID-19 vaccines to nations such as India, Brazil and South Africa is a crime against humanity.

People are struggling over what to do. Small and large businesses laid off millions internationally. Logistical companies such as Amazon and gig economy start-ups such as Instacart, have gobbled up thousands of workers as new employees. These people have become meat for destruction in the shredder of overtime work, COVID-19 ravaged warehouses, and strains on individuals' work, health and finances.

Amazon admits that its workforce has been impacted by COVID, infecting upwards of 20,000 workers. Jeff Bezos, Amazon's boss, is now "worth" \$184.4 billion. More people are daring to stand up against the capitalists during this crisis, although many are routinely fired or face harassment.

Other workers and small business owners are being sucked into the anti-lockdown and anti-vaccine movements, which are closely aligned with Donald Trump and the extra-legal paramilitaries such as the Proud Boys, Three Percenters, and other fascist elements.

These two tendencies amongst workers constitute conflicting paths for struggle in the current period. The fight for organizing the masses for communism is a great need of today and must be victorious if humanity is to survive and move forward.

We must fight against the deaths, suffering, and fear created by the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic and political and social crisis it triggered. To build a party of world revolution which will overturn the capitalist and imperialist system and create the beginnings of an international communist system is an honorable and worthwhile goal for this period.

The world's workers and poor have been mortally wounded. These wounds lay the ground for an International Communist Workers' Party to build international centers for world communist revolution.

—Red Teacher



December 12—Every weekend for three weeks, thousands have taken to the streets of Paris and other French cities to protest against a proposed security law that would make it illegal to share videos of the police. This is in the wake of the November beating of Black music producer Michael Zecler by four Paris cops. Protestors are also denouncing a draft law targeting open expression of Islam. Signs: "I will never stop filming," "I don't want my future taxes to pay for police violence," and "Revolution on the march, fight the cowards!"

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Fight for a World that Values All People

The pandemic has exacerbated every problem we face. It has forced us to confront the many systemic problems rife within our institutions and also to reckon with ourselves individually.

My reckoning centers around finding meaning in my work. For most of my adult life, I thought my greatest desire was to become a successful TV writer and comedian. I can't help but see my old career goals as ultimately selfish. That is normal and encouraged in American culture, but I have experienced a political and cultural awakening. I now see and understand the crumbling of American society all around us and the role all of us have to play in creating a better world.

I started to see new possibilities in 2018, when I first heard Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez speak fearlessly of unconditional love for humanity. Her belief in the good of our neighbors made me finally feel less alone in secretly harboring those feelings as well. She made me feel that I was allowed to believe things could be better and speak that belief fearlessly into the world. I didn't have to quietly accept the status quo. I was allowed to be different.

I felt called to pursue this new vision of the world, even though I was raised around the Los Angeles entertainment industry, where social and political work wasn't on the radar. But AOC showed me that working to empower my community was something anyone can do. All that is required is a belief in the intrinsic value of all people and the desire to fight for a world and society that reflects that truth.

After June 2018, I started following the progressive movement with a passion I'd always felt was missing from my work in the entertainment industry. At first, I just dipped my toes in and worked for the Bernie Sanders campaign. When lockdown hit in March 2020, I lost my job and the ability to perform stand up entirely. Then Sanders withdrew from the race, and I felt lost at sea.

But leaning into my community work brought me a new, more powerful sense of purpose. I volunteered for a local congressional campaign, joined my Neighborhood Council, and found a community at my local food bank.

Seeing myself as a part of a community, instead of trying to stand out and apart from my community, gave me a special sense of belonging and purpose I'd never known before. Being a member of my community is a role more meaningful and enduring than any job title.

I looked into Social Work and found a webinar in which a comrade social worker spoke about how capitalism makes people depressed. She realized that the bones of the system need to be changed. I reached out to her to learn more about how she saw things, and through her I learned about *Red Flag*.

—Writer Comrade

El Salvador: Introducing Communism to a Co-Worker

"Hey, what if there was a solution to this exploitative system of the bosses making us work more and more?" I asked a young co-worker.

