

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



**FOR A MASS
COMMUNIST MAY DAY,
SEE PAGE 2**



INDIA: ICWP GROWS BY MOBILIZING FOR COMMUNISM IN MASS STRUGGLE

PUNJAB (India), March 28 — Comrades have gathered in Punjab, 100 km from Delhi. They had participated in the farmers' rebellion for over four months. Now they are intensely discussing their next step. "We had over four million strong and determined farmers, farmworkers, and students. We had more than 250,000 tractors. Even people in the army came to support us."

So, what happened to the masses? While claiming that the struggle for reforms continues, the union leaders are letting the struggle die down without officially conceding defeat. Also, many farmers and farmworkers have returned home for the harvest season.

How do we move the masses forward to communism? This is the question confronting two dozen comrades of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) and their many friends.

One party member explained, "The leaders of

these mass movements wanted the government to withdraw those three laws. If the government withdrew these laws, it would still push millions of farmers to the brink of periodic disasters. Farmers' suicides, exorbitant loans, rising prices of fertilizers and pesticides would continue. Above all, everything that we produce would be controlled by Mandi [a village market for agricultural products]. We would just be at the mercy of the capitalist-controlled Mandi system."

"The union leaders wanted to keep capitalism with the Mandi system," another new comrade added. "The government wants to keep capitalism without the Mandi system by replacing it with giant industrialists like Ambani and Adani."

A third comrade wanted to know: "We only have a choice between the Mandi system and the corporate-controlled markets?" Another comrade answered: "What we need is communism, where

nothing will be bought and sold. There will not be the Mandi system or corporates controlling us. Millions of us will participate in the production of what the working class needs, not what is produced for profit."

These comrades met the ICWP during this struggle and have enthusiastically joined us.

We can never rely on the union leaders who want to push history backward. We had the power to take our fight for communism to millions of people, including some in the army. But we must win these masses to communism. That is why we are spreading small issues of *Red Flag* in Punjabi. When millions of us have a communist outlook, we will be able to overthrow capitalism.

Learning from the Naxalbari Struggle in the 1960s

A comrade related his experiences: "In 1968 a small group of communists took over an area called Naxalbari with armed rebellion. There were millions of small farmers in distress, living in extreme poverty. The fight in Naxalbari inspired the masses overnight. In the next two years there were several liberated areas. People were looking at China with the hope of changing the system. In Punjab, comrades organized and fought the large farm owners."

We all wanted to know how the Naxalbari movement attracted the masses and challenged the capitalist system before it was brutally smashed by the army. The veteran comrade said, "Communism, the Naxalite movement never wanted to fight directly for communism. They wanted to build capitalism (bourgeois democracy) first, to create the industrial working class. That is why I have joined ICWP. I am immensely proud to be openly calling for a communist revolution. Unlike the Naxalbari, we are here to

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PARIS COMMUNE OF 1871: HOW COMMUNISM WILL WIN



“You, communards, men and women, showed us the path,

And we have taken it, widening it with your lessons we remember.

Red Flag is our newspaper that owes so much to your journey:

It dazzles brightly, in reddened embers, without surrender.”

—from an original poem by a comrade (translated from Spanish)

March 20—In today’s international forum, with speeches from the industrial and military areas, songs, videos and poems, the International Communist Workers’ Party made a collective effort to make the historic events of the Paris Commune known to more of the world’s working class.

When we talk about the Paris Commune, we mean the struggle of our class to emancipate itself from capitalist exploitation. For the first time, workers took power, not to change bourgeois politicians but to take over the means of production. This heroic struggle left invaluable lessons for future generations of revolutionary communists. It laid the basis for the Russian and Chinese revolutions.

These lessons are fundamental for the strategy of our International Communist Workers’ Party: to mobilize the masses to build a world without

classes, without money, racism, sexism, xenophobia and imperialist wars. A communist world to meet our collective needs.

“This history of struggle is what motivated me to join the ICWP. I am fighting so that there are no exploited and no exploiters,” said a worker leader.

Working women played a key role in all aspects of the

Commune. They gave both political and military leadership, convincing the soldiers in the government army to join the side of the Parisian masses, helping to build barricades, and fighting heroically to the end to defend them.

The Commune immediately abolished the police. It replaced both the police and the army with the Paris National Guard, made up of workers loyal to the Commune.

That’s why a comrade soldier said, “We must organize and take communist ideas to the soldiers in the bosses’ army. We must win soldiers to join the workers’ revolution. They can turn their guns around and not shoot their class brothers and sisters.”

The communards changed all aspects of life, from production to education to social relations. They eliminated rent and evictions. They freed education from the control of the Catholic Church and insisted that girls be educated as well as boys. The masses converted the town halls into mass dining halls and closed-down theaters into centers for Red Clubs that housed refugees and became forums for daily organization and debates.

But negotiating with the capitalists weakened the Commune. Illusions about the nature of the capitalist state meant that the communards wasted valuable time while the French capitalists

were planning to attack them. Those who fought against negotiating with the capitalists, who saw that the capitalist state was the mortal enemy of the workers, were not organized into a communist party to mobilize the masses for this.

By the time the communards marched to Versailles, the French capitalists had regrouped. They had surrendered to the Germans. In exchange, the German capitalists, equally afraid of workers’ insurrections, freed thousands of captured French troops to attack the Commune.

Even so, the communards kept the French army at bay for two months, waging battles every day. Finally, at the end of May, the French capitalist army attacked Paris with 200,000 troops. Aided by the German government and its army, they unleashed a campaign of terror and murder against the Parisian masses.

