

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



BRAZIL, May 29 — Thousands in Rio de Janeiro and other cities denounce President Bolsonaro's racist, anti-scientific Covid policies that have killed and put at risk Brazilians, especially Black workers and youth.



**"BOLSONARO OUT!
"NO MORE BLACK GENOCIDE"**

Growing Communist Collective in South Africa:

"EITHER WE PERISH, OR WE FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST FUTURE"

GQEBERHA (Port Elizabeth, South Africa), May 15 – The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) hosted a dinner discussion here. Fifteen comrades attended, including four new comrades who had never been in our meetings.

Two of those new comrades were invited by one comrade who had attended a meeting for the first time seven days earlier. That comrade had been impressed with our ideas. He ended up inviting two more new comrades.

The discussions started with an old comrade asking all comrades, new and old, why they were in the meeting. It was almost a universal answer: they were there to learn more about communism and ICWP.

It was explained to comrades that ICWP is the International Communist Workers' Party which aims to change the world by mobilizing for a communist revolution and building a communist society after the ashes of capitalism.

"How?" a new comrade asked.

Dialectical Materialism: Communist Philosophy of Change

One comrade asked comrades to list anything

they can think of that goes through change and those things that do not change. No one was able to mention something that does not change, while everything seems to change. This means "changing the world is not an impossibility," one comrade remarked.

Secondly, ICWP aims to change the world guided by its revolutionary philosophy Dialectical Materialism. Dialectics is a philosophy of change which we use to change the world in practice.

One comrade remarked that "in dialectical materialism there are laws: the law of unity and struggle of opposites, the law of transforming quantity into quality, and the law of negation of negation. These laws guide us and help us struggle with our challenges and contradictions and help us to grow."

To take the second law, the comrade continued, "the law states that quantity can be changed or transformed to another quality. As we stand currently as ICWP we are not yet in a qualitative state to wage a revolution and thus change the world. But if we mobilize the masses, working-

class, recruit the soldiers and students, our numbers will grow and eventually we will be in a position to unite the working-class and revolt against the capitalist exploiters."

Comrades emphasized that as the working-class we have no choice but to fight and seize power from the capitalist class. This is because the capitalist class has no regard for our lives, family and well-being. The rich are getting richer while the poor are getting poor.

One comrade said, "If anyone had some thoughts that somehow the capitalists care, the corona virus has certainly showed that they don't care. Over two million people have died. Capitalists are hoarding vaccines, producing them for profit, while the masses continue to suffer and die."

It is either we perish, or we fight for our future. Our future is a communist future; a communist society.

New comrades wanted to know what is this communist society? One comrade answered, "In a communist society, there will be no bosses, no

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Potential for Building One Mass International Communist Workers' Party:

POST-MAY DAY FORUM HIGHLIGHTS PLANS TO GROW ICWP EVERYWHERE

New comrades, new determination among veteran communists around the world! New friends with new ideas and new interest in *Red Flag* and the International Communist Workers' Party! That sums up the ICWP post-May Day Zoom forum.

Comrades reported on the potential for creating party collectives in new cities and new work-sites and for expanding existing collectives. Experienced comrades and newer friends have already starting building on our May Day activities—under difficult pandemic conditions—to activate plans for growth. This focus is the best response to sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry and increasing attacks on the working class.

In El Salvador, forty-nine people marched under our communist banners this May Day. Thirteen new factory workers and others joined our ranks. We heard directly from some of these new friends and comrades. You could feel their enthusiasm.

The Party collectives there are planning for at least twice that number next year. These new forces have opened up communist organizing in new factories and schools. Veteran factory comrades even left work early (a difficult and costly

effort) to have lunch with potential new communist organizers.

A new member in Cape Town, South Africa spoke passionately about building the party collective there. He emphasized the need for “word of mouth” to counteract capitalist anti-communist propaganda. Lunch meetings and social connections of all kinds—electronic and face-to-face—will overcome the lies of the bosses’ media.

This comrade praised *Red Flag* for presenting communism in an understandable, practical way. Other groups sometimes present communism in ways too complicated to fathom. He plans to create what he ironically calls “commie comics” to reach younger students.

