

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



MAY DAY REPORTS: PAGES 2, 3 & 7

MAY DAY IN SAN SALVADOR

“Solidarity and struggle with workers in India and around the world. ICWP. Communism is oxygen for the working class.”

**BUILDING THE WORLDWIDE
PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION**
International Communist
Workers' Party

“I might be dying but I want to see these profiteers buried alive” COMMUNIST COMRADESHIP DEFIES CAPITALISM'S DEADLY PANDEMIC

INDIA, May 9— “On the one hand, hoarding, taking advantage of a vulnerable public, filling purses and hoarding life-giving necessities,” wrote a friend here. “On the other, humanity reaches out with open arms, helping, aiding, giving.”

A determined group of comrades in Delhi, who have fought the pogroms, joined rebellions in Shahin Bagh and farmers' agitations in Punjab, and aided masses of migrant workers fleeing cities, jumped into action. Now every family has multiple members with coronavirus, and many are dying.

Oxygen has disappeared along with antiviral medications. Hospitals have stopped taking patients. Horrific scenes of patients gasping for air are everywhere.

The group of ICWP comrades has dwindled as family members have fallen seriously ill. However, the remaining comrades have stepped up.

They immediately contacted comrades in the deep south who are also facing dire conditions.

Comrades created a poster entitled “Break the Chain” (referring to coronavirus) of Pandemic, Profit, War, Sexism, Casteism, Fascism. They asked workers to join the International Communist Workers' Party, the only party that can break that chain with communist revolution. They appealed to the masses to read and organize *Red Flag*.

The back of the poster asked people not to panic. It showed basic techniques to enhance oxygen levels. We practiced breathing techniques with families. We also said that, when possible, we should seize oxygen tanks and make them available to people in need. We were encouraged by several Gurudwaras (temples) where Sikh families have started Oxygen Langar to share free oxygen with the masses. We discouraged people from going to the hospitals, which are completely

overrun, and where they face ruthless police and hospital administrators. We provided comfort and support to many families we visit every day.

The response from our neighbours was overwhelming. To knock at a neighbour's door who might be seriously ill or dying and offer them our leaflet was challenging and heart-warming. One neighbour said, in a barely audible voice, “I might be dying but I want to see these profiteers buried alive”. We spent quality time with the neighbours. Some people were inconsolable. We were there for them.

We always offered our poster and the literature. Our posters were becoming the life of the masses. Hopelessness turned into anger at the bosses. Fascist Modi and his RSS goons were the targets of their wrath. In our three collectives around India, we distributed, and we are continuing to distribute, our literature in several languages. It is all handwritten and mass-produced because we don't have access to fancy equipment.

Our comrades and neighbours in Bengaluru gave a heartfelt message of support and solidarity to comrade Bai. This was just the beginning as more and more neighbours have perished.

This pandemic started with greedy capitalism and its need to eliminate laboratories around the world. Some thirty years ago, the US Food & Drug Administration closed its doors in China and Africa to monitor epidemics. Climate change and capitalist pressures created conditions for zoonotic diseases (virus jumping from animals to human).

This led to the initial failure to detect the virus in China. More importantly, world capitalist greed--including the US and China--prevented labs from isolating and stopping its spread in a timely manner. So Covid-19 turned into a full-

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MAY DAY: WORKERS AND YOUTH BRING COMMUNISM TO THE MASSES

EL SALVADOR — “In past years we started meeting in January with workers, farmworkers and students to prepare for the May Day march. This year we weren’t sure there would be a march, due to the pandemic,” said a worker leader.

In the first extended meeting, two months before May Day, a worker leader was sharp: “We must go out into the streets and chant our slogans. The Party cannot advance without mobilizing the masses in the streets.” This was met with loud applause and agreement.

Meetings were held weekly for two months with collectives from three factories. There were monthly meetings in the mountains and in the eastern part of the country.

We planned the march collectively, including banners, t-shirts, flags, taking everything to the capital days before to avoid police controls. We delegated a worker for the social gatherings after the march. Three comrades were entrusted with guaranteeing transportation. A comrade was the link with other organizations participating in the march.

A worker who marched on May Day for the first time said, “I was afraid to come, because a union leader told me, ‘If the people from *Red Flag* invite you to the march, don’t go, because



ZARAGOZA (Spain), May 1— Four ICWP comrades went to two marches, one organized by trade unions, the other by anarchists and the revisionist Spanish CP. They passed out all 500 copies of *Red Flag* they had printed and stapled together. Two of the comrades had read the paper before, but this was their first activity with us.

they are a union that the bosses don’t like.” When she told a Party comrade about this, he answered, “Tell him that we are an International Communist Workers’ Party.”

This worker continued, “When we got to the start of the march, I liked that there was no absolute boss, that we all saw each other as equals. I saw the respect with which workers, students and farmworkers are treated. I’m going to join the meetings to find out more about the Party.”