During a week of intense combat, the masses set up and bravely defended huge barricades, but they didn’t have a centralized plan. Thousands of communards died. Afterwards, tens of thousands more were executed by orders of the French government (supported by all the other capitalist governments) trying to drown in blood the memory of the Paris Commune.

A key lesson of the commune was the need to get rid of the capitalist state and to build a centralized communist party to mobilize the masses for revolution. Lenin and the Bolsheviks took this lesson to heart. They mobilized the Russian masses to take power in Russia in 1917.

“I had gone away from the Party for a while, but I have seen that, only by being organized in the ICWP, can I help in the struggle to implement the system of the working class, communism. I’m glad to be with you again,” a comrade said with great emotion.

Today we are building collectives of the International Communist Workers’ Party in different parts of the world. These are similar to the clubs in the working-class neighborhoods that the communards established to build and consolidate the revolution. But they are different in that they are mobilizing directly for communism, nothing less. We are striving to take the lessons of the Paris Commune to a higher level.

MAY DAY 2021: JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS’ PARTY TO MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

Capitalism’s inability to contain the covid pandemic has killed at least three million. While billionaires took advantage of this tragedy to rake in unprecedented trillion\$, millions more of our global working-class family were left to die because of global mass unemployment and regional wars.

The suffering of the working class has sparked rebellions and protests on almost every continent. Unprecedented hundreds of millions have taken to the streets to fight a pandemic of racism, sexism, and xenophobia.

The capitalists have responded with fascist oppression **that has not stopped the masses**. Hatred of capitalism has spread the world over. Many more are open to our communist solutions.

But openness to communism will not spontaneously translate into building the ICWP to prepare for communist revolution. Neither will warnings about the terrible future that capitalism has in store for us.

We must do the hard work. That practice of mobilizing for communism must be front and center this May Day. Every party collective around the world must make plans to involve our close friends and our wider circles in communist May Day activities. **We invite all readers to help!**

These times are uncertain as the pandemic waxes and wanes. That must not divert us from our goal. We must prepare for everything from

party rallies and meetings, to caravans that stop at worksites, to contingents in bigger demonstrations. We must mobilize for communism in every way possible.

Planning, preparing, and following up these events must help us cement communist relationships and recruit new members to the Party. An international Zoom forum after May Day will feature reports from around the world.

Masses are on the move. The capitalist legacy of racism, sexism, xenophobia, mass unemployment and war must not be our future. We are building the ICWP to bring about a new communist world. On May Day 2021, join us in advancing this cause!

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HEALTH CARE WORKER:

SERVING THE WORKERS IN THE FACE OF BOSSES' ATTACKS

EL SALVADOR—“They discriminate against me every day,” said a comrade, “even though I do my work as part of Social Security (the national health care system) very well. For the bosses in the factory, I am still a rock in their shoe.”

The discussion in one of the cells where we deliver *Red Flag* opened with a reader who works in health care inside the factory. After receiving *Red Flag*, she talked about how her organized struggle within the International Communist Workers' Party has made her feel useful for our working class, but at the same time attacked by the bosses and their servants.

“I am a bit desperate at the moment because for the bosses, my role as a worker is of little value,” she continued. “They want me to leave.”

After hearing this, a worker comrade told her, “Take heart, don't lose the Party line; continue in the vanguard of the fight, because this is seen

worldwide through the *Red Flag*.”

Some questions arose from this discussion. What will daily life be like in a communist system? How will we all be treated?

Workers in the maquilas have begun to trust the revolutionary line of the ICWP that there will be no class differences. That is, there will be no more exploited or exploiters, since these acts of discrimination occur only in this bosses' system where workers never see our labor power valued.

The bosses are only interested in us giving our labor power to them to generate their production, to absorb all our time and labor, while they keep all the profits. In communism, production will be generated according to the needs we have. We will have more time for our families and friends.



Let's Destroy Capitalism & Build Communism ICWP

Not like today, when they don't even want us to take the customary Easter vacation.

At the end of the meeting, the comrade health care worker said, “I will write a letter and send it to *Red Flag*, so that workers from other parts of the world can become aware of our daily struggles.”

PARIS COMMUNE FORUM INSPIRES MTA WORKERS TO BUILD ICWP

LOS ANGELES, USA—“Inspiring,” said a comrade about the forum about the Paris Commune on Saturday, March 20.

For several years, the workers' club, including members of ICWP and mechanics of public transit (MTA) and others, has met every Friday. This meeting included six mechanics. The main topic was our impressions of the forum, in which three MTA comrades participated.

We said that the Paris Commune is a very inspiring historical event because it shows that at certain moments in the historical process, workers rise up to fight. And that generally the working class wants change and dreams of a communist society.

The leadership of the old communist move-

ment has always lagged behind, instead of being at the head of the working class. It has often showed itself almost fearful of communism, tailing the workers' movement. That has led to the failure of many of the workers' struggles internationally.

Socialist theory has been based on the idea that it was necessary to go through various anterooms to reach communism. However, history has shown us, with much of our class's blood, that struggles for reforms or struggles trying to implant communism through the back door will always fail. And we carry the dead, the failures.

And the cynicism that is created in the working class after these failed attempts to seize power through the back door, or through electoral or re-

formist means, is a serious obstacle we have to overcome.

However, history is on our side. In our group, the reactions were very positive and there were demonstrations of support for continuing the fight until the final victory.

“It motivates me to continue organizing. For the next meeting I will invite other workers from the base,” said U.

“I will also begin to gather my base, with four or five workers with whom I will organize another cell or committee,” added D.

I believe that we all left with greater revolutionary enthusiasm and that we will advance the struggle under our political line by mobilizing the masses for communism.