A new comrade in Montreal, Canada, described how workers there are under attack and on the move. This has motivated her to fight for communism after years of relative inactivity. Her 20-year-old daughter also spoke. Together they are determined to build a new collective.

The party collective in Seattle (US) maintained contact with activists in Portland (US) during the last year. This work generated a recent visit during which a new member joined. Others are thinking seriously about it. A concentration

among health care workers is developing.

A factory worker comrade in Houston (US) described using videos to convince co-workers that the US is not “the best of the best.” The potential for a new collective exists there too.

Comrades in Spain arrived late. Ikea drivers, up-in-arms about massive layoffs, had called them. The comrades plan to open up a new communist front in the class struggle against mass unemployment. If you have to be late, that’s a good reason!

The Los Angeles MTA transit collective reported on bringing a group to join the party’s contingent in a mass May Day march. They were committed to help represent communist politics and stuck around even when the organizers delayed the march.

A veteran comrade from the West Coast schools club reported on how comradely struggle and communist relations built over time—no matter how imperfect—overcame fear and cynicism. This was crucial to motivating members to reach out to more potential communists. They have resumed distributing *Red Flag* at the bus divisions in LA and made new plans to do the same in the San Francisco Bay Area.

One International Working Class, One International Communist Workers' Party

“We should have more of these international meetings,” said a South African comrade.

Forums like this show how we are building one international party. The ICWP is not an alliance of separate national parties. We are one party with collectives and leaders in many parts of the world.

This forum displayed the expansion of our party internationally over the past year. It highlights the enormous potential for even more growth everywhere. The work to make this happen is up to us and our comrades and friends!

That work is the primary task of every party collective. We must build on the strengths of our international party to help every collective advance, and struggle in local collectives to overcome weaknesses. Every club should and can intensify the struggle to bring more people to our communist events. Let’s prepare for significant growth over the next year.

The forum made the new comrade in South Africa feel more a part of the party and the global mobilization for communism. Others reacted similarly. So, yes, let’s have more of these meetings! As we carry out the plans we’ve made for new and expanded collectives, they will become even more inspiring.



SAN SALVADOR, MAY DAY: “Solidarity and struggle with workers in India and the world.
“Communism is oxygen for the working class.
“BUILDING THE WORLD PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION”

Factory Comrades Take Important Steps to Build the Party

“Seeing the growth of the party internationally has motivated us to make more contacts in other factories,” said a worker leader in El Salvador who attended the recent post-May Day forum of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

Days after the forum, the workers met and made a plan to go and distribute the *Red Flag* at some nearby factories. In addition, they want to approach the workers on their lunch hour to have short discussions and be able to make new contacts.

To do this, the workers said, “we will miss a day of work in the factory, to be able to visit more men and women workers.” They consider that to be a very important step for the growth of the party and the struggle to mobilize the masses for communism. In this way, more workers will join our struggle.

Comrades from other groups will join this effort led by the factory workers.

Young leader in El Salvador



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LETTERS FROM SOUTH AFRICA



Red Flag Brings in More and More People to Join the Party

It was a great honor for me to have been part of the May Day Zoom Forum on the 23rd of May.

It was my very first time on this forum, and being a member of the ICWP.

I did a brief introduction as to who I am and what I plan to fulfill with the help of the party to mobilize the masses for Communism.

It is only once we, as humans, realize the horrors of Capitalism, that we are compelled to do everything in our power to eradicate every single system that is set up as such.

Many important reports were given. I listened to comrades giving reports about their collectives marching all over the world.

The one thing that stood out for me was definitely the fact that with every encounter my comrades had, a *Red Flag* newspaper was distributed at these events and it always seems to bring in more and more people to join the party.

I am very lucky having joined a party such as the ICWP, an international collective that directly serves the need of the people. The true vanguard for communism. The party that will inspire many others to pick up their banners and boards.

Distributing the *Red Flag* newspaper among the working class and fighting for true liberation, not the pseudo-liberation that democracy promises us. We need to fight for what is rightfully ours.

It will not end with us. Generations after us will fight the same fight, if not bigger, and we will keep on marching, growing and fighting, until communism is achieved.

