

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



For a
Communist May
Day, see page 2

Revolution will End
Racist Police
Murder, see page 4



FORGE COMMUNIST SOCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE MASSES IN STRUGGLE

FACTORY WORKERS SPREAD COMMUNIST IDEAS

EL SALVADOR, April 5— “The first time I went to a meeting of the International Communist Workers’ Party, I told the worker comrades that I was coming, but not to ask me anything. In the end, I asked what Xenophobia meant. I had never heard that word. They explained clearly how racism and borders only serve to divide us workers. Since then, I have not stopped attending ICWP activities. I invite you all to continue reading our *Red Flag* newspaper and to be part of the Party,” said a comrade worker leader.

ICWP organized a meeting this weekend with dozens of women and men workers from three factories, and students and workers from other areas.

“All of us in this meeting have coworkers, friends, and family members with whom we must share the militant ideas of the ICWP, about how to organize communist revolution throughout the world. This struggle is reflected in *Red Flag*. The comrades who join the International Communist Workers’ Party today should know that this newspaper is produced and sustained by workers like you and me,” concluded a comrade worker leader enthusiastically.

We discussed the development of ICWP, which arose from the historical need to fight directly and in a mass way for Communism. Eight new comrades joined the Party, participating for the first time in a broader Party meeting. Previously they were just readers. We gave them the document *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. We also spoke about the importance of commemorating May Day and our participation in this great march of workers worldwide.

A worker who attended with his wife, also a worker, had stopped participating in meetings

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BUILD A MASS ICWP TO END CAPITALIST WAGE SLAVERY

PUNJAB (India)— “Why are you here with a handful of comrades?” friends and neighbors asked Virendra Singh, a farmworker from a small town. Last November, Virendra and millions more jumped into trollies going to the outskirts of Delhi. They came to fight the fascist government-imposed laws that would bankrupt many and push them into bare-subsistence wage slavery.

Delhi was bitter cold as Himalayan winds swept the valley. Virendra, with two million others, braved the cold winter and fought months-long pitched battles against the police. Then in March they suffered temperatures as high as 48 C (119 F).

When the sowing season began, some farmers returned to their towns and villages, continuing their fight there. However, their numbers dwindle

d. Many farmworkers bitterly gave up their fight, thinking the government too powerful.

Now Virendra faces the second wave of Covid-19. He explains to eight comrades in his study group, “I am here because I believe we have to smash capitalism’s wage slavery. We need communism. If you join us, we can all build a bigger International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP). When millions of us join, we can destroy capitalism. No more banks, loan sharks, and lifelong poverty.” He tells this to everybody in his town.

Virendra’s Story: The Story of the Masses

When Virendra’s grandfather was working, he borrowed Rs. 12 from a local lender, who charged 200% interest. He carried this debt for the rest of his life and passed it on to Virendra’s

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MAY DAY 2021: ICWP PUTS COMMUNIST IDEAS UP FRONT AMONG MASSES IN MOTION

Workers, farmers and youth worldwide are defying fascist rulers, racist and communalist mobs, a still-growing pandemic and economic crisis. They are fighting for the future of our international working class.

In India, South Africa, El Salvador, the US and elsewhere, more are joining the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). They are spreading word of the need to destroy capitalist wage slavery and imperialist war by mobilizing for communism.

Sharpening Imperialist Conflict: More to Come

Conflicts are sharpening among the major imperialist powers (the US rulers and their allies versus China and Russia with Iran). Each is driven to maximize profits by seizing or maintaining control of as much of the world as possible.

This, the main contradiction driving world events, pulls other nations' capitalist rulers to take sides. Today, their unstable alliances fuel wars from Yemen to Ethiopia and beyond. They threaten all-out imperialist war.

The explosive situations in Myanmar and Ukraine indicate more to come. So does China's growing influence in Africa and in Latin America, where it is displacing long-term US dominance. Covid 19 has exposed weaknesses of the US and Europe, while China has been able to combat the pandemic and leapfrog the world. Chinese imperialism is successfully challenging the US to become the dominant imperialist power.

The Biden administration's plans are desperate attempts to fortify US infrastructure. Meanwhile the Chinese capitalists are circling the world with their Belt and Road Initiative. These massive projects of ports, superhighways, and high-speed railways will dominate the world's commerce and industries.

Racism: Key Contradiction for Desperate US Imperialists

The US imperialists, increasingly weak, face major contradictions at home. Bitter divisions among their politicians threaten to paralyze their government. The fascist white-supremacist movement and cops they use against rebellious

workers are further alienating the working class.

The wave of racist police murders during the trial of Derek Chauvin (killer of George Floyd) is sparking mass protests involving youth and older people of all "races." Recent mass shootings, especially of Chinese and Sikh people, lead many of our friends to consider seriously our communist analysis of racism.

Capitalists need racism to divide the masses, boost profits, and maintain class rule. But it seems to be backfiring. Within the growing anti-racist mass movement, many Black, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous and white youth are questioning the foundations of the system. They are eager to discuss communist ideas.

This threatens the rulers' ability to win the US working class to patriotically fight their wars. Communist youth in the military, especially, can build relationships with anti-racists in the bosses' military and lead them to play a decisive role in the struggle to end fascism with communist revolution.