Thirteen new comrades marched with the Party for the first time. Seven are garment workers, three are youths who came with worker parents. We distributed 1,100 *Red Flag* newspapers throughout the march. A university student, who we invited for the first time, commented, “I was surprised that people came up to ask for the newspaper. They came up to me and said, ‘Hey, give me one,’ even those who were passing by on the bus.”

Workers wearing their Party t-shirts and waving red flags stood out in the streets of the capital. Their eyes shone with happiness as they advanced through the streets as ICWP, presenting a revolutionary alternative to other workers.

A young *Red Flag* reader who has come to extended party meetings told us, “Every year I see more people participate with you.”

A worker came up to a comrade and asked, “Where does ICWP meet? I would like to come to your meetings. I’m going to give you my

phone number to learn about the Party.”

“As the International Communist Workers’ Party, we feel proud because we got a lot of attention from other workers. Especially because of the sign that a comrade carried saying that we stand in solidarity with the workers in India.” There were many good comments from that sign.

“We are learning in the Party that international solidarity is important,” concluded a worker.

A group of workers commented:

“We are in this party that represents the brave workers, not like the unions.”

“We needed a car with a bullhorn.”

“Yes,” answered another worker, “next year, we will rent one.”

This activity, amid everything that’s going on and the fear caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, showed us that the participation of many youth, workers and students is thanks to the work in the collectives. And that it’s necessary, urgent, that these collectives of women and men workers, farmworkers, and students are consolidated. That there is a plan for an ICWP political school in each of them. That the leadership in the factories, universities and the fields continues to develop and expand.

We ended the day with gatherings in tourist centers and comrades’ homes, where we enjoyed pupusas, carne asada and pizza.

Seattle, USA (below)



MARCHING ON MAY DAY, MAKING COMMUNIST PLANS

SEATTLE (USA), May 1— “I’m so glad I came today!” said a friend who hadn’t done much with ICWP during the pandemic year. “It was great to see all these people out, especially the young people.”

This year’s May Day was organized under the shadow of the pandemic and a local COVID surge. Some friends remarked, “We’ve been trained to isolate for a long time.”

They came with us to the march anyway, after a long discussion about the exciting communist history of May Day locally and globally. We reviewed the 1886 rebellion in Chicago that led to the first Communist International call for global May Day demonstrations. We touched on various world highlights, ending with the mass rebellions that occurred at Seattle May Days in the last decade.

Some retired Boeing workers hesitated to come out to the march because they were worried about the local spike. The growing global pan-

demic catastrophe was driving their hesitancy. They saw the terrible toll taken on the Indian working class. One worker we couldn’t convince to march has since agreed to help us organize one of a series of smaller social/political gatherings to plan our work going forward.

The march was much smaller than usual, drawing about 250 people. Usually thousands march. Nonetheless, the march was spirited, with young people leading the way. Our modest contingent distributed nearly 300 Red Flags to participants and onlookers.

The idea of fighting directly for communism, without any stage of socialism or reforms in between, was well received by younger people and May Day veterans alike who said, “We need more communists!” And, “I’m glad to see you here.”

After marching, a comrade high school teacher, who was very involved in the anti-racism fights last summer, wanted to discuss plans for this summer. The local party has rekindled its

focus on building communist relationships with those who welcomed us at demonstrations and whom we know from the schools and factories. The comrade teacher agreed to participate in a social/political meeting that other friends who marched on May Day are organizing.

Meanwhile, three comrades are visiting six people in Portland we haven’t been able to meet with because of the pandemic. Our task now is to struggle with them and our expanding circles of activists to share *Red Flag* with their friends and families and join a party collective. More communist organizers is our goal.

We are inviting all May Day marchers, would-be marchers and their friends to participate in our Zoom forum on May 23.

“It was good to get out there and march, raise our fists and struggle for communism,” was how one comrade summed up this year’s May Day. We’ve put ourselves in a better position. Now the crucial follow-up begins.

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MAY DAY DINNER IN SOUTH AFRICA DEVELOPS NEW LEADERS

PORT ELIZABETH (South Africa)—On the 1st of May we hosted May Day by having a dinner meeting as a collective. We analysed the world capitalist crisis. Masses worldwide have been devastated by the failure of capitalists to deal with the coronavirus pandemic. The coronavirus has clearly shown the capitalist system's failure to prioritize the lives of the masses or the working class. Jobs have been lost, people's livelihoods have changed for the worse, while at the same time some billionaires have seen their wealth grow.

As a collective we discussed the need to accelerate our efforts to mobilize and recruit more workers. To do this, we recognized that we needed to adapt to the situation where digital communication plays a huge role. Such that we are looking to revive our Facebook page (Port Elizabeth ICWP Youth Collective). This, we believe, will play a huge role, particularly in exposing our ideas to the youth.

We also resolved to focus on *Red Flag* discussions and distribution, especially since the *Red Flag* remains the primary tool which we use to

mobilize workers.

We also identified the realities and challenges that we face as a collective since the core of the collective has changed. Most of the comrades have moved. This means that new comrades, those who are left, have to take on leading the party here.