BLOODBATH IN THE MINING SECTOR

SOUTH AFRICA, March 30— Just recently, Sibanye Gold, one of largest mining companies here, announced that they will retrench 7400 permanent workers and 3000 contractors. The company had to stop operations for a month because of a strike. Following this, they dismissed 99 workers and placed 407 on final notice.

The C.E.O of the company released a statement saying, “The long-term sustainability of the group is our only focus and is necessary if we are to continue to deliver superior value to all our stakeholders.”

The statement says a lot about how little the bosses value us. They forget the most important thing: that workers' labour is the source of all value. Not the machines, but our labour power alone.

This week another company, Anglo Gold Ashanti, also said they will retrench 8500 workers. And this is just the tip of the iceberg. In the last five years, 100,000 workers have lost their jobs in the gold industry alone, excluding the recent announcements by Sibanye Gold and Anglo Gold. I'm convinced that other companies will follow these two. As a result, thousands of families will go to bed without knowing what they are going to eat.

This is why it is more important than ever for the party to win over these workers. So that they can fight for a communist society where they do not work for the bosses' profit, but for the needs of the working class as a whole.

A Comrade



Marikana, 2016

INDIA FROM PAGE 1

create a mass base for communism around the world, not just in India.”

The discussion now shifted to a new level. New and old comrades wanted to know more about communism. How and what to do when people join ICWP. How communist organizing will lead to a communist revolution. How can we smash borders? What will a communist society look like without the money, banks, bosses, their

legal system, courts, jail? How communism will eliminate racism, sexism, and xenophobia.

We decided to form several study groups with many new readers to answer these questions, especially among those who we worked with every day during this mass struggle. We urgently need to translate our pamphlets *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* and *Communist Philosophy* into Punjabi. Our comrades are using the *Red Flag* to recruit new members to our study groups. We have created a short guide about communism for

new people. We hope to have several May Day celebrations. It would be a big achievement if we can have the participation of our comrades from other parts of India.

We believe that as the capitalist system is in deep crisis, the only solution is a communist revolution. This what the bosses fear the most. We have confidence that we can win. Let us create, distribute, and use the *Red Flag* massively.

Boeing Workers Answer Anger and Anxiety over Anti-Asian Violence

STRUGGLE TO SPREAD COMMUNIST IDEAS AND BUILD THE PARTY

SEATTLE (US), March 29—“It’s time I got out there,” declared C., a retired Boeing comrade. He decided to get a vaccine shot despite the racist history of the U.S. medical establishment.

He changed his mind partly because of the struggle raging in the U.S. and around the world. The anti-Asian racist-sexist murders in Atlanta were the last straw.

The U.S ruling class has slaughtered untold millions in a never-ending racist reign of terror. It targets specific groups of people based on the needs of their empire at a particular time. It may even concede to temporary, minor relief (reform) for some in exchange for supporting attacks on others. “Divide and conquer” is their overarching strategy.

To be sure, the U.S. rulers are not alone. Every country uses similar schemes to maintain the bosses’ power and profits.

When our party says communist revolution is a life and death issue, it is not hyperbole. The latest attacks highlight this truth. Only the growth of the International Communist Workers’ Party will give the working class what it needs to smash this shape-shifting racist horror.

A Toxic Brew of Sexism and Racism

A large group of Boeing comrades and friends reacted with anger and anxiety to the Atlanta slaughter. A half-dozen Asian immigrant workers from four countries were joined in outrage by even more Black and white employees and retirees. All but one of the Asian immigrants were women.

Everyone agreed that it was impossible to disentangle the racism and sexism that drove this attack and many others. Capitalism, particularly in the age of imperialism, invented the image of Asian women as the ideal submissive feminine sex object. During World War II, Japanese imperialism – which was racist against Koreans—enslaved South Korean women in brothels. The working class must actively oppose all sexist and racist stereotypes.

That is how capitalism works. Racism and sexism amplify each other. But Vietnamese women soldiers during the war against US imperialism, and many others before and since, prove that Asian women are powerful fighters for the working class.

Comrades vowed, self-critically, to focus more in the coming weeks and months on the how communist revolution will end this toxic brew.

What to Do About Atlanta?

Boeing workers really wanted to know what to do about the deadly spike in racist, sexist and xenophobic terror.

Some remembered the separation of families at the US-Mexico border several years ago. Multi-

racial groups of Boeing workers responded by demonstrating and supporting anti-xenophobic encampments outside a detention prison. Scores fanned out through the plant with ICWP literature. Comrades made sure communist ideas were discussed everywhere.

A. didn’t “think the current U.S. government supports anti-immigrant racism and anti-Asian and Pacific Islander racism.” Hence, no need for a similar mobilization.

M. didn’t trust the politicians: “They will say nice things, but they won’t do anything.” Although she supported demonstrations, she didn’t have much faith they would change the situation. Despite worries about her family, she still felt powerless.

Confidence in the Working Class

The newly vaccinated comrade C. was quick to observe that the capitalists always try to divide us and pit one “minority” against another. Racist, sexist stereotypes of Asian women pissed him off. Capitalist white supremacist ideology bolsters the whole rotten, racist system.

“But we are not all that divided,” he concluded. “I hear friends say white people do this or that, but when you get to know people, you realize that’s not all white people.”

He made no excuses for committed racists even if they are workers. The threat of fascism is too real. But he sees a way forward.

“We must heal the sickness,” C. said. “You say the sickness comes from capitalism. I agree, but I wonder if there’s a little bit of capitalism we can tolerate.”

A little bit of capitalism is like a little bit of cancer. If you don’t end it with communist revolution, it will re-emerge more deadly than before.

We stand on the shoulders of giants. Since even before the Paris Commune, millions have dedicated their lives to fighting for their vision of communism. We should emulate their dedication to the working class.