Meanwhile, the Chinese bosses are sitting on a volcano. In the last five years, half of the world's working-class strikes took place there. Two years ago, a shoe factory strike led to a provincial general strike, and the army was called in. The Chinese masses are not won to fighting for their bosses' profits!

We Call on Our International Working-Class Family to Mobilize Masses for Communism

This May Day, let's expand our forces to show that communism—only communism! — can smash the bosses' racist wage slavery.

Let's deepen communist relationships with friends and family, with the masses in workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and above all the military.

Let's build and strengthen communist collectives that will enable us to destroy the bosses' bloody profit system and win a communist world.

Amidst the pandemic, the global crisis, the rise of fascism and the rising drumbeat of imperialist war... the International Communist Workers' Party is moving forward:

In El Salvador, women and men workers in garment sweatshops are recruiting relatives and neighbors, workers and students, into new communist collectives. Farmworker and student comrades are helping them build for a communist May Day.

In the USA, active and retired aerospace workers in Seattle are using social-media networks to build real communist relationships. Young workers in Los Angeles are mobilizing formerly inactive comrades and making new contacts in the streets. New communist leaders are developing among transit workers.

In South Africa, a comrade who joined ICWP after a two-year struggle wrote: "Being a comrade of the ICWP has made an immense impact in my being... I've never learned so much, I've never been cared for. I was never exposed to the truth." He is trying to recruit eight co-workers to ICWP.

In India, a comrade who joined ICWP two years ago (when cops killed hundreds of Muslims) now helps to lead the circulation of thousands of Red Flags. His class hatred and his vision of communism have inspired many others to consider communism and join the Party. With comrades formerly in the army who are now farmworkers, he is working to get our literature to friends who are posted on the China-Pakistan border, to organize a military collective.

In Pakistan, *Red Flag* readers are talking to Chinese workers (who are part of a \$50 billion infrastructure development project) about communism and *Red Flag*.

May Day embodies working-class resilience, creativity and revolutionary communist optimism. Let's proudly fly our communist red flags high this May Day!

INTERNATIONAL ICWP ZOOM FORUM

After May Day: Reviewing Our Communist Forces and Planning to Win Our Communist Future

For Zoom link and more information contact comrades in your area or icwp@anonymousspeech.com

Sunday, May 23

*9:00 am West Coast of US and Canada

* 10:00 am El Salvador

* 11:00 am Mexico

*6:00 pm South Africa and Western Europe

* 9:30 pm India



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Preparing for May Day:

LEARN FROM THE PAST TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

SEATTLE (US)—“If you are feeling disheartened, visit someone you would like to win to the party,” recommended an ICWP member to her comrades before the pandemic. “It will get you back on track.”

The pandemic made visits problematic, particularly during last winter’s spike. Nonetheless, the idea behind this advice remains valid. The health of our party collectives rests, not only on how many, but also what kind of relationships we have with our base. Clubs must constantly return to this question.

Last summer’s massive anti-racist demonstrations ignited communist debates at Boeing and the schools. Our collective mobilized more than the usual number of friends and comrades.

We didn’t want to lose momentum. We turned to the internet to follow up.

Learn from the Masses

At first, we concentrated too much on passive, mass digital distribution. Later, we focused on base building. We struggled with friends and new comrades to write and distribute *Red Flag* and put communist politics upfront in whatever they were doing.

This approach requires more time and flexibility. Even mass distribution requires personal follow up. We aimed to develop bigger and more collectives, but the way forward involved many twists and turns.

For example, a Boeing comrade wanted to save time and energy by sending *Red Flag* to forty friends in a text blast. Eight didn’t want to be in such a large group. They wanted to receive the paper individually or in smaller groups where they know everybody. We made this change and they continued the political conversation.

Nurturing our political and personal relationships online resulted in more feedback about our communist politics. Eventually, we got beyond just offering our literature and asking general questions like “What do you think?”

We now spend more time online talking with people about their lives and how to help each other. We highlight articles that would interest our friends, and ask them to help us improve them. We get the greatest response to articles with communist answers to mass unemployment, racism, sexism and xenophobia. Our friends are



drawn to local and worldwide articles describing the party’s role in working class struggle.

Party Collective Ups the Struggle

At a recent meeting, comrade L. talked about a walk with a former co-worker. The friend is angry that Amazon may build a new distribution center in her neighborhood.

L. asked if she had seen our movie review *No-madland: Hollywood Fronts for Amazon* in the last issue of *Red Flag*, which she gets digitally. She hadn’t, so the comrade gave her a print copy, directing her to this review.

The co-worker also told L. about a disturbing conversation. Her sister, denying anti-Asian racism, asked, “Do you know any Asians who have been discriminated against?” Our friend was so angry (her daughter-in-law is from Southeast Asia) that she left the room.

Our collective asked the comrade if she had discussed our communist response to the anti-Asian, sexist-racist murders in Atlanta. L. agreed to send her friend a link to those articles.

Our political line is always the same, but our approaches vary depending on individual circumstances. L. will talk with her friend about both articles, soliciting her input and emphasizing that the only way to fight racist, sexist, xenophobic

attacks on the working class is by joining ICWP and fighting for a communist world.

Plan for the Near Future

As May Day approaches, the government is loosening Covid restrictions. Our May Day plans involve more than just bringing our communist politics to May Day activities—as important as that is.