Comrade in Cape Town, South Africa

South Africa: Bringing Communist Ideas to Palestine Protest

"Give me five copies of *Red Flag*, I will distribute to comrades." This was an enthusiastic response of two comrades who were part of several hundred protesters in Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth). One comrade cursed fascist Modi and said he was the same as Netanyahu.

Almost everybody took *Red Flag*, saying, "This is a communist newspaper, I will take it". An older worker who took the paper came back looking for us. He said, "Paris Commune, 150 years ago, it needs to happen now." After taking his contact information we said we had an article on Paris Commune in our *Red Flag*. He was overjoyed.

Hundreds of people, some as young as 5 or 6 years old, joined with comrades in their 80s. There was an outpouring of anger and determination to fight in Gqeberha on the ocean side. People came from Lebanon, Palestine, Somali, Bangladesh, the Middle East along with colored people, blacks, and some white workers. Workers and others came to support from high-rise buildings.

Our response was in sharp contrast to the pacifist and nationalist line pushed by the leaders of the march. "The Communist struggle to smash fascism" was our message wherever we reached the masses. We got many contacts. As soon as the march ended, we started contacting people we met at the demonstration. Our comrades have the task of building a communist relationship with the new contacts. We are taking this very seriously because we can replace this fascist dictatorship, which is deadly in its wake but extremely weak. Our job is to organize masses to end this forever with communist revolution.

Comrades in Gqeberha

Questions about Dialectical Materialism and Writing for Red Flag

Dialectical materialism, or the science and philosophy of change, will become a material force when the masses grasp it. Primarily our practice will make it possible for the masses to grasp it and advance it. Therefore, it is essential that RF brings this to the forefront of our literature.

Each article should look at one aspect of how dialectics is used in our struggle. When we say, we distributed 100 papers and made 4 contacts, how do we understand it? Is it a qualitative change or quantitative change? For the collective? For the city collective? For the international working class? How they are related?

If it is a qualitative change, what will be required to cause that change? How do we know what is happening, how do we measure it?

The articles on the pandemic are full of examples of dialectical change. When we write about the communist future, what is the material basis, what contradictions are emerging now that illuminate what will happen in the future? What kind of struggle will link it to the future?

We can give many examples; the point is to make dialectics part of our everyday understanding of how things are changing. If we fail to carry out this struggle, it will lead to polemics, individualism and an ahistorical understanding.

A collective in South Africa



Young Comrades Make Plans to Advance the Party

Five comrades met over zoom to welcome new comrades and make plans. Several comrades gave a brief introduction and a history on how they got into politics and communism.

We mentioned the following points: Firstly, the political classes being run in the Eastern Cape. Those in the Western Cape are yet to develop these study groups in our areas in order to mobilize here. A comrade did an outstanding job in explaining how we can move forward in this regard. Especially by meeting the other comrades in the Western Cape.

Secondly, the history of the *Red Flag*, including its production and the distribution. We were interested in knowing more about that as well. A comrade clearly explained the process. Since we understand better, now plans are being made to get more *Red Flags* to Western Cape, as well as *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, which is critical to educating the working class and enlightening the masses.

Finally, the International Zoom meeting for ICWP Youths, to get to know each other and also give reports on how we mobilize the youths in our communities and respective countries. The main problem is the timing. A roster will be drafted for scheduled meetings in order to get the members to meet without hindrances.

A comrade also mentioned hosting an event for June 16. A general meeting will be held in the Eastern Cape, followed by the distribution of *Red Flag* and a dinner. Plans will be made, finalised and discussed further.

We also want comrades from the US to participate in future meetings. It was a very useful meeting.

Collective in Cape Town, South Africa

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money, no crime, since people commit crime because of money. But to reach that society we have to abolish the capitalist system. Capitalist system produces food to maximise profits even though there are people who die of hunger because they don't have money to buy food."

The party explained that we already live in a society where some workers work while some do not work. The communist society is not a far-

fetches dream as these few workers that work already produce enough to feed the workers around the world. The only issue is how this production is organized.

Therefore, we have a job: to seize the means of production and organize society based on communist principles, where we produce for need, not profit. We have revolutionary historical experiences to learn from. And by sticking to our consistent internal struggle, having collective dis-

cussions and meetings, expanding party cells and networks, recruiting, inviting friends over to the party, we can win.