It also means that the comrades in their newly found homes have to build party cells where they stay. We identified that in order to coordinate and consolidate our work we must have regular meetings via zoom.

COMMUNIST WORK IN INDIA INSPIRES MAY DAY MARCHERS IN LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES (USA)—The International Communist Workers' Party's successful multi-racial and multi-generational contingent at the May Day March made a big impression on many other marchers. Close to 800 marchers took *Red Flag* newspapers. Comrades distributed hundreds of leaflets about the Covid situation in India: "Capitalism is Murder for Profit." We explained that India is a top producer of medicines yet people are dying from lack of medicine and oxygen because of profits, and that communist revolution is the solution.

Many were moved by this. One person approached us and said, "You are the group that is doing work in India, right? That's great!" He was excited to get *Red Flag*. A young woman said

she wasn't in any group and would like to know more about us. She gave us her contact information and wants to get the paper regularly.

Some comrades joined the caravan, their cars decorated with Party flags and signs. Most marched wearing red Party t-shirts and carrying two communist banners, red flags and communist signs. The daughter of comrades, and others, led communist chants in Spanish and in English, including "Asian, Latin, Black and White, to Smash Capitalism We Must Unite" and "This is the fist of the hour. Workers to Power!"

Four MTA transit workers came and were very inspired. Two of them marched on May Day with ICWP for the first time. One donated \$40 for his ICWP T-shirt.

Before and during the march, comrades gave speeches in English and Spanish denouncing capitalism but also uplifting communism and the need to join ICWP to mobilize the masses for communism.

Many young marchers were socialists. Comrades had conversations with some, explaining that socialism never has and never will lead to communism. That Marx thought a transition stage was needed because he believed the masses couldn't be won to communism in capitalism. But he underestimated what a mass party could do that mobilized masses directly for communism. That's the party we're building now. Some listened intently and thanked us for the explanation.

Many marchers want reforms, short term solutions, but they took the paper and said they would read it. We explained that reforms won't solve the problem and we need communist revolution.

A young comrade leader felt that this May Day was a learning experience, like other years, but that it showed more clearly the need for us to build more of a base with youth. The younger comrades who attended can make important contributions to this organizing.

This comrade hopes to organize more of his coworkers and friends to join the party and for next year's May Day. He looks forward to having our own May Day March as in the past. This would show our collective struggle to mobilize a mass party of workers of all ages, students, soldiers and our families. And in this way, sooner rather than later, to achieve our goal of destroying the capitalist state.



MAY DAY: END EXPLOITATION, OVERCOME CAPITALIST IDEOLOGY, UNITE FOR COMMUNISM!

MEXICO CITY—A few thousand workers and youth marched here this May Day, overcoming the fear of the pandemic spread by the oppressors. Comrades of ICWP participated in the march. Afterwards, they discussed their reasons for participation.

Ending exploitation means abolishing wage labor, the right of the minority (the capitalists) to use the labor of others, their wage workers. This means emancipating humanity—even emancipating capitalists from being exploiters, from taking advantage of the work of the rest of humanity.

Ending exploitation must be the immediate goal of the next revolution. The reconstituted Communist Parties are what remains of the old communist movement. The movement that triumphed in Russia in 1917 and in China in 1949 became its opposite by restoring capitalism there. They thought that the wage system could not be ended immediately. Those parties still think it necessary to go through a stage in which the proletarian state owns the common means of produc-

tion and pays the wages.

The opposite is true. The modern class of wage workers (the proletariat) must destroy this wage system and commodity production (buying and selling), instead producing only use values to meet humanity's needs. Money will not be needed when there is no commodity exchange. We will not be proletarians; never again will we be wage workers.

Instead of being chained to the capitalists by wages and money, we will be united in collectives through ties of comradeship, struggle, and commitment to produce collectively to meet the needs of all.

That means planning, producing and distributing healthy food, clean energy, housing, transportation, and health care that the masses need. It means spreading the fight for communism.

For this, we need to constitute ourselves as a CLASS, that is, in a party, as stated in the Communist Manifesto of 1848. The working masses need one mass worldwide revolutionary commu-

nist party—of millions of communists who are thinkers and doers, who mobilize for communism, and nothing less, among millions more. The International Communist Workers' Party is building that party.

REVISIONISM does not stop proclaiming the idea of the revolution and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat but POSTPONES the liberation of the slaves. It reduces the workers' movement and the class struggle to UNIONISM, to the "realistic" fight for small and gradual reforms. Those include legal reforms, changes in the law, "democratic rights", new Constituencies, "productive projects." It "critically" supports pro-capitalist rulers, participates in governments, supports "worker" business leaders, such as Martín Esparza, Hernández Juárez (UNT), Gómez Urrutia.

We need to overcome the submission to capitalist ideology. Workers of the world, let's unite for communism! Let's join and build communist collectives of the ICWP and spread our *Red Flag* newspaper everywhere.

FAREWELL, COMRADE BAI! COMMUNISM WILL PREVAIL!