We’ve planned small social gatherings to help cement relationships we’ve built over the last year. We’ll visit Portland to see new and old friends who have reached out to us. Pandemic permitting, we plan some trips around the US with new comrades and friends, and eventually international trips.

Meanwhile, more people are taking to the streets to fight the police murders of George Floyd, Adam Toledo and Daunte Wright, and the racist-sexist murders in Atlanta. Pandemic or no pandemic, workers are on the move around the world.

We must adapt what we learn in order to move forward. We must nurture more communist relationships, both digitally and in-person, whatever the situation.

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for a while. He said, “Don’t think that because I haven’t met with you, I have stopped distributing *Red Flag*. No. I have continued to receive it and to pass it on to other workers. And I have told them what it would be like to live in a world without money, that we are only going to produce what society needs.”

Another worker said, “We want to thank you on behalf of all the comrades of the maquila factories, for the solidarity of the ICWP during the pandemic when the bosses did not pay us and left us starving and only the Party distributed food baskets to us. We will never forget it.”

Two copies of *Red Flag* were symbolically given to each worker, to show the urgent need to make the newspaper network grow.

“You have to give me seven newspapers because where I live there are more workers to whom I give *Red Flag*,” said a worker. Others also requested more.

Comrades, readers, friends and their families have continued to meet and discuss attending the march on May 1, 2021, as well as to discuss and analyze the Party’s plans in these workers’ collectives.

In this weekend’s meeting we discussed the international situation. We said that it is urgent to eliminate the capitalist system. We are clear that the more repression there is, the more struggle and the more potential that exists in these maquilas to organize communist

revolution led by ICWP.

All the families attending the Party’s political gathering stayed to enjoy chicken, swimming pools and the beach. They said they felt liberated in this atmosphere of camaraderie of the International Communist Workers’ Party.



El Salvador, May Day, 2013

Achieve your dream!

Let’s Destroy Capitalism & Build Communism! ICWP

COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL IMPOSE DEATH PENALTY ON RACIST CAPITALISM

LOS ANGELES (USA), April 20— “Guilty on all counts!” trumpeted the headlines as the verdict was announced in the trial of Derek Chauvin, murderer of George Floyd. We are neither surprised nor satisfied. Many saw during the trial that police officials were distancing themselves from Chauvin. Police and politicians hope to convince the angry masses that he was just a bad apple—to cover up the reality that the system is rotten to the core.

But starting with the murder of 13-year-old Adam Toledo in Chicago, on every single day of testimony, the “KKK in blue” killed somebody. Sixty-four or more, mostly Black and Latinx. Including—a few minutes before the verdict was announced—16-year-old black honor student Ma’Khia Bryant in Columbus, Ohio.

“We’re sick of being peaceful,” a man told police in Columbus. “No more being peaceful.” Masses are rightly outraged. This verdict—and the racist capitalism that it seeks to whitewash—gives us no justice and no peace. Only communist revolution can achieve the popular demand, “Abolish the Police.” Only the abolition of wage-slavery can end the material basis of racism worldwide.

Angry masses poured into the streets again, after Daunte Wright’s assassination during yet another bogus traffic stop in suburban Minneapolis. The killer cop supposedly fired her gun “accidentally.” But there is nothing accidental about racist police terror. Its roots are deep in US capitalism.

US policing grew out of the laws and patrols that enslaved Black workers to produce profits for capitalist plantation owners, merchants, and bankers. It absorbed the legacy of Pinkerton strike-breakers.

Later, cops, courts and laws reorganized racist super-exploitation as sharecropping, chain-gangs, and “Jim Crow” segregation. When capitalists needed Black labor in Northern factories, they segregated Black workers into the worst jobs and neighborhoods.

Little has changed. Capitalist professors and producers still churn out disgusting racist scientific “theories” and popular “culture.” Capitalist



politicians and pro-capitalist union leaders still use racism to divide and exploit the whole working class.

And when that doesn’t work – when multi-racial strikes and Black-led rebellions rock the cities—there are always the cops.

Racist police terror cannot be reformed away. The tiny, inconceivably wealthy US ruling class needs racism – anti-Black, anti-Asian, anti-immigrant – to divide and distract the masses who have everything to gain by overthrowing them. We can’t allow calls for “police reform” to deter or divert the revolutionary communist movement we need.

Mobilizing for a Communist May Day

The masses need communism to end this capitalist dictatorship and every trace of its wage system. Real communism, not like the state capitalism in China or Cuba or anywhere else today.

Real communism means organizing ourselves as one International Communist Workers’ Party worldwide to produce and distribute what the masses need, sustainably and without exploitation.

Communism thrives on the unity of the masses, on the destruction of racism, nations, borders, and every other “ism” that capitalism uses to divide us.

Communist revolution will destroy the police and all other elements of capitalist state power. The masses, led by communist ideas, will solve any problems of anti-social behavior or counter-revolution that arise.

The Los Angeles young workers’ club handed out leaflets in South LA, saying all this, inviting people to May Day. There were many good conversations. Four workers asked to be contacted for May Day.

Comrade V told a Black social worker that in communism “we would protect ourselves without cops, collectively.” This woman has a relative who is a cop and she was arguing that we couldn’t survive without the police, especially in South LA.