The party pledged to utilize all the platforms available, including social networks, to complement the distribution of the *Red Flag* in order to reach more masses and spread communist ideas. This is how we change quantity into revolutionary quality.

COMMUNIST STRUGGLE WILL END BOTH CAPITALIST SCIENCE AND RELIGIOUS ANTI-SCIENCE OF PROFIT-HUNGRY BOSSES

BENGALURU (India), May 25— “We say farewell to comrade Bai, her life is a tribute to us all. Born to a poor family, she reached out to help everyone,” said a young man who distributes *Red Flag*. “Neighbours knew her friendly smile. She was attracted to communism. We say goodbye to her, remembering that our struggle will continue until the billionaire bosses and their system are finished.”

The struggle of our garment workers’ collective to build communism has spread widely among the masses. We are continuing to distribute our poster “Break the Chain, the chain of capitalism”. It has got a huge response among the masses.

Many of our neighbours, friends and family members are affected by Covid-19.

This astonishing surge in covid cases is due to two reasons. On the one hand, Modi and his fascists have been promoting a blatantly unscientific outlook to cure the coronavirus. One multi-billionaire supporter of Modi promotes a coronavirus cure. Everything from multivitamins to cow urine is supposed to cure it and is sold on Amazon.

Then, some ultra-fascist believers say that if a person has faith in Modi, they will not get coronavirus. Many of them went to a religious ceremony lasting two weeks. Over ten million of them attended without any mask, creating a super-spreader event. Modi and his political opponents openly campaigned for state elections, bringing millions to public gatherings, putting even more millions at risk.



INDIA, April 18—Amritsar farmers protest government agriculture reforms

But the biggest danger is capitalist-controlled science. The coronavirus vaccination was funded and promoted by multinationals who were solely interested in making maximum profits from it. Their distribution system continues maximizing profit by exploiting national and racial boundaries.

Workers are beginning to see the hypocrisy of both unscientific cures and capitalist science that make profit the primary motive. In our neighbourhood, many comrades have saved numerous victims by providing very basic life-saving techniques. If masses of people are won to communism, we will put science in the hands of the

workers.

We will free science from the clutches of profit-makers. That will create new ways of stopping the spread of coronavirus, and curing it.

But our struggle to reach that stage will inevitably create a tremendous fight. The bosses will fight us with all their might. We have to be equally determined.

Red Flag readers are beginning to form smaller collectives because of the restrictions of Covid-19. We are fulfilling the aspiration of these angry masses because they now realize that only the communist struggle will bring an end to the pandemic.

US-CHINA WORLD WAR III: SPECULATIVE FICTION OR LOOMING DANGER?

2034: *A Novel of the Next World War* (March, 2021) by former Marine Elliot Ackerman and US Navy Admiral James Stavridis, became an instant best-seller. In the book, China and the US enter into a naval conflict in the Pacific. The entire world is dragged into yet another imperialist conflict. In one chapter, the heavily populated port city of Shanghai is decimated by a US tactical nuclear weapon.

The book has been dismissed as “speculative fiction.” But the possibility that capitalists will go to war is higher than it has been in the last few decades. With China’s economic rise and its Belt-and-Road Initiative (BRI), the poles of power around the world are changing.

Perhaps anticipating an inevitable conflict with the US, China has been investing heavily in building a modern and technically formidable military over the past two decades. It has extended its naval presence in the South China Sea. Eighty percent of China’s energy imports and 40% of its overall trade passes through the South China Sea.

China has extended its military capabilities into space with satellite-destroying missiles. It even landed a rover on the far side of the moon. Since 2000, China has also launched its own GPS satellites to eliminate reliance on the US’s Global Positioning System.

In 2017, China issued its “New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan.” This laid out its ambition to be an AI-driven superpower. China has a billion people generating datasets, a growing pool of highly trained AI engineers, and massive Chinese government spending as well as targeted regulation. This infrastructure allows China to compete with the US both economically

and militarily.

Chinese and Korean companies hold the most patents in next-generation communication technologies such as 5G, followed by Finnish companies. The US follows. With Chinese government help, Chinese companies are playing an increasingly important role in setting standards. China submitted 830 technical documents to the International Telecommunications Union in 2019. That was more than the next three countries combined.