"It would be good to know about that solution. What would it be like?" he replied.

Me: "I can send you a communist newspaper called *Red Flag* on the Internet, today when I



get home. There you will see many stories from workers all over the world.

Him: "I'll look forward to it. When you send it to me, I'll read it."

Hello Comrades. I want to tell you about the experience I had with a co-worker and how I have been introducing him to the party. This started because one day we had a meeting at work where they demanded that we be able to finish all our work and bring everything up to date in 15 days, although of those 15 days we were only going to work one day on and one day off. Two days later I again had a conversation with this young co-worker.

Me: "You received the *Red Flag* newspaper, did you read it?"

Him: "It's very interesting, since the workers in most of the countries from which they write, all struggle against exploitation. I read how the working class is exploited and that there are communists in the ICWP who are fighting for this to end and I would like to be one of them."

I told him about our meetings and he told me that yes, he was interested in being part of the group. But because of work it's hard for him, since he has two jobs. The crisis has left him badly off economically.

But on the days that we see each other we always talk about the Party. He told me that he will look for a way to make a space for us to meet so he can learn more about the party since he would like to be part of this struggle. Soon I will physically give him the new edition of *Red Flag*.

—Young Worker, Son of a worker.

Fight for a world without borders

"We're going along here with everything the hurricane left us," said a man with a backpack on his back and a two-year-old boy sitting on his neck. His partner accompanied him, pushing a child's stroller with plastic bags with clothes and water. They were among more than a thousand victims of hurricanes Eta and Iota who walked for more than 24 hours on an attempt to migrate to the United States before being dispersed by the Honduran police.

Poverty, violence and the effects of the pandemic added to the hurricanes that affected more than four million Central Americans. Especially in Honduras and Nicaragua, the poorest countries in a poor region.

"As I tell my son: 'I don't have a home, I don't have food to give you.' The child only cries for milk. Let us pass!" the woman shouted to the police who blocked her passage. Her husband had lost his job on a banana farm.

The working class can't take it anymore. Many see migrating as their only hope. Capitalism forces the working class to make desperate

decisions when disasters strike. The pandemic and the economic crisis are the results of an economic system that does not work for workers. Capitalism is a system based on money for the bosses' pockets.

We must fight to change this corrupt system. We must not depend on the bosses to solve the problems they themselves cause. The bosses profit more from it, and indeed some are now richer than when the pandemic started. When crises happen, unemployment increases and jobs are scarce, causing the workers to fight each other for jobs with lower wages. We must fight for a system that works for the benefit of the workers, for a Communist system.

We, the working class, are the only ones who can solve our problems, organizing ourselves to fight against wage slavery. We are the only ones who can fight for a system without bosses, where food, housing and all the needs of the workers are met without any family lacking. And where we do not have to emigrate exposing our life and that of our family to dangers, chasing dreams that turn into capitalist nightmares.

In a society without classes, borders won't exist, nor will border guards who detain us nor police who block us from passing freely.

Let's organize cells of the International Communist Workers' Party. Let's build the Party by distributing, reading and organizing study circles with our *Red Flag* newspaper. Let's make the bosses tremble feeling that their end is near. Let us raise the red flag of the proletariat and destroy the capitalist profit system with an armed revolution.

—Comrade in Los Angeles, USA

An Athlete Whose Heart Was on the Workers' Side

"I went to the Vatican and saw the gold roof. And I said to myself how could anyone be such a son of a _____ as to live with a golden roof and then go to poor countries and kiss children with empty bellies. I stopped believing."

There is more to why Diego Maradona is idolized the world over than his incredible abilities with a football. The player who had a tattoo of Che on his arm and Fidel Castro on his leg continually blurted out statements that declared his heart was on the side of the workers of the world.

Again and again, the ruling classes dispatched intellectuals, sport figures and politicians to talk him out of his anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist statements, but Diego Maradona was in effect "taking the knee" generations before today's athletes. That is why the masses love and respect him so much.