Just then a male comrade came up behind V to get leaflets out of her bag. The woman thought he was a thief and immediately moved to defend V. V told her that the fact that she, a complete stranger, was ready to defend her proves how the working class in a communist society will work collectively to defend ourselves—without police.

“Comrade V’s optimism and enthusiasm, asking folks unapologetically for their phone numbers, really inspired me,” said an older comrade.

The communist relationships and collectives we build today are the nucleus of the communist world we so desperately need.

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father. When his father was in his mid-50’s, the government announced socialist programmes. His debt was forgiven. He got a small piece of land.

Virendra explains: “But we found that having the land, we needed loans from the government and bank to sow seeds, fertilize the land, and buy other equipment. We struggled for several years until our land was foreclosed by the bank. Now I work as a casual farm worker looking for a job every season.”

Wage Slavery and Capitalist Crisis

Virendra’s comrades discuss that life in capitalism is a constant struggle for survival because we are wage slaves, at the mercy of the class that exploits us. Our oppressors use their money to suppress us. They use their army, court system, and banks to keep us wage slaves. The capitalists use a large part of the money they steal from us to finance projects that create more value for themselves.

A comrade used billionaire Adani as an example. Adani virtually controls food grain in Punjab and many states. His gigantic silos are filled with grain while millions are starving. He owns supermarkets, highways, ports, coal, oil and airports.

Some of his vast investment is funded by international banks. His alliance with Walmart competes with other capitalists like Amazon and Reliance.

These three corporate giants alone control a population of 1.4 billion people. To win greater market share they are overproducing everything from food staples to cars, oil, coal, and houses. Their vicious competition overflows the market with goods because workers cannot buy what they have produced.

The corporations buy expensive machines to produce more goods with fewer workers. But since their only source of profit comes from paying workers much less than the value workers produce, their rate of profit declines over time. To counter this decline, they force fewer workers to work harder to produce more and cheaper.

Marx called this “the tendency of the rate of profit to fall.” The bosses are forced to produce more by wage cuts that leave the workers in ever-increasing poverty. Some bosses go bankrupt.

Imperialist Competition: Fascism and War

Today a few billionaires worldwide control everything. However, those capitalists still need to compete for maximum profits worldwide. We call them imperialists. The rulers of China, the US, Russia, Europe, India, and others are in a

sharp fight to control the world’s markets. This escalating crisis is leading to world war and fascism.

Nothing in this capitalist/imperialist world needs to be saved. Comrade Virendra is very clear about it. Others he is talking to are beginning to think like him. Communism is the exact opposite of world war, profit, greed, banks, money. In communism, masses will collectively produce only to meet everyone’s needs.

How we can organize more comrades to join ICWP?

Comrade Virendra joined after months of struggle with a comrade from Delhi. Over several months they built a lasting relationship. Day and night, they and other comrades were together, preparing food, cleaning dishes, washing toilets, and talking about communism. The comrade from Delhi also joined another collective formed to fight violent attacks on Muslims there.

From this we learn that there are millions around us whom we can recruit. The bosses are weak because they rely on us. When we fight for communism, we seize their power to exploit us.

By patiently building lifelong communist relationships, we forge bonds more powerful than their repression. We have a world to win!

Heroic 1976 Soweto Uprising Teaches Us:

ONLY COMMUNIST REVOLUTION CAN END CAPITALISM'S RACISM

SOUTH AFRICA— “From the masses to the masses,” the Chinese communists used to say before they became state capitalists. The slogan mapped out how revolutionary ideas could be developed. Change starts with mass action. It is then examined for its strengths and weaknesses by their communist party before it is relaunched as a revolutionary strategy. We should apply this way of thinking as the 55th anniversary of the Soweto uprising approaches.

No-one outside of Soweto would have thought twice about the peaceful demonstration that the students at Orlando West High School were planning for June 16, 1976. Sure, they would have agreed with the students’ demands (that lessons be taught in English, not Afrikaans) but then they would have turned their attention to more revolutionary issues.

The demonstration was peaceful, as planned, until the cops met it with a hail of bullets. The local authorities had decided to intimidate the students. Instead, they inflamed them. Over the next several months teenagers (and pre-teens, too) ran at the police. They were arrested, tortured and sometimes killed in prison, but they kept marching and marching. They lost all fear. Nothing was left but political commitment to smash racism.

The struggle spread beyond Soweto to every township in South Africa. Between 1980 and 1985, there was not one semester without a major boycott. In 1984, over half a million students in over 60 townships boycotted school. By 1985, cops were arresting kids as young as seven years old! The word “Soweto” inspired anti-racist action the world over. Just as the Chinese in their communist days used to say, “**A single spark can start a prairie fire!**”

And what a fire! It became obvious when they walked out of schools that the State had lost control over them. Ideas like “getting an education and getting ahead” or “ensuring your future by passing exams” or even “teach us in English” no longer appealed to them. Now, instead, the power of collective action gave them the chance to change the world. They deepened the critique of capitalist education by raising the new slogan “**Liberation before Education.**”

From the start, the students turned to their par-

ents, who were industrial, domestic and service workers. They organized stay-aways, rent strikes, boycotts, mass meetings and marches. The State answered with murder and mass repression. The youth turned funerals of their fallen comrades into mass demonstrations.