But the communist movement established socialism, which keeps the wage system and other core aspects of capitalism. Eventually, this mistake undermined their heroic efforts. Capitalism reemerged along with even more vicious racism, sexism and xenophobia. The ICWP fights directly for communism, eliminating capitalism in its entirety—forever.

Comrades and friends are not powerless. We measure our progress by getting out there with communist ideas and growing the International Communist Workers Party.

GOING DEEPER INTO SEXISM AND RACISM BUILDS CLOSER RELATIONSHIPS

The murders in Atlanta, mainly of Asian women, led a group of about 15 teachers and staff where I work to gather (on Zoom) to “hold space” to share our grief and anger.

We didn’t all understand the events in the same way, but the hour-long conversation centered on the intersection of sexism and racism.

A Japanese American woman shared her family trauma from being dispossessed and imprisoned during World War II. A Puerto Rican woman, married to an Asian man, said she feared for her biracial daughter every time they went to the park.

Several women with roots in two other Asian countries told of their personal experiences of repeated harassment based on sexually explicit stereotypes of Asian women.

A Pacific-Islander man wasn’t sure that racism had much to do with the Atlanta attack and said he didn’t want to hear about blaming Trump for it. Everyone else saw the murders as racist as well as sexist.

Later in the conversation, I mentioned that when Biden said that “China is eating our lunch” he was building anti-Asian racism as surely as Trump’s “China virus” garbage. Anti-Chinese racism helps prepare people to accept war, just as anti-Japanese racism did during World War II.

Most other participants were Black or Latinx. Several said that while their experiences with racism were not the same as their Asian co-workers, they had a lot in common. And that racism and sexism are deeply intertwined as part of the structure and history of oppression. Many heads nodded when someone commented that we mustn’t fall prey to “divide and conquer” strategies.

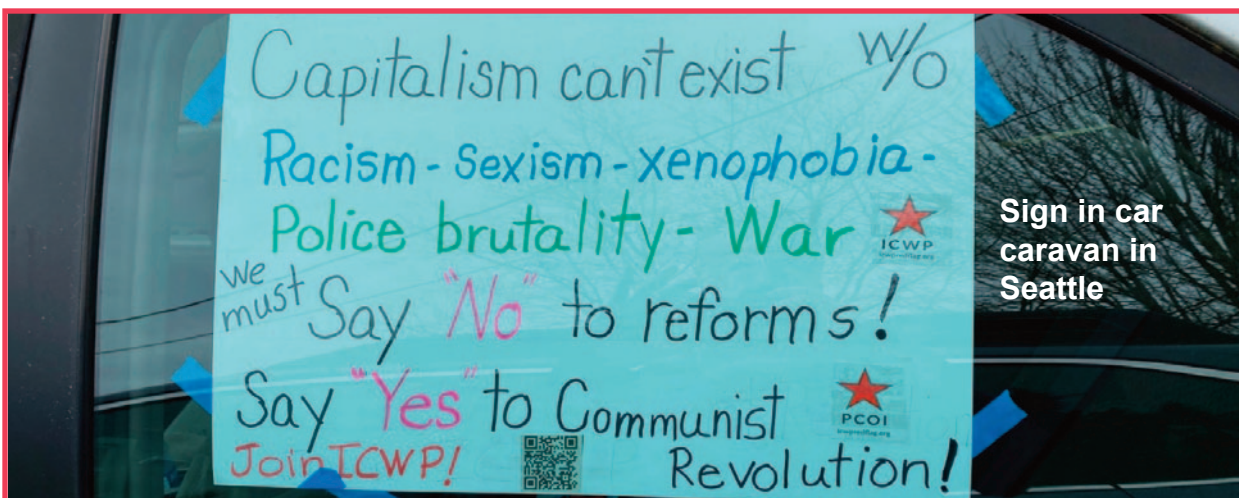
The capitalist class here in Los Angeles (USA) has worked hard for over thirty years to turn Black and Korean people against each other. The Black faculty in this meeting were clearly committed to fighting this racist maneuver.

The general sense was that the Atlanta murderer was guilt-ridden about his sexuality (based on his rigid Christian upbringing). He sought out Asian women to fulfill his fetishized racist fantasies about them. He killed them to shift blame from his own sick self to them as “temptresses.” That is, these were quintessentially sexist murders, shaped by racism.

This meeting was part of an ongoing conversation at our campus about how to oppose racism and white supremacy. In Zoom events, I post links to *Red Flag* and the ICWP pamphlet about racism. Several of these colleagues (and others) read *Red Flag*.

What made this “hold space” different was that people felt secure enough to “open up” much more about deeply personal experiences. I think that confronting sexism directly helped to make that happen.

Teacher comrade



In response to the wave of vicious racist attacks on Asian workers in the US, thousands of people took to the streets on Saturday. The murderous sexist attack in Atlanta was the last straw of a series of attacks, fomented by Trump’s racist blaming of Chinese people for the Covid virus, but reflecting a long history of attacks on Asian workers in the US. ICWP comrades in Los Angeles and Seattle brought *Red Flag* and our communist analysis to two of these rallies. In Los Angeles, comrades distributed more than 120 RFs to a very diverse crowd of 500 people. In Seattle, comrades distributed 55 papers to a smaller crowd.

ORGANIZE COMMUNIST COLLECTIVES FOR A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS

“Don’t lock the children in cages!” shout the many people outraged with the treatment of children detained by the US Border Patrol.

The stories of the thousands of children separated from their parents are heartbreaking. Some parents, due to racism and bureaucratic carelessness, don’t even know where their children are. But this is normal in a capitalist world that treats working-class children and adults as expendable.