BENGALURU (India), April 30—Gangabai, known by many as Bai, is no more. Bai came to Bengaluru from the faraway state of Bihar. She came to support her impoverished family some 20 years ago to work in the many garment shops of Bengaluru. People speak a different language in Bihar, they eat different food. But 20 years of living in Bengaluru changed her and changed people around her.

When she found that she was having difficulty breathing, every person in her neighborhood came to look after her. The caring and love she received had a lasting impression on her. As she was gasping for air, people gave her comfort, they felt what she was feeling. It put an in-

delible smile on her face in the time of her death and people cried for Bai. Quite a tribute to a frail woman who made Bengaluru her home, learned a different language and became part of the community.

Bai did not go to hospitals to face the ignominy of ruthless bosses denying her the oxygen, medication and to be humiliated. She chose to be with the comrades until the end. They gave her everything they had. Above all, they gave her dignity.

Her death tells us that profit making system that deprives the masses of life is running out of life itself. Her death tells us that the horrors of the profit system must be channeled into break-

ing wage slavery and smashing it to oblivion. Her death is carrying unprecedented anger, agony of the masses. Her death reminds us that those murderous crimes that capitalism inflicts on us will be neither forgiven nor forgotten. Her death is the beginning of a process of communist revolution.

Her funeral will be led by our comrades tomorrow on May 1st, 2021. Bai did not know her age. People in villages at that time didn't record these events. We tearfully bid farewell to our fallen comrade and carry our message ever more strongly that communism must and will prevail.



LOS ANGELES, USA

MAY DAY MARCHERS BRING INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH WORKING-CLASS MASSES IN INDIA



OAKLAND, USA



SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR



LOS ANGELES, USA

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blown pandemic. It is likely to be endemic for a prolonged period due to vaccine apartheid where the billionaires fight for their super-profits.

Once communism is established worldwide, there probably won't be pandemics, as the masses will have a communist understanding of the science and the knowledge to control it from spiralling out of epidemics. Masses will eradicate superstition and religion. However, we will certainly face the challenges of pandemics until we destroy capitalism.

Whether pandemics or nuclear wars, our party must grow in numbers under adverse conditions. The resilience of our collectives in India illuminates what can be done on large scale. Our communist relations and collectives will grow as we fight to destroy capitalism now and create our communist future. We have our *Red Flag* and our collectives to guide us.

We need to end the bosses and their profit system so the masses can breathe. Communism is oxygen for the working class.

India, largest vaccine producer in the world, and one of the world's major producers of medicines, is facing shortages and lacks adequate vaccines. The billionaire Adar Poonawalla, CEO of the Serum Institute of India, complained that he was "not making super profits." Another billionaire, Devendra Jain, owns India's largest oxygen plants. He is busy making a super profit while the masses die. Adding to the workers' misery, the Gates foundation has a chokehold on intellectual property (IP) that prevents the production of vaccines. The Biden administration offered a phony IP waiver, only to renege with 'text-based' negotiations to make more profit while thousands die each day. The pandemic has thrown 230 million more people in India below the poverty level.

GEORGE FLOYD ONE YEAR LATER: WHY WE NEED COMMUNISM NOW

One year ago, on May 25, 2020, racist Minneapolis cops killed George Floyd. The protests that erupted across the US and around the world transformed mass consciousness. They raised demands – like “abolish the police!”—that capitalism cannot satisfy. Comrades of ICWP continue our work to mobilize the angry anti-racist masses for communism and to recruit them as members and leaders of our party.

Derek Chauvin, who led the cop death squad, has been convicted of murder but will he even do significant jail time? When masses burned a Minneapolis police station, and rebellions spread, the ruling class got scared and threw Chauvin under the bus.

In the past year, US cops have killed another thousand people, disproportionately Black and Latinx.

As the Chauvin jury was deliberating, cops killed Adam Toledo, 13, in Chicago and Ma’Khia Bryant, 16, in Columbus, Ohio. Days later, on April 21, cops murdered Andrew Brown Jr., 42, with a “kill shot” to the back of his head in Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

The capitalist response should convince us that only communist revolution, not reform, can abolish the police. Democratic Party forces are promoting a “George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021” that would not even have saved George Floyd’s life. Federal “civil rights” charges against the Chauvin gang are but a slap on the wrist. Widespread “diversity and equity

trainings” hide the true root of racism: capitalist wage slavery.

Communism won’t need police. Police exist to protect capitalist private property. They function as an occupying army to terrorize working-class neighborhoods (in the US, especially Black and Latinx) and suppress strikes and rebellions.

Communism will abolish private property in land and production. The masses, led by the party, will make policies to serve our collective needs. Workers won’t have to strike or rebel to get their views heard or their needs met. In communism, communities will resolve conflicts amongst the people through mediation and comradely struggle.

Many contradictions have sharpened in the US over the last year. The Trump faction has ramped up openly racist, fascist agitation to mobilize its core base. This base consists largely of white small-business people, not white workers. The “populists” who lead it – like Josh Hawley and Tucker Carlson – mostly come from wealthy families and prestigious US colleges. Their failed coup of January 6 was a start, not an end.