The State then extended credits to the black middle classes. It recruited them into local township government which, in turn, tried to raise rents, water and electric rates as well as build new police forces. The youth led the community response: they burned local government buildings, executed new police and informers, and threw mayors out of office. In 1985, 240 black officials and 27 black mayors either resigned or fled to special centers for safety.

The power of the insurrection came from the class consciousness of the masses. In the Townships it over-ran the State-sponsored counter-revolutionary black nationalism.

This insurrectionary class consciousness reached its height in 1984-85. Stay-aways protested rent and transportation increases. Enforced by community groups, they called on workers to stay away from work by blocking access to essential mass transportation.

In the Vaal triangle they hit the industrial heartland. The State responded by sending in 7,000 troops to do house-to-house searches. This was a mistake. It showed that the State no longer feared only the militants: it now feared the whole working class! This shift in attitude was not unnoticed. Insurrectionary working-class consciousness now developed a powerful new slogan: “**No More Heroes!**”

This forced the State and its capitalist backers to promote the heroes of Robben Island: the African National Congress (ANC) and Nelson



Mandela. The masses falling for this has set back the advancement of the South African working class. It’s true that, from Sharpeville to Marikana, imperialist capitalism has ruled South Africa. But defeatism has no place as we approach the 55th anniversary of the great Soweto uprising.

Understanding this process is the key for us now. The vital link in the chain “**From the masses to the masses**” is the development and independence of our communist party, ICWP.

The old South African Communist Party was too intimately tied to the capitalist ANC. It did not aim for communist revolution to smash capitalism. It had no analysis that racism (as apartheid, Jim Crow or whatever form) was a product of capitalism and could not be eliminated unless capitalism was replaced by communism. Therefore, it was unable to advance the insights the masses had produced in their epic battle.

The collapse of the old makes room for the new: the International Communist Workers’ Party. **Mobilize the Masses for Communism!**



Read our Manifesto:
**Mobilize the Masses for
Communism**

icwpredflag.org/MMC/MMCE.pdf

CRICKET, COVID, AND THE QUAD

Cricket is the most popular sport in India. The other day, a friend who is an avid *Red Flag* reader called me and said, “Did you hear what happened? The Chinese have taken over the sponsorship of IPL (the Indian Professional League).” IPL is hugely popular, with multi-billion-dollar revenue.

Last year, with Coronavirus spreading across India, IPL had to curtail its franchise and finally end the season. Chinese companies with English-sounding names used to proliferate IPL, offering everything from smartphones to appliances and hi-tech gadgets. Then came a border tension between India and China. The Indian rulers banned most of these Chinese commodities.

The year started with the new Biden administration and intensified attacks on China. The Quad (the US, Japan, India, and Australia) started massive naval exercises. However, India and China re-negotiated several deals to restart trade, reaching \$78 billion. China replaced the US as India’s top trading partner.

India also introduced two corona vaccines. As an emerging imperialist power, it exported vaccine to 78 countries. This was a complete disaster.

The vaccines were of unproven quality, orders were delayed, and many vaccines were recalled as unsafe.

Meanwhile, Covid-19 was surging, with religious holidays bringing millions to fairs and festivals. The fascist BJP encouraged these super-spreader gatherings. In a truly fascist, unscientific claim, they told the masses that “the Hindu gods can conquer corona virus.”

The country was in complete collapse. Dead bodies littered streets due to lack of crematoriums. The living lined up in unending queues at hospitals, gasping for air as oxygen and Remdesivir disappeared from the market.

Massive corruption would bring life-saving oxygen only to those who could afford it. But the profit-making killer hospitals would administer them to suck the last breath of these patients to make exorbitant money. Many would die with the oxygen tanks and loads of money left for these corrupt hospitals.

The health crisis was so serious that the government appealed to the international market for the vaccine. Russian manufacturers were the only suppliers that offered 100 million vaccines im-

mediately. This was at a time when a US naval ship was passing through India’s declared zone of exclusion. India sent a stern warning to its Quad partner. The Quad is on shaky ground, with China and Russia pulling India in a different direction.

The world goes through unending cycles of Covid surges, bringing the masses to misery. Imperialist armies and navies are on a collision course. The masses have the potential to end wage slavery, the source of all horrors, with communist revolution.

Only the working class, armed with the communist outlook of ICWP, can seize the moment and emancipate the masses.

COMMUNISM VALUES EVERYONE'S WORK, REALIZES EVERYONE'S POTENTIAL

“My grandmother came to the US as a teenager. She hoped to go to school and learn to play the piano. Instead, she went straight into the factory,” mentioned a comrade.

Everyone has stories like this. Capitalism's greatest crime is how it squanders human potential. Not just people killed by racist cops or in imperialist wars, people who die from hunger or preventable diseases.

But, also, billions with little or no work because capitalism can't exploit them profitably. Capitalism needs hungry job-seekers to drive down wages.

And more who are paid to control others. Or to keep them from taking what they need but can't afford. Or to keep track of the bosses' money. Or to make unnecessary things that nobody would buy if not for capitalist propaganda.

Who do you know who feels that their time and talents are being frittered away?