These children and adults are fleeing the misery and crisis created by the local and imperialist bosses. Borders and walls are created by both Democratic and Republican US capitalists—and by capitalists worldwide.

One comrade commented, “My cousin paid \$20,000 to bring her and her three youngest children to the US. But they left her in Mata-

moros, Mexico. Only two of her children made it through. Now she is in debt and unable to cross the border.”

This situation will continue to repeat itself, millions of times around the world. In a communist world without borders, no one, including children, will be committing a crime for seeking a better life.

Even if a few thousand manage to improve their individual situations by finding jobs in this society designed to produce for profit, billions more will still be killed by starvation, bombs, bullets, or preventable diseases.

This capitalist profit system represents the good life for a few millionaires, but misery and death for the billions of wage slaves.

The American dream is just that: a dream. Only when capitalism no longer exists can all

our hopes be realized for a more harmonious world that works for the well-being of every living being. Not only of human beings, but of all animal and plant species.

That future must start now. We must organize ourselves into communist collectives, where we can discuss, plan, and write our thoughts about how each one can help solve a problem, about what solution we propose to each situation that comes our way.

These collectives are just the beginning of bigger decisions that will have to be made, such as when it is time to take power and eliminate the capitalist system.

The vision of a new communist world without borders or exploitation gives us strength to continue and make communist revolution a reality.

Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

ANSWER POLICE MURDER OF WOMEN BY MOBILIZING TO END SEXISM WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Women’s collectives in Mexico organized protests on March 28 against the murders of two women in Holbox and Tulum, two tourist centers in the state of Quintana Roo that are important for the Mexican bosses. There were protests, some violent, in several states of Mexico against the police and government buildings.

A video taken in Tulum on Saturday, March 26, shows the police brutally killing a Salvadoran refugee, putting their knee to her neck, while the woman screams for help. Then they pick up her body and carry it away on the bed of a police truck.

The next day, more than two hundred women and men, including some tourists, marched to the police station and threw stones at the compound.

The workers’ anger is not only among women. Little by little, men’s participation begins to be seen. What is lacking is more communist political struggle to guide that anger to the destruction of the capitalist state. But the first thing is to organize communist collectives of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP), to build a society where gender equality is a reality.

Murders, rapes, and all kinds of abuse against women have skyrocketed during the pandemic. In Mexico alone, eleven women are murdered every day. Every day all kinds of gender violence are reported, and these crimes go unpunished.

Andrés López Obrador, president of Mexico, has been accused by feminist groups of being a misogynist, and by other NGOs of turning a deaf ear to women’s demands. Many cases of murders and abuse have been against poor working women.

The abuses and murders against women workers will continue in this capitalist system. The capitalist system is sexist. It exploits the image of sexism to try to keep women submissive and super-exploited. This attacks the whole working class. It divides men and women workers.

Its counterpart, feminism, plays the bosses’ game by showing women with who are angry at sexism but believe in the system, that they can be at the same level as men, with jobs, competitive wages, and rights.

But in the capitalist system, the bosses don’t care if those rights exist. Money is the engine that



drives the bosses, and the exploitation of women is big business. The maquiladoras are a good example. Many maquilas employ more women and prefer young people—all over the world.

That is why we need communism. In the communist system, money will not exist. We will work to produce what we need. Without one gender or another putting itself above the needs of everyone else. Let’s end femicides and gender abuses. Let’s organize the ICWP and build a communist society.

Read our pamphlets:

***Fight for the Day When No Worker Will Be Called a Foreigner*, available at: icwpredflag.org/ffde.pdf**

***The Communist Fight Against Sexism*, available at: icwpredflag.org/sxse.pdf**

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

Talking With Transit Workers about the Paris Commune

“You’re back!” A bus driver and regular *Red Flag* reader welcomed a comrade who had been away for a year due to the pandemic.

Another driver took a paper and later came back to talk. He thought that “the election was stolen.” When asked for specifics, he offered that the Democratic Party nomination was stolen from Bernie Sanders. He still supports Sanders. He hates Biden. (A retired bus driver, who asked for *Red Flag*, said much the same.) The first worker also mentioned having once belonged to a communist group.

I explained briefly why we don’t support Sanders or any candidates. How elections trap workers in capitalist exploitation. That socialism has never led to communism and never will. That our solution is to mobilize masses for communism.

This last idea interested him. “Suppose we had a mass base for communism here at this transit division,” he mused. “How would that help us elect people to City Council or the County Board of Supervisors?” he asked.

“It wouldn’t,” I replied. “Communism would abolish them. Our path to power is revolution, not elections. If we had a mass base for com-

munist right here, transit workers would spread it to other workers in their families and neighborhoods who could take it to their jobs. To schools and barracks. The network of party collectives we build that way would become the basis of communist political organization as well as production and distribution.”

As I talked about this, the Paris Commune jumped to mind. I referred the worker to the *Red Flag* article and told him a little about it.

“My friend told me not to talk to you,” the worker admitted. “I will read the paper and tell you what I think.”

Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

BUILDING A MASS COMMUNIST PARTY IN EL SALVADOR

RED FLAGS WILL FLY IN THE

SALVADORAN CAPITAL THIS MAY DAY

EL SALVADOR—“We must go out to commemorate this day with our Red Flags and our red T-shirts,” said a worker from the maquilas very enthusiastically. Another comrade replied, “We must march this May Day! It’s a historic day for our working class.”

“We will distribute hundreds of *Red Flag* newspapers and leaflets, calling workers to fight directly for communism. Before the march, we’ll go to the factories to distribute *Red Flag* and invite the workers to march with us.”