US Imperialist Rulers Prepare for World War

Following Obama’s “Pivot to Asia,” US administrations have adopted an increasingly aggressive posture towards China. To indoctrinate its population for war, the US has increased domestic and international propaganda and racist Sinophobia (anti-Chinese racism). Its latest offensive is reviving the “Wuhan lab leak” theory of how the Covid pandemic began.

Inevitably, anti-Asian violence has increased in US cities. Just as with anti-Japanese propaganda in the 1980s, the working class suffers the results of the often-fatal violence due to imperialist, capitalist rivalry.

US President Biden made it clear in his April State of the Union address that the US needs to bolster its economy “to win the 21st century” against China. But as history has shown repeatedly, capitalists are the only ones who win profits. Meanwhile workers die for those profits in wars against workers in other nations.

Generals, financiers and politicians sit in luxury underground bunkers protected against nuclear and conventional weapons. They sip champagne while touching buttons on their

“Made in China” touchscreens, directing millions to kill each other.

One International Working Class – One International Communist Workers’ Party

The capitalists’ nations need to compete with each other, but workers don’t. We do not need technology to fight wars and kill each other for profits. We need to organize for communism, especially inside the bosses’ factories and militaries. Communist world revolution is the only way to end imperialist world wars.

Communist society will use technology to make life better for all living things. Freed from profit motives, communist workers can develop technologies that make agriculture more sustainable while distributing free food to everyone.

Potable water will be available to all living beings. Energy-efficient shelter will be available to all without destroying the habitats of other living beings.

Communism will eradicate capitalism’s inherent profit-driven, genocidal warmongering and its increasingly frequent financial and environmental crises. Communist society will sustainably produce everything that is needed.

And that’s not “speculative fiction.”



Nationalism and Religion are Dead Ends for the Working Class

REBELLION IN PALESTINE: MASSES NEED COMMUNISM

May 31—The fascist Israeli government provoked a lopsided 11-day conflict with Hamas in Gaza by escalating its attacks on the Palestinian masses in the West Bank. It didn't anticipate the strength and fury of the mass response! These protests continue while supporters rally in solidarity worldwide.

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is fighting for his political life and to avoid jail. He engineered the mass murder of civilians in Gaza and the destruction of homes, hospitals and more in an unsuccessful attempt to stay in power. Israeli workers' lives were endangered, too. Racist mobs rampaged through both Jewish and Arab neighborhoods. Israeli rulers target Palestinian workers through state terrorism, just as US rulers target Black workers with murder and brutality.

This crisis revealed the increasing isolation and desperation of US imperialism, which sends \$4 billion annually to the Israeli rulers. The US blocked a UN Security Council statement calling for "restraint" (four times!). It even prevented a timely discussion. One diplomat called this "a gift to China and Russia." President Biden got the message. He issued a weak, belated plea for a cease-fire.

Eviction Crisis: Rulers' Racist Divide-and-Conquer Strategy

Israeli government policy makes cheap housing available for Jews in the Palestinian West Bank in order to destroy any possibility of a Palestinian state. Some Jews, motivated by racism and religious nationalism, intentionally carry out this policy.

Since April, Israeli police have been evicting Palestinian families from Sheikh Jarra (in Jerusalem) to expand illegal settlements. The families mobilized supporters, especially youth, across the West Bank. Many Palestinians drove hours to join sit-ins in Jerusalem. They organized solidarity marches throughout Israel/Palestine.

The Israeli military assaulted these protests. On April 22 the armed Israeli racist group Lehava marched through Jerusalem, shouting "Death to Arabs."

Israeli forces banned Palestinians from gathering in public spaces. Jerusalem's Old City became a daily battleground. Israeli troops shot at Palestinian protesters, injuring hundreds and killing many. The protests grew.

Israeli troops then invaded the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Ramadan worshipers fought back.

Busloads of Palestinians came to pray at Al-Aqsa in solidarity. Protesters shut down the major Israeli highway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Hamas (based in Gaza) responded with homemade rockets. The Israeli military rained down terror on Gaza with US-provided jet fighters and missiles. About 20 times as many Palestinians as Israelis died.

Palestinian Masses Fight for Survival

Palestinian workers, like many others around the world, struggle to stay in their homes, put food on their tables, and avoid being killed.