Veterans of Armed Struggle in El Salvador Salute Comrades in India

OUR FIGHT TODAY: MOBILIZE MASSES FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM

EL SALVADOR, December 15—A veteran comrade farmworker spoke at a meeting of ICWP members and Red Flag readers in solidarity with the mass struggle of farmers and workers in India. They discussed the valuable lessons of the mass armed struggle in El Salvador from 1980 to 1992. The following is part of his speech:

To begin, I want to salute our brother and sister comrades in India. I think they are carrying out a very important struggle. We join in solidarity with them, if only morally.

The world today is evolving. And I think that in these struggles many things will be achieved that will lead us forward to an equitable life for everyone. I'm talking about communism.

We would like to share some things with our comrades in India. For example, how the organized movement here began to carry out a war, and the ideological mistakes that we made in El Salvador with the FMLN.

It did not come about "foolishly and blindly," as we say here. We were masses, a people who already had a high degree of organization. We had already prepared our organization many years earlier. Land was acquired in Honduras and we had safe houses in the biggest cities of the country, where our families would stay. Others, including some women and youths, also stayed to confront the political armed struggle.

When we began, we had members in international organizations that would collaborate with this movement: The Red Cross and other European and American organizations. We dedicated ourselves full time to fighting the enemy in different ways, with the struggle in the streets, and with the political struggle. We began the military-political struggle with five organizations, which worked in a united way. At least, in theory, there was a unity that became the Farabundo Martí

Front for National Liberation (FMLN).

Communist Organization and Understanding

Now we understand, as farmworker members of the International Communist Workers' Party, that the organization must be internationalist, with the Party collectively leading our individualist decisions that the capitalist system implants. And we understand that communism must be disseminated to the entire base.

How could we be successful in a war against an enemy nine times better armed, supported by two million dollars a day from the US government? According to the calculations of the capitalist enemy, they were going to destroy us in a few hours. But we had comrades that we sent into the army so that later they could teach us how to handle weapons and the tactics of war. We built a working class trained in arms. We organized in many ways. We had an administrative-logistical part, too. I think this part is the same as what you are doing, there in India.

Self-critically, our ideological foundation was very weak. The leadership of the Front did not believe in the capacity of the working class to understand what a communist system based on the collective would be like. They thought that only a group of intellectuals could understand this new way of life.

Some children of the petit bourgeoisie (small bosses) joined. Our parents began to help with money and animals. We chose some comrades as administrators who would distribute equitably what there was in the place where we were, so we could survive. There was enormous intelligence in those people.

We did this to such a degree that, during the years of the war, 1980-1992, we were always supplied with food in the guerilla camps. We had great help from the people that we sent to the refugee camps, (where our families were) in Honduras. There they produced vegetables, corn, cereals,

clothes, and shoes. These people learned to make almost everything. They even produced bread for their consumption and ours. In the 12 years of war, many young people never knew money. Everything was produced and consumed collectively. Today there are friends, *Red Flag* readers and active comrades who participate in ICWP who were there.

When most of the girls and boys who went to the refugee camps got older, they eagerly and enthusiastically told us, "I'm going to El Salvador, I'm going to fight there!" They came. We prepared them. They were trained and educated. They learned what a revolution was, although perhaps not communist, as the Party is doing it today worldwide.

In this way we grew and grew, reaching a point that our enemies feared us. They then knew that there was a group of rural and city workers who fought with everything; who spared no efforts at any time, and at no juncture, to achieve our advance. We achieved everything in the field of battle. And if they had valued how important teaching communist ideology is, as the ICWP does now, today would be another story.

The Present Moment

I admire you comrades, also those of you in India and other places where ICWP is developing. You are now in another moment. We fought in a moment in time. I believe that, in that, we will have to make the difference later. We all learn from the experiences of the world's working class, their mistakes and their great achievements.

Now you, in India. I believe that it is your turn to build a new moment, where you have to apply all your intelligence and communist development for this struggle.

Let's go forward! Our class will win! And we will win. And we will always win.

Venceremos!