The comrades organized in the International Communist Workers’ Party, readers of our *Red Flag* newspaper, family members and other friends of the Party will march through the main streets of San Salvador this May Day 2021.

From the mountains and city neighborhoods; urban workers, farmworkers, and students; women and men. Determined to win the working masses to fight directly for communism, we will shout our slogans of struggle: “FIGHT, WIN, WORKERS TO POWER” and “RED, RED, RED IS THE FLAG OF THE WORKING CLASS.” The voice of the working class will be heard!

All the communist collectives will invite the whole working class to march! Let’s demonstrate against the oppressive capitalist system and organize in the ICWP, the party that fights for communism.

MAQUILA WORKERS PLAN EXPANDED ORGANIZATION MEETING

EL SALVADOR, March 27—The ICWP maquila workers’ collective held a series of meetings this week.

“Due to the pandemic, we suspended the political meetings of the collectives that we had always held with the Party comrades, readers, friends and their families on beaches and mountains throughout this country,” said the leader of this workers’ cell of the International Communist Workers’ Party at the beginning of a meeting.

“The plan we had of only meeting in groups of five in the afternoons once a week was necessary,” he continued, “but now we must give more attention to the Party and our *Red Flag* newspaper, in physical form, and no longer only through social networks.”

“That is why, as collectives of the working-class sector, we must start meeting again in April with all comrades, *Red Flag* readers, friends and their relatives. Each person in charge of a group was informed that we will meet to draw up the list of people who will participate. There has already been a very positive result.”

“We must establish the agenda for this expanded meeting. A very important point to take into account is that new comrades will come, and we must present the line of the ICWP.”

“We already have transportation, food and a place reserved for the extended meeting of our Party,” he concluded. “The new collective that was formed in March still wants to know more about the International Communist Workers’ Party. They have already signed up and are going to join the old group in this meeting.”

“After the meeting we need to write a report of what we have discussed and send it to *Red Flag*,” emphasized another worker comrade from ICWP.

Get Rid of Wage-Slavery with Communist Revolution

NOMADLAND: HOLLYWOOD FRONTS FOR AMAZON

March 31—“I guess if you are vulnerable to becoming enslaved to Amazon as a 60-plus gig worker, you gonna wonder why this film didn’t get political,” posted a friend on Facebook.

This film’s politics are a cover-up for racism and exploitation. It tells the story of one (fictional) woman out of the many over-sixty workers who live in their vans and work as temporary wage slaves for Amazon.

Wage slavery is essential to capitalism. You can quit one job, but you have to work for some boss unless you want to starve. Communism will have no bosses and no slaves. We’ll work together for the good of all.

Nomadland, the book, romanticized the “resilience” of the mostly white nomads of the gig economy. But at least it quoted some vandwellers who had lost their homes in the Great Recession of 2007-2008. It exposed the “American Dream” as a fraud.

And it exposed the working conditions in

Amazon warehouses, where aspirin and ibuprofen are provided free next to the water fountains. Ambulances are stationed permanently in the parking lots for the inevitable injuries caused by the relentless pace of work, aged bodies, and concrete floors.

Linda May, who plays herself in the movie, says in the book, “I hate this f*ing job,” and calls Amazon “probably the biggest slave owner in the world.”

But the movie centers on Fern, a fictional character, who has chosen the freedom of the nomadic lifestyle. She says in the movie that Amazon is “Great Money.”

Unsure if Hollywood is purposely covering up exploitation? This award-winning movie is being promoted at the same moment as Amazon workers at the Bessemer, Alabama warehouse are engaged in an all-out struggle to organize a union.

During the pandemic, Amazon’s business has

expanded. It has made super-profits off the labor of workers who are extremely vulnerable to the virus.

Amazon workers hope that a union will give them safer working conditions. They want the ability to take breaks to eat lunch and go to the bathroom without being fired. Amazon has fought all-out to stop the union drive. As we go to press, the votes are still being counted.

Most of the workers at this warehouse are Black. The mass unemployment created by the pan-

demic has made the most oppressed workers even more vulnerable.

Amazon opened this warehouse last March and has enforced inhumane labor discipline on people who are desperate to keep those jobs.

Unions can make a job slightly less precarious, and maybe even win Amazon workers permission to go to the bathroom, but it doesn’t change the basic relationship of exploited worker/wage slave to exploiter/boss. At \$15/hour, or at \$20/hour, with or without bathroom privileges, workers are still exploited, forced to work to survive, and to do whatever it takes to keep a job.

Black workers in Bessemer, Alabama have experienced the limits of trade unionism. The steel mills of Birmingham and Bessemer were sites of intense racist exploitation and fierce, communist-led, union drives during the 1930s.

Communist organizers built the majority-Black local of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers in the steel mills. They led a militant strike in 1934, fighting the company, the cops, and the racist international union leadership all at once.

But these communists abandoned the struggle for communism. Instead of organizing for revolution, they fought for union contracts, which will always keep us as wage-slaves.

As the US empire declined in the 1980s, steel plants all over the country shut down. Those union jobs disappeared. Steel mills, automobile and tire factories have been abandoned or turned into outlet malls. And workers, especially Black and immigrant workers, are forced to take jobs working for Amazon, or to travel the country looking for a gig.

Union organizing drives can’t even touch this problem. To end wage slavery, we need to put an end to capitalism.

Vicious coverups like Nomadland are clearly the rulers’ propaganda. But the union organizers—supported by Joe Biden and the New York Times—who say they can make capitalism work for us are also spreading a more popular form of capitalist propaganda.

We need communist culture and organizing—not for unions but for revolution.