Communism will tap into the masses' deep reserves of creativity, energy, skill and enthusiasm. Communism will realize the principle “From each according to ability and commitment— to each according to need.” We will cooperate instead of competing with each other.

“We should say ‘according to ability,’ not ‘according to commitment,’” comrades L and M argued in a recent meeting of our collective. They meant that each person's “ability” to contribute is limited by external factors, like family and work obligations. We should not judge each other's commitment by how much we do.

Comrade P disagrees: “‘From each according to commitment’ means encouraging each other to contribute as much as we can based on our commitment to the working class and the fight for communism.”

Comrade R suggests focusing on the qualitative: “What and how can you contribute? How can we help you accomplish this?” We collectively develop our commitment through practice. We don't measure it with some yardstick.

For example, comrades who work long hours in a factory can't spend as much time in meetings or in the streets. But they have more ability than most to build communist relationships with other factory workers.

A comrade sometimes feels bad that time spent with family takes away from her “political work.” But she has the ability to bring family and their friends to march and help distribute literature on May Day.

Our collective agrees with Comrade P that “it's not competitive – it's about helping each other figure out how to build communist relations in our busy lives.”

Communist Collective Work Versus Capitalist Exploitation

The ruthless capitalist wage system values only our “ability” to be exploited for maximum profits. It looks for the “best-qualified” people for pre-defined “jobs.” In contrast, communist production asks what work needs to be done and how it can be done collaboratively by those willing to help. Tasks are organized so that “many

hands make light work.”

Everyone's differing skills (“abilities”) are a collective source of strength. Everyone learns new skills. Nobody is discounted as “disabled.” Nobody is “too old” or “too weak” or “too whatever.” No jobs are “for men” or “for women” or “for this group or that group.” Nobody lives better or worse than anyone else because of the work they do.

In this way, communism will make it possible to end sexism, ageism, ableism, racism, and all the other “isms” that divide and demean us.

Unchaining our human potential and ending useless, harmful jobs, communism will be able to meet more than our basic needs. We'll have plenty of time to care for children and help them with age-appropriate work. To assist ill and infirm comrades, enabling them to make their contributions. To build strong comradely relationships and solve problems. To participate in meetings and help make decisions.

Plenty of time to create films or graphic novels or new dances. To study science or history or languages. To read and debate and discuss. And yes, to learn to play the piano.

We may not all live to see the final victory of communism, but we can see communism in action today. If you want meaningful work ... if you want your talents to serve the masses ... if the vision of a communist world inspires you... you belong in the International Communist Workers' Party!

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

Young Workers See Desperate Need of Change, Recommit to Communist Work

LOS ANGELES (USA), April 11 — “After not being able to attend ICWP meetings for a long time, the party welcomed me like the first day,” said a comrade who used to write poetry for *Red Flag*. She is a part of our legacy of organizing working-class Black and Latinx high school students, but had become inactive. She recently attended a Zoom meeting where we discussed trying to navigate life under continuously declining capitalism.

“It was extremely refreshing to see and listen to my comrades whom I hadn't seen in so long, reminding me what I once stood for. As we heard each other's stories, I felt a sense of be-

longing, something I hadn't felt for a very long time. This meeting was an eye-opener, because after ten years, nothing has changed. We are reminded daily that capitalism does not work for the people,” she continued.

“People are having conversations left and right about the injustices the working class faces during this pandemic and systemic racism. Although these conversations are important and must be had, we must remember that we must fight this at the root, capitalism. Communism is the only solution,” she concluded.

Another inactive young woman comrade added, “Being able to get with everyone especially during these quarantine days was amazing! Life got extremely busy but our mentality

towards these injustices never changed. It reminded us why this party is so important and why we should continue to work towards gathering the masses for communism. We live in different areas in Los Angeles and wherever we go the injustice follows. There's no running from it.” She attended the party club meeting later in the week and hopes to be able to join us on May Day.

A young comrade organizer commented, “I've remained in the party mainly because I understand that the system will never work for the working class. I've had moments where I stepped away from party work to get myself together mentally, but I've always come back because I know that our work is a means to end this system. We are taught individualistic ideas that we can solve our problems on our own rather than collectively. We can't continue in this way as this system declines.”

A teacher added, “We all struggle with the contradiction between the demands of everyday life under capitalism and our commitment to fighting for a communist world. The isolation of the pandemic has made this harder and it's easy to get discouraged. But nothing stays the same. If a comrade is less active now than they were in the past, we shouldn't be surprised or discouraged by that. We should continually reach out to them in comradely struggle. If we want to win—and we must win—we need each other.”

The enthusiasm and our increased confidence in the working class carried over in the club meeting and spurred us to go out in the streets the following Saturday (see page 4).

Collective in Los Angeles



PLEASE SEND US YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO
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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.

Need to Build New Communist Collectives in El Salvador

EL SALVADOR— For years I have wanted to see the International Communist Workers' Party grow even more. In recent years, I began a plan to win more young people to communist ideas. To do this, I shared *Red Flag* among students from the National Institute. I helped them with their homework and took advantage of the time to talk to them about communist ideas.

Three young people got excited about this. But when they commented to a teacher that the person helping them with their homework talked to them about communism, their teacher started a struggle to get them to stop this. They stopped visiting me. Later they told me that the teacher said that he believed that communism was bad. I explained that they were making a mistake, but only one continued to meet with me. At the end I lost contact with him too because he transferred to another school.