In response, Democrats are trying to channel anti-racist masses into a fight to stop racist voting reform laws in Texas, Florida and elsewhere. A big contradiction: these capitalists, loyal to Wall Street and US imperialism, can’t really be anti-racist because their own system needs racism to survive. They are even more dangerous.

Mass protests against racist police murders continue and will escalate. Wherever possible, we must organize communist actions against racism and bring communist ideas to rallies and marches organized by others. The contradictions in the capitalist system and among the capitalists create opportunities for our Party to grow significantly in the US, as elsewhere, in the year ahead.



MINNEAPOLIS, (USA), May 28, 2020—Protesting the racist murder of George Floyd, angry masses burned Minneapolis Police Station #3.

THE TULSA MASSACRE OF 1921: TO END RACISM, END CAPITALISM

“It didn’t end when the flames died down on Greenwood Avenue,” said a Black woman raised in Oklahoma. “It’s still going on.”

And it will continue to go on until communist revolution ends capitalist wage slavery, the foundation of racism.

Greenwood was a flourishing Black area in harshly-segregated Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1921. It was called the “Black Wall Street” for having the largest concentration of Black wealth in the US. Several residents owned the equivalent of over \$1 million today.

But 23 Wall Street in New York City, headquarters of J.P Morgan & Co., was the financial center of the United States. This Wall Street, in the 1600s, had been a marketplace for selling enslaved people. In 1919, National City Bank of New York (now Citibank) became the first bank with \$1 billion in assets.

Oklahoma had received statehood in 1907 amidst a population boom, an oil rush, and rapid industrial growth. By the 1920s, white oil wildcatter Tom Slick had a net worth close to the equivalent of half a \$billion today.

Industrialization and petroleum markets made life more precarious for many Oklahomans. Many small farmers went bankrupt. The capitalists and their new state government quickly passed “Jim Crow” segregation laws harsher than those in the former Oklahoma and Indian Territories.

During the recessions after the world war,

these rulers struggled to keep the masses from blaming capitalism and seeing the promise of workers’ power in the Soviet Union. They found their scapegoat in relatively affluent Black Greenwood.

On May 31, 1921, Sarah Page, a white woman, falsely claimed that Dick Rowland, a Black man, had attacked her in a downtown Tulsa elevator (he probably stepped on her foot accidentally). White newspapers elaborated on her lie. They inflamed a racist white lynch mob, deputized and armed by the police.

Black veterans marched to the downtown jail where Rowland was imprisoned. But the racist mob drove them across the tracks to Greenwood. It burned down 40 commercial and residential blocks including 1000 homes. It killed hundreds of Black people, dumping many in secret mass graves or the river. Thousands were left homeless and traumatized.

“My father got so angry whenever it came up later,” said our friend. “He would get real hard and want to go out and hurt somebody. And he was not like that.”

A direct line connects the Tulsa Massacre to the frame-up of the Scottsboro Nine ten years later. To the murder of Emmet Till in 1955 and to Amy Cooper who called the cops on a Black bird-watcher in New York last year.

A direct line connects the Tulsa Massacre to the dispossession of 98% of all Black farm owners in the US, mostly since 1950. To the foreclo-

sure crisis in 2008-2010, which hit Black homeowners twice as hard. To the eviction crisis that is exploding as the federal Covid-19 eviction moratorium ends.

It’s still going on.

It’s still going on because capitalism needs racism, entwined with sexism, to divide the working-class. To super-exploit Black, Latinx and immigrant workers while driving down wages for all. To terrorize the masses, especially those who are most oppressed. To keep others from following their lead in militant fight-back.

But that line can be broken.

Not by reforms to “reduce inequities in generational wealth.” The reparations promised to Black Tulsans twenty years ago came to nothing.

But by revolution to build a communist society that abolishes personal “wealth” along with poverty. Where everyone is housed comfortably without owning property. Where social problems are handled by community intervention, not by police. Where we view differences among us as a source of collective strength, not of competition or hostility.

Communist cooperative production for the masses’ needs will destroy the foundation of capitalism’s racism and sexism. Communist comradely struggle, work and education will break the line and end racism, sexism and all other divisive “isms” for good.

The capitalists’ Wall Street and their racist system will end up in ashes.



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World's Workers Up in Arms Over Pandemic Catastrophe:

BUILD ICWP COLLECTIVES TO REACH ANGRY MASSES

SEATTLE (US)— “This is the next war,” said K as he contemplated an increasingly deadly global pandemic. He gets weekly reports from Iran about those close to him who have died.

Many Boeing friends are shocked at surges in cases (over 800,000/day), deaths (15,000/day), and new variants that threaten to escape vaccines. These place collective (“herd”) immunity out of reach everywhere. These deadly surges are spreading, not only in India, but throughout southeast Asia, eastern Europe and South America. Other industrial workers noted that more variants mean a worldwide multi-year pandemic.