MINNEAPOLIS (USA), March 19—Protests over the racist murder of George Floyd continue during the trial of killer cop Derek Chauvin. Heart-breaking testimony from witnesses, young and old, exposes the constant racist terrorization of Black people by police in the US. Masses are rightly outraged. Whatever the outcome of the trial, there is no justice and no peace under capitalism! Only communist revolution can achieve the mass demand, “Abolish the Police.” Only the abolition of wage-slavery can end the material basis of racism worldwide.

Red Flag thanks readers who have written with criticisms, comments, and stories. We encourage more to take part in the ongoing struggle to develop our communist political line.

THE LONG HISTORY OF RACISM, SEXISM AND WAR

The U.S. ruling class has manufactured several themes to push anti-Asian racism. One is Covid. The pandemic was first seen in China; the bosses' press somehow makes this the fault of the Chinese people. They even peddle an insane conspiracy theory implying that Covid was developed as a weapon released from a Chinese lab (ignoring the history of US biological weapons research).

But anti-Asian racism, sexism and xenophobia date back more than a century. They set the stage for the current anti-Asian propaganda.

The first immigration laws in the US, the Fugitive Slave Laws passed by Congress in 1792 and 1850, were directed at black people escaping slavery.

The Page Act of 1875 prohibited Chinese women from coming to the US, slandering them as prostitutes. Men could come work but not their wives. Then came the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. It called for halting Chinese immigration to "maintain racial purity."

The US rulers need to whip up xenophobia and especially anti-Chinese sentiment because they understand that China is their main enemy. Biden's "America is back" is directed at trying to re-build international support to counter China.

The root of all this is the sharpening economic competition between the US and China and China's threat to U.S. dominance. Historically, such propaganda has been used to win soldiers and the general population to war—either proxy battles or direct conflicts up to and including world war.

Sharing Red Flag Articles Helps

Recently, we were sitting with my friend whom I've been struggling with to join the party, when we got the latest issue of the *Red Flag*. We shared one with him. While we were reading, he saw an article by another comrade on religion.

It inspired him and he opened up. He said, "This is a good article. In the end of the day, the promised land is a society where people will live without the bad things we see now."

He always believed that my refusal/skepticism to go to church with him was because, somehow, I'm a wrong person or because of the party or something. We talked further and deep after that. He told us a lot more about his work. He works at a bread factory.

He said, "I can really see how the bosses will squeeze everything in us workers until we are dry, with no life. We work at the factory for eight to ten hours a day and get paid only R9-R12 (\$0.70-\$0.90)/hour."

That money they get cannot even buy a loaf of the bread that they make. Whereas they make thousands/hour for the bosses.

He went on to say, "This job has taken so much of my life, man. I go to work at 6 in the morning, come back later. I'm tired. I can't even do anything but go straight to sleep, then wake up the next morning. It's the same thing again!"

"The money I get later in the week goes to transport. I am literally left with nothing, nothing! I'm grumpy, man. All I see is the factory and my room. I have no social life. I can actually feel being drained physically and emotionally by work."

In communism we won't have to work long hours because we will be producing for the needs of our class, not for profit and there will be useful work for everyone to do. There will be a contribution for everyone to make.

The reason workers all over the world work long hours is that capitalist bosses want to make maximum profit by reducing the number of workers so that they don't have to pay much in wages. At the same time, they extend hours so that the few that are left can cover for the reduced number of workers.

My friend took a few copies of the *Red Flag* and said he was going to give them to some work-

ers at his workplace. He said we must go there and distribute the *Red Flag* because workers are not happy. They are angry.

Workers have every reason to be angry. But most importantly, workers have a reason to fight the capitalist bosses, destroy their system with a communist revolution, and establish a society where they don't work for money and for individual bosses, but for their needs.

Comrade in South Africa

The change of perspective after I joined ICWP

It is a pleasure to be a part of the struggle to mobilize the masses for the ICWP and to educate people about what it means to be a communist. What I mean by "pleasure" is the changes of growth and knowledge I have gained in the party.

Being a comrade of the ICWP has made an immense impact in my being. Now I'm aware of the exploitation the capitalists are using to gain control over the Republic of South Africa and around the world. This is true whether people believe it or not.

My collective has a great potential, the way I see it. The potential which we can use to address the masses that enough is enough to the capitalist manipulative tactics to divide us. Truly speaking, borders, poverty, sexism, politics, television, etc., are the tools used by these evil animals to divide people.

But the most dangerous tool that conquers all is money. They use it so that we can see ourselves better than others, as money is the means of exchange which binds us to them and makes us vulnerable at times.

The most sickening part of this cancer in this cycle we revolve about is that nobody of the working class sees how deep and dirty those we work for are. Because nothing that is made **by** the working class is made **for** the needs of the working class, but for a capitalist's gain. And the profit made by the working class also goes to the capitalists. Just think about it. Isn't that beyond being cruel?

I can talk till nightfall about my eyes being opened so much at what is happening around the globe. But the point I'm trying to drive home is: ICWP is really with and for the working class's rights to what they deserve after all.

I've been a comrade of a political party, but I've never learned so much, I've never been cared for. I was never exposed to the truth, but I was given tasks to deceive people of the money mostly. But my morals never allowed me to do so. I was forced to back off because I couldn't lie to our people.

Today as a member of the ICWP, I stand for what is right. I stand for what people deserve. I got a collective that believes in the moral value of honesty, leadership, integrity, and most of all, communism.

I would like to take this opportunity to assure comrades of the ICWP that the party stands and rises due to the dedication we give to make sure that it grows. We thank and salute for their support all the comrades of the ICWP around the globe: "Forward Comrades, Forward!"