With this experience in mind, I started another struggle, in the school where I work, with youth from Junior High School. When a teacher was absent, I covered their classes. I was always aware of their Social Studies topics and when a teacher didn't come to work, I took the opportunity to introduce communist ideas. I managed to build a group of five young people. They were very interested. The problem was that when they left to go to high school, I lost contact with some of them because they left the school.

By 2020, I set myself the goal of resuming this strategy to win young people to our communist party. We were in the process of gaining their confidence so that they would accept my help with their studies and I could take the opportunity to talk to them about communist ideas. But everything got paralyzed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, all these experiences have helped me to realize that, yes, young people can be

won over to communism. I have not given up and I will not give up on carrying out new projects to recruit more people.

Now I am in another project that I am initiating from the family group. I have four readers. I can tell them directly that only a communist revolution can help us defeat capitalism. I will continue struggling to win more people to communism.

All this experience has helped me to learn more about how to go about struggling better to win more young people to communism and to organize them into the International Communist Workers' Party.

Red Teacher



New Comrades in El Salvador: Our Communist Experience

It was very gratifying to be invited to the political gathering with the workers organized in the International Communist Workers' Party, to be part of the cause for worldwide revolution. We very much liked all the information that was shared. Especially the experiences related to what the men and women workers in the maquila factories in El Salvador experience every day, in the struggle to survive, for their daily bread, and at the same time daily struggles for communist revolution.

We learned details, situations that we were unaware of, that inspired us to want to unite, struggle, and to be part of the ICWP proudly as workers. We feel motivated to fight for a significant change for all workers, who suffer all kinds of abuse, mistreatment and discrimination by the bosses every day.

It motivates us to fight so that we can live equitably and, what is essential, feel fulfilled. And thus, we can end the oppressive hand that takes advantage of its current power and subjugates whoever it can. We want to continue, keep informed, participate and be part of this fight to organize the ICWP.

We are very grateful for the opportunity and for all the warmth you gave us. Three of us attended the meeting, but six of us will be participating and be part of the organization.

Comrades in El Salvador

Marching Towards a Better World

"What did you think of today's meeting of our communist collective?" I asked a university student. Did you like it?"

"Yes," he answered. "I have always thought that knowledge aimed at social development is a fundamental weapon for human beings. My experience today was gratifying and encouraging. Before this, I considered it difficult to find people who would seek an equitable good so that we can grow as a society.

"To find workers who are marching towards a better world. Or, failing that, towards a part of the population that initially directs projects to educate and learn with the general population to add a fundamental idea to the free thought of each person: we can all live in better conditions of health, work and solidarity.

"Listening to each speaker was very significant. It illuminates my thinking. Now I know that there are more people who share my ideals, seeking to change the stratification between exploiters and exploited. The actions to make this possible are achieved by changing our thoughts and those of others at the same time."

He concluded, "I hope to be able to participate in upcoming Party meetings."

Later we shared food and drinks on the beach boardwalk in the company of other friends.

Comrade in El Salvador

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all over India – sent a clear message to fascist Prime Minister Modi: "If our parents (the farmers) are massacred, we will march on Delhi."

This shows the potential to win masses of Indian soldiers to turn their guns around and fight for communism. ICWP comrades in India are working with soldiers and youth (and farmers, their parents) whose only chance of survival is to join the army.

Our pledge: We'll fight to prevent workers in India or anywhere from being cannon fodder for any capitalist-imperialist war! We will mobilize them to fight for communism and nothing less.

The sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry, accelerating the rulers' drive to world war, should convince comrades worldwide to see the urgency of our communist military work. We must patiently develop the communist social relations with soldiers and youth to win them to fight for communism.

Comrades in South Africa have plans to expand their military work under the leadership of

a newly-formed collective organized around it. "In the past, our lack of coordination was a main problem," explained a leading comrade. "Overcoming the challenges we had in the past, I believe, will go a long way to expand our base in the military."

This comrade has friends in the army at two bases, and a sister who lives near another. "We will focus our efforts on these bases," he continued. "We need to be consistent with the people we know." The new collective plans to distribute *Red Flag* and their May Day leaflet door-to-door in neighbourhoods near these bases.

More areas must follow their lead. A breakthrough among soldiers would change history in our favor. Victory will be ours!

**Read our pamphlet:
Soldiers, Sailors, Marines:
Crucial to a Communist Workers'
Revolution
Available at
<http://icwpredflag.org/MIL/mpe.pdf>**

CRISIS IN UKRAINE RAISES THREAT OF WORLD WAR III AND OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Conflict is sharpening between the US and Russian rulers over control of Ukraine. The US is desperate to stop the rise of imperialist rivals Russia and China. These developments are preparations for World War III. Workers need to understand these events and prepare by building a mass ICWP, especially among workers and soldiers. Masses have no interest in siding with any nationalist or capitalist imperialist. Instead, masses everywhere have the same interest: to mobilize for communist revolution to put an end to capitalism-imperialism for good and build a communist world without competition, profit or wars for profit. Please read two articles posted at

<http://icwpredflag.org/ukre/>, discuss them with your collective and friends, and help us write more about it.