Last May, US capitalists assured this catastrophic outcome. Bill Gates and Big Pharma sabotaged a World Health Organization (WHO) initiative to create an international intellectual property (IP) pool for vaccines.

Two days before the scheduled WHO announcement, five pharmaceutical CEOs and the Gates Foundation preempted it. After praising Gates as an inspiration, Pfizer CEO Bourla denounced the pooling of IP as “dangerous” and “nonsense.” The ruling class pushed through a public-private partnership based on “philanthropy” and industrial enticements.

In contrast, a communist society would have immediately mobilized the world’s workers to manufacture vaccines massively. A year ago, the ICWP would have already been mobilizing masses to construct medical production facilities, disseminate production processes globally, train workers and build the necessary supply chains.

Profit-making wouldn’t have been on the table. Communism produces for our collective needs, never for profits. Communism will abolish intellectual property rights and patents. All knowledge will be “owned” by the masses and used to benefit our global working class family.

By early May, 1.16 billion doses of Covid vaccine had been administered. Only 0.2 percent had

gone to the poor majority of the global population.

Workers are outraged. In response, the U.S. has temporarily supported a waiver of vaccine IP rights and sent token aid to India. Even while paying lip service to a vaccine waiver, the U.S. government put India on a priority watch list for “stealing” intellectual property.

The vice-president of the International Trade and Finance Association called the new U.S. stance a “symbolic move.” It is a classic case of “too little, too late.” Negotiations will drag on for months or more. “Compromises” already on the table will gut the benefits of any waiver. No accelerated production will start until at least a year after these negotiations end.

Biden hopes this symbolic reform will placate incensed workers. Rebellions are spreading. U.S. imperialist alliances will be shaken if the US government looks like it is holding back on fighting the pandemic.

Billionaire Gates, the Vaccine Monster, Hated the World Over

Meanwhile, Gates compares his critics to spoiled children demanding ice cream before dinner. (April 12, 2021) “What a jerk,” responded friends at the May Day march.

Another comrade’s friends agreed that Gates and Microsoft abused their workers, but they thought that at least he now was doing something “good” with his money.

“Why should Gates decide what kind of healthcare people get?” she answered. Gates’ role in the pandemic catastrophe has opened peoples’ eyes. She is going to revisit this discussion, emphasizing communist solutions and the need to build the party.

Another comrade has been discussing Gates, capitalism and the pandemic with his extended



CAMBRIDGE (USA) Protest at Moderna headquarters

family in the U.S. and India. He contrasted Gates’ role in the pandemic catastrophe with what communism will do for the health of the masses.

He argued that in a communist world, the probability of pandemics will be highly reduced because the environment will not be destroyed for profits. Workers will produce what is needed, when it is needed and it will be available free to everyone.

No Time to Waste: Building ICWP Is Urgent

Early in the pandemic, a Boeing worker visited her family in China. “Some here say communism is bad,” she began. “But with this pandemic, communist ideology is good. People are not just doing what they are forced to. They believe in collectively helping each other.”

Even though the Cultural Revolution was overturned and capitalism restored, she thinks this collectivity was its greatest legacy.

K is right. We have a war on our hands. To defeat the capitalists in this war and many more to come, we have to step up the fight for communism.

This includes strengthening our ties with the workers we know who are incensed by capitalism’s impotence in the face of the spreading pandemic. As these workers join party collectives, we will build the strength to reach the outraged millions.

PROTESTS IN COLOMBIA SHOW MASSES NEED COMMUNISM

I have lived in the working-class Chapinero neighborhood of Bogota, Colombia for ten years. About three weeks ago, my friends and I went to a call for a strike in front of the government offices. Ever since the pandemic, I have had reduced work hours. I now work only three times a week.

The march was something I have never seen in my life. I am not talking about its size but the mood of the people. Almost everybody was there because they were hungry and worried about their future. You can call it a hungry people’s march. People were fed up with the false promises. They wanted action.

I met women and men in their 20’s and 30’s who have been thrown out by the system. Bogota has a very large informal workforce. They earn their wages on a daily basis. The pandemic has taken a huge toll on them.

Then there are organized workers in the

trade unions and professionals in technology, engineering, health care. They are facing layoffs except those in health care who are working too many hours for less wages. All these people were at the demonstrations in Bogota and then the strike wave spread to Cali, Medellin, Cartagena, Pereira, Bucaramanga and Barranquilla.

The demonstrations called on the Duque government to do away with recently-imposed taxes. Then there were demands addressing housing shortages, food security, police brutality, and healthcare.

These demonstrations have been going on daily for three weeks. Police have killed scores of people. In response to the mass violence by the police and the state, workers have shown more determination. In Bogota, transportation workers are striking along with the public service sector.

I believe that there is a need for a party like ICWP. I have been an occasional reader of *Red Flag*, but my experience has shown me that communism is what the masses need. No amount of police repression is going to pacify people who are striving for the complete elimination of poverty, hunger, and diseases. Communism can provide the correct

channel to achieve this.