A Comrade in South Africa



Rallies Against Violent Attacks on Asians
LOS ANGELES (US),
March 27 (Above)
March 13 (Right)



Mass Strikes and Street Protests in Myanmar (Burma)

LET'S FIGHT EVERYWHERE FOR THE COMMUNIST WORLD WORKERS NEED

March 27—Thousands of young garment workers are bravely leading mass resistance to the Tatmadaw military that seized power in a coup on February 1. Close to half a million workers toil in Myanmar's 600+ garment sweatshops.

In Hlaingthaya, a garment district outside Yangon, some have burned down the Chinese-owned factories where their super-exploited labor produced clothes for brands like Zara and L.L. Bean.

Day after day, protesters confront soldiers who have already killed hundreds of people, including children. Strikes have also shut down banks, government offices and more.

We are inspired by the bravery of the Myanmar masses. Before 2017, the Tatmadaw – the main section of the Burmese capitalist class – ruled as an open dictatorship. The masses refuse to return to that time. But are they ready to move forward to communist workers' power? Are we?

Need Armed Insurrection for Communism, Not Civil Disobedience for Democracy

The anti-coup movement started as mass "civil disobedience" demanding freedom for the jailed Suu Kyi and the return of civilian government.

Some workers see their strike as a personal decision to stay away from the job, rather than as a collective struggle to shut down production. But this is a political strike that openly aims to "restore democracy" – that is, to change the form of the capitalist state. Over nearly eight weeks, it has come close to its goal of making it impossible for the Tatmadaw to rule.

There is a real and immediate potential for armed insurrection in Myanmar. Some soldiers have refused to follow orders to shoot unarmed protesters. They have fled across the border to Bangladesh.

Ethnic minorities are about one-third of Myanmar's mainly-Buddhist population. Historically divided by different and sometimes competing interests, they are now uniting against the military rulers. The Arakan Army (AA) is one of the largest among two dozen ethnic armed groups in Myanmar. This week it declared support for the popular movement. The AA has fought army troops since 2018 for greater autonomy for the western Rakhine State, home to the Rohingya Muslims (see box).

Another armed group, the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army - South (RCSS), also denounced the coup. It warned the military that it would no longer stand by as it killed civilian protesters.

But this movement does not aim to abolish capitalism. A political strike or an

armed nationalist insurrection isn't the communist revolution needed by urban and rural workers of all ethnicities and religions.

Our International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) must find ways of taking advantage of situations like that in Myanmar to mobilize and recruit soldiers, workers, and youth specifically for the goal of communism.

For a society without money or profits, without borders or exploitation. A world where the working masses feel and understand ourselves to be one family, undivided by religion or ethnicity. Where we ourselves, collectively, make and carry out all the decisions affecting our lives.

Communism: The Way Forward

The ICWP is one international party, not a coalition of national communist parties. We have no "national sections." Wherever communism takes power, it will eliminate all national borders within liberated areas. When it triumphs worldwide, there will be no nations and no refugees.

The ICWP is a mass party, open to all who choose to work collectively toward our shared communist goal. That includes those who identify with any religious faith or heritage. At the same time, our party fights for a dialectical and historical materialist understanding of the world.

In the long run, we think, masses will find less and less need of religion. We will find power and connection in our shared work and community. We will create on earth the world of which we once could only dream.

For more about Myanmar, see *Red Flag* v. 12 #2 at www.icwpredflag.org.

Islamophobia and Racism Hold Back Mass Struggle

The Tatmadaw has terrorized Myanmar's Rohingya Muslim minority with a genocidal campaign since 2017.

The civilian figurehead Aung San Suu Kyi (now imprisoned) was hailed by US and European human rights groups as a "humanitarian hero." But she, too, enforced anti-Rohingya laws. She now seems to be losing prestige among the masses.

Rohingya people have taken extraordinary risks to escape this genocide. But countries like Australia and India have often intercepted them. The government of Manipur (northeast India) has prohibited local authorities and the civil society from feeding or sheltering them.

Over a million Rohingya people, adults and children, have been stuck for years in squalid refugee camps, mainly in Bangladesh, without work or hope.

On March 22, a devastating fire swept through the huge Cox's Bazar refugee camp. Hundreds are injured, missing, or dead. Tens of thousands are without shelter.

Some non-Rohingya workers, youth and others in Myanmar are openly self-critical for failing to support their Muslim neighbors. This is changing. Since the coup, Rohingya in Bangladesh and in Myanmar – notably including the AA – support the mainly non-Rohingya anti-coup protests.



Striking Garment Workers in Myanmar

CAPITALISM: AN EVER GIVEN DISASTER

March 29— The huge Japanese-owned container ship Ever Given, transporting goods from China to Europe, ran aground in the Suez Canal. It blocked traffic in both directions for a week. This exposed weaknesses in the seemingly mighty global capitalist system.

Hundreds of ships had to wait in the Canal. Others had to take weeks longer, rerouted around the Cape of Good Hope. The circulation of capital slowed. Shipments of oil and natural gas were delayed.

The crisis rippled through the global economy.

It showed how chokepoints like the Suez Canal and the Straits of Malacca and Hormuz are strategically critical, especially in wartime. And the key role of transportation workers.

The beaching of Ever Given shows that "the bigger they are, the harder they fall!" The international working class can take down the seemingly mighty capitalist rulers. That requires the bold leadership of a mass revolutionary communist party.

We can build communism, where all production and distribution are to meet the masses'

needs. No cheaply made (and often useless) goods to ship halfway around the world at a huge cost to the environment. Sharply reduced use of climate-changing carbon-based energy.

In communism, workers will share labor and products with our human family around the globe. But we will emphasize local production, wherever possible, using renewable energy, of well-made goods and locally sourced food that will best meet our needs.

Comrade in USA