MAY DAY: LET'S FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS

LOS ANGELES (USA)— “Seeing a 3-year-old boy fall from the 20-foot wall to cross the US-Mexico border is devastating,” said a comrade. “Or seeing a child drown trying to reach the shores of Europe with his family,” said another.

These horrors make us ask: what kind of criminal system causes these crises and divides us with nations and borders? What system decides that a person from whom no profit is made must die? This system is capitalism.

But what is the alternative? Our task must be to organize ourselves and fight together to build a communist world without exploitation, racism or sexism, and without borders. Where we will all be valuable, necessary and welcome anywhere in the world.

A communist revolution in any part of the world will lay the basis for changing the entire society into one where we will all work to meet the needs of our whole human family. This will not only fulfill the need for food and shelter, but it will free our minds to create new forms of relationships of life for everyone.

The current capitalist and inter-imperialist crisis has wreaked havoc never before seen on the working class. It has forced millions to leave their places of origin, crossing oceans, deserts and mountains in search of a job to survive. But not all get to their destination. Many die. Others are deported.

The Mexican and Guatemalan borders are militarized with thousands of soldiers and police to prevent the caravans from advancing north. This is the product of pressure and blackmail from the US government. According to the New York

Times, Biden offered 20 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to the president of Mexico in exchange for not letting immigrant caravans pass.

In the US, the Biden administration restricts the number of refugees (children and adults) as Trump did. There are limited quotas for immigrants. Neither Democrats nor Republicans have a satisfactory response to the immigration crisis created by their capitalist system.

From the racism of the current immigration laws to the ultra-right groups that call for shooting immigrants, all capitalists profit politically and economically from immigrant workers. Children and young people who manage to get to the US or stabilize their residence here, like those in the DACA program, await exploitation in factories or to prepare for wars in the army.

Globally, many blame the corruption of governments. But the rulers only follow the laws of capitalism: to maintain exploitation through wage slavery.

The class solidarity shown by many in Mexico, the US and Europe to immigrants from Central America, the Caribbean, Asia and Africa has dealt a blow to racism and nationalism. It shows



that we, the working class, are one.

Men and women immigrants are not passive victims. They can become communist leaders of the working class worldwide, in factories, barracks and neighborhoods.

They have long led fights against this murderous and oppressive system. In the 19th century, immigrant workers were key to the struggle that led to the founding of May Day. From the struggles of European immigrants in the early 20th century, to Central American and Mexican immigrants at the end of that century, many helped organize communist parties with the vision of a world without exploitation.

We are one working class and we are fighting for one communist world without nations or borders. We are building one International Communist Workers' Party. Join ICWP!

Only Communist Revolution Can Prevent World War:

LET'S BURY CAPITALISM BEFORE IT BURIES MANY OF US!

Capitalism's laws of development are pushing global capitalism towards one of its never-ending cycles of economic depression, fascism and bigger wars leading to World War III.

China's rise can't avoid this process, and accelerates it. Capitalism produces for profits, which can only be realized when commodities are sold. This makes market share a question of life or death for the capitalist-imperialists. It makes wars to defend or increase market share inevitable.

Only communist revolution can end this. Communism will eliminate nations and borders. Communism – without money or wage slavery – will collectively plan and produce only for workers' needs. Nothing will be sold or bought, including our labor power. This will eliminate competition and war.

Meanwhile, however, capitalism rules the world and is deciding our future.

1917 Russian Revolution Took Place Amidst World War I

The Bolshevik (communist) party had sent wave after wave of young communists into the Russian army for twenty years. They won others by patiently developing political social relations. When the time came, they could lead masses of soldiers to turn their guns around, overthrow the capitalist Kerensky government and put the working class in power. They took Russia out of the world war.

Imperialists elsewhere feared that this historic accomplishment would inspire soldiers in their armed forces and workers in their own countries to do the same. The Russian Tsar's former im-

perialist allies formed a coalition to invade the new Soviet Union. Their goal: “to strangle the infant (workers' state) in the cradle.” They failed miserably.

However, the Bolsheviks established socialism, not communism. This was state capitalism, and eventually developed into full-blown Russian imperialism.

Is Communist Armed Insurrection Possible Before World War III Breaks Out?

Let's not be lulled into believing the rulers will not use nuclear weapons in their coming wars. We should also never believe that the working class will accept this passively.

We think that hundreds of millions will rise up against World War III. But what will they fight for? Some so-called “lesser-evil” imperialist? An impossible return to a “peaceful” capitalism? Or for communism, to end capitalism and its wars forever?

That depends on what our Party does now. In many countries – from Myanmar to Mexico, from India to South Africa, from Lebanon to the US – the masses increasingly can't live in the old way and neither can the rulers rule in the old way. The masses are in motion

against capitalism's attacks.

What is missing? The indispensable condition of a mass International Communist Workers' Party which has won broader masses – especially industrial workers, soldiers, sailors and youth – to fight for communism and nothing else.

Build Communist Relationships with Soldiers and Communist Military Collectives

In India, a mass movement of millions supported over a million farmers fighting to keep their land. Masses of workers and youth, including ICWP comrades, participated daily in this struggle.

Soldiers speaking out in Delhi – claiming to represent soldiers stationed at the Indian-Pakistani-Chinese borders, and supported by soldiers

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