—Red Flag reader in Colombia



At the protest held in front of the Colombian embassy in El Salvador, we were present as the International Communist Workers’ Party. This is our first action as members of the ICWP. We were there to show our solidarity with our brother and sister comrades of the working class and the youth, who are being massacred by the murderous Duque government. We cannot remain silent in the face of the violent attack against those who demonstrate in the streets against tax reforms, aimed against the workers. All united with one voice in the search for a just system! We offer our support and share with all a photo taken this day.

—New comrades in El Salvador



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

This May Day I Distributed *Red Flag*

On May First I was in the Embarcadero, San Francisco, passing out *Red Flag* Newspaper.

The plaza by the Bay filled with working people, their families, union brothers and sisters, non unionized folks, and the

unemployed. All were there to celebrate International Workers' Day.

On the front page of The *Red Flag* was an article about comrades organizing factory workers in El Salvador. Another news story was about workers in India, organizing to fight laws that would bankrupt millions.

We passed out a flyer reporting on the pandemic in India. In India, Oxygen for medical purposes is available only to the super rich. India produces 60% of the world's vaccines, but less than 10% of India's population has had a Covid vaccination.

In the Embarcadero this International Workers Day, many people listened, and took the flyer and *Red Flag*. Some of the folks I met worried about the vaccination shortages, they spoke of their doubts about a capitalist health care and corporate system that is driven by money and profits.

They wanted to talk about how patents and licensing agreements have halted production of the vaccines.

I remember all the times in the last 30 years I had marched that route down Mar-

ket to the Civic Center. I had marched in Earth Day demonstrations, the Women's March, marches against racism and state violence, from Rodney King to Oscar Grant to George Floyd. I had marched in anti war demonstrations, protesting the war in Vietnam, Iraq, Haiti, and in "Hands off Cuba", and "Hands off Venezuela" protests. I remember the marches for immigrants' rights, and the Occupy protests against ingrained economic inequality.

All those demonstrations resulted in at most incremental changes to a corrupt capitalist system, followed by sweeping backlash.

This May Day I passed out a paper that's about getting rid of that militaristic, racist, sexist system. I was promoting a system of full participation of the people, a communist system that prioritizes human rights, health, education, a system of free access to goods and services. "From each according to their ability, to each according to their needs" - Karl Marx, 1875. I believe that the International Communist Workers Party can create the world workers need and deserve.

—San Francisco Bay Area (USA) Comrade



Putting Our Talents and Skills to Work for the Masses

"I love this!!!" exclaimed a friend who read a draft of "Communism Values Everyone's Work, Realizes Everyone's Potential" (*Red Flag* v. 12 #5). "It's something I think about all the time—all the troves of untapped potential in our society simply because the capitalist system is too unimaginative and cruel to find roles for everyone's unique talents and skills."

Her favorite line was, "A communist system of production looks at what work needs to be done and how it can be done collaboratively by those willing to do it."

This friend is a talented and busy young writer and comedian. Our question to her—and to all *Red Flag* readers—is how she feels she can contribute to *Red Flag* and the International Communist Workers' Party.

We have a lot of communist work that needs to be done now!

—Comrades in Los Angeles (USA)

We Are Comrades, Not Allies

"When people say 'comrade'," argues the writer Jodi Dean, "they change the world."

As a form of address, she argues, it immediately dismisses old relations (hierarchical, identity, political etc.) and promises new ones.

Communism is not just the future. It is the vision of the future we comrades share, organize

and struggle for right now.

In the moment of greeting, it allows us to see our political horizon as communists involved in our emancipatory struggle. Our struggle against capitalist exploitation and its market forces of wage slavery, racism, sexism and imperialism.

Comrades are not allies who tolerate one another in a limited struggle. Communists cherish one another, Dean argues, in common, revolutionary struggle. Comrades are a necessity.

All this and more she argues in a short book, "Comrade." It provided our book club with a very lively discussion. It would be interesting to hear what others think.

It also prompts me to encourage others to, at least, sign their letters to *Red Flag* as comrades,

—Comrade Reader

El Salvador May Day: "Comradeship of Unity"

A new comrade who has been a union leader, whom I invited to the May 1st march, showed his political development and commitment to the ICWP, defying the threats of the union to which he belongs - as I did 11 years ago.

He said to his comrades, "To those in the union who know me and know that I am already clear, I told you that I would support all

the activities of struggle within the factory, but in the marches and political activities, NO."

This comrade has already taken the *Red Flag* of the ICWP and marched together with his son. Then he wrote us a note saying, "Marching with the Party has been very special for me because I have lived and enjoyed a comradeship of unity, and not like in the union where there is a lot of conflict between them. Also, my son and I really enjoyed the fellowship we had with the comrades who were together at lunchtime. Thank you, comrades, for being so united. We will continue to advance."

—Comrade in El Salvador

Hello everyone, I am a first-year high school student and I would like to tell you that this May 1st I marched with the ICWP. I write in WhatsApp and help with the Zoom application so that my father can communicate with the other comrades of the ICWP. I read *Red Flag*; I am learning a lot. My mother is also a worker, and we are very glad that more women and men workers are joining.

With this year, it has already been two years that I have participated. I liked marching with the party very much. I felt great and I hope to participate again next year, next to my father who is a worker who fights for our working class.

—Red Student

EL SALVADOR,
May 1—
distributing
Red Flag to
May Day
marchers



INTERNATIONAL ICWP ZOOM FORUM

AFTER MAY DAY: REVIEWING OUR COMMUNIST FORCES AND PLANNING TO WIN OUR COMMUNIST FUTURE

JOIN US FOR PICTURES, ORAL REPORTS AND SONGS THAT HIGHLIGHT OUR GLOBAL MAY DAY EVENTS. HELP US DEVELOP PLANS TO BUILD ON THESE ACTIVITIES TO BUILD OUR PARTY.

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



U.S. MOBILIZATION FOR WAR AGAINST CHINA: COMMUNISTS NEED TO MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

“We’re in competition with China and other countries to win the 21st Century,” stated President Biden in his first speech to Congress.

The rulers call this “great power competition,” mainly between the US, China and Russia. ICWP calls it inter-imperialist rivalry for world domination which inevitably leads to world war.

Biden put forward a massive plan for jobs to re-build US infrastructure. Sounds good, but its purpose is to mobilize US youth for patriotism and war.

When masses of people, especially youth, of all “races” fearlessly took to the streets after the racist police publicly murdered George Floyd, it terrified the US rulers.

They hope that mobilizing for patriotic service to the country will turn these angry anti-racist masses toward fighting and dying to defend US imperialism, and that a mass national service program will do the trick.

That is why the New York Times and the Council on Foreign Relations – main policy makers and propagandists for the dominant US imperialist wing – call for Biden’s jobs program to be a national service program—to create “green energy” and other virtuous-sounding programs to unite the nation for war.

This is more urgent than ever as US imperialists negotiate an end to their failed military adventure in Afghanistan in order to militarily reposition themselves for conflict with a rising China and a resurgent Russia.

Thus, Gen Stanley McChrystal, former commander of the US forces in Afghanistan, called

on Biden to invest in universal national service for one million US youth a year. The New York Times carried an editorial calling for national service for all US youth.

On May 4th the Brookings Institution, a top imperialist think tank, announced a year-long campaign for national service, which they compared to the New Deal programs of Roosevelt, US President before and during World War II. This included government jobs programs to build infrastructure and prepare the US to enter WWII, followed by a wartime draft. Today the bosses are preparing for World War III.

Today’s rulers want and need a draft. They hope that national service will make it more acceptable.

War: Danger and Opportunity

During wars, masses of workers, youth and especially soldiers worldwide become politicized.

During the Vietnam War, massive rebellions of soldiers and sailors against racism and imperialism rocked the US military. The soldiers killed many officers rather than attack the Vietnamese people.

This, coupled with the bravery and commitment of the Vietnamese fighters, forced US imperialism to flee in defeat. They could no longer field a reliable army.

Russian Communists (Bolsheviks) organized among soldiers, sailors and workers, before and during World War I, to turn the bosses’ war into a revolution for workers’ power. Facing death at the front, rebellious soldiers took the lead in joining with workers to turn their guns on the war-

makers and make a revolution. They took state power in 1917.

Youth who become soldiers and workers are key to revolution.

That’s why we encourage youth – ICWP members, *Red Flag* readers and others around us – to join the bosses’ armed forces and national service and to get jobs to mobilize for communist revolution. To become the leaders that our class needs to galvanize masses to fight for and win communism.

War changes people. Youth forced into the bosses’ military to fight other workers for the profits and empires of capitalist exploiters can see that capitalism is the mortal enemy of all workers and soldiers. They can see through the lies that they are fighting for “freedom and democracy” or “our country.”

But most important: They can see the need and mobilize for communism.

This requires long term communist work in the rulers’ militaries. Communists known and trusted by other rank-and-file soldiers need to give them leadership and build communist collectives.

Imperialist war is inherent in the profit system, which is based on competition for maximum profit and world domination. The only way to end imperialist war is through communist revolution to put an end to money, profits, competition and wars for profit.

In communism, after revolution has eliminated all capitalists worldwide, we won’t need wars. We will act as the one human family that we are, sharing resources and learning from each other to build a communist world that meets the needs of everyone.

Communists struggle to serve the working class, by joining ICWP and mobilizing for communism among students, workers and soldiers. Joining the military or national service is a key way to serve the working class now, making friends with other angry youth who are looking for answers, building collectives, and becoming leaders of ICWP and the whole working class.



Read our pamphlet:

SOLDIERS, SAILORS, MARINES, CRUCIAL FOR A COMMUNIST WORKERS’ REVOLUTION

available at
<http://icwpredflag.org/MIL/mpe.pdf>

EL SALVADOR: ANOTHER FRONT IN U.S.-CHINA BATTLE FOR WORLD DOMINATION

Web only at icwpredflag.org/elce