The fight against Israeli apartheid has much to learn from the South African struggle. Over 25 years after Apartheid ended, most Black South African workers live in the same slums. They are unemployed or super-exploited in the same grueling jobs. It's little comfort that their oppressors are now Black capitalists, including former anti-Apartheid leaders.

That's why so many Black and other workers and youth in South Africa are eagerly reading literature from the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). They have learned, and the fight against Israeli apartheid must learn, that to be victorious and overthrow the racist state, the struggle must be multiracial and for communism.

Communism means the abolition of racism, nationalism and nations. It means the end of imperialist terror and murder by oppressive armies of occupation. It means collective support for those fighting to end any form of capitalism in order to create communism.

Nationalism, Arab and Jewish, serves as a lightning rod to divert the masses' anger at capitalism into a fratricidal war against our one working class. It keeps workers from seeing that their enemy is the capitalist ruling class and its imperialist backers (US, European, Chinese or Russian).

A Palestinian correspondent lamented that Jerusalem has no "Palestinian leadership that can quell anger and address local concerns." Most Palestinians have no allegiance to Hamas, Fatah, or the increasingly irrelevant Abbas of the U.S.-supported Palestinian Authority.

Young protesters are forming networks and connections where there have been no organized protests for decades. Their anger is justified. Their concerns are both global

Hamas is an offshoot of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood. Early on, the Israeli government supported it, along with Islamic Jihad, as a Palestinian opposition to the secular nationalists of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and its largest political faction, Fatah.

Hamas is an Islamic organization infused, like Fatah, with nationalism and anti-communism. Ali Abunimah, from the Electronic Intifada, describes their policies as neo-liberal. However, they have gained support from many of the two million Palestinian residents and refugees in Gaza through extensive social services.

Unlike the Palestinian Authority, Hamas is not attached to the US government. Their main external financial supporter is Qatar. They also have obtained some military know-how, though not actual weapons, from Iran. That is why their homemade, unguided rockets have gotten better. But they are still no match for Israel's state-of-the-art US-supplied jet fighters and missiles that attack largely civilian targets in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas came to power through the 2006 Palestinian elections orchestrated by the George W. Bush administration. Hamas won this election in Gaza. Then the US-linked Palestinian Authority in the West Bank unsuccessfully attempted to overthrow Hamas and extend its rule to Gaza. Since then, the Israeli military has maintained a complete siege on the Gaza strip, blocking the flow of goods and people. This is why Gaza is called the world's largest open-air prison.

and local.

The fight against Israeli apartheid must become a united revolutionary struggle of Palestinians and anti-racist Jews for communism. The common interest of all workers in ending exploitation is the material basis of this unity.

We invite everyone, and especially young grass-roots anti-racist leaders in Palestine, Israel and elsewhere, to read and write for *Red Flag* newspaper. To join and build collectives of the International Communist Workers' Party.



TEL AVIV (Israel), May 20—Jewish protesters support Palestinian struggle. Under Israeli apartheid, Jews and Palestinians rarely work side by side as coworkers. Only a revolutionary communist party, not nationalist trade unions, can unite the working class to defeat capitalism and racism.



HEBRON (Palestine), May 18 —Masses in the West Bank protest continued Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip. Gaza's two million residents are nominally self-governed, but Israel (with US support) controls Gaza's airspace, coastline, and six of its seven land crossings. It asserts its military's right to enter Gaza at will. Only communist revolution can smash colonialism and occupation.

CHINESE AND RUSSIAN IMPERIALIST EXPANSION PLANS IN EL SALVADOR

EL SALVADOR, May 29— “Six worker comrades of the International Communist Workers’ Party recently had a meeting about how China and Russia are entering the country and how the US imperialists are in retreat,” commented a worker comrade leader. “We want to know how this is going to affect us on the job and how we workers can study and know what is happening internationally between the empires.”

“We should support what China is doing. I don’t share the US position; it should not manipulate us. China is a big power,” said a worker.

“The USA supports the corrupt politicians and does not want the country to develop. With China we have a future. As a communist, that’s the way I see it,” another said.

A comrade worker leader responded, “More communist study is needed, comrades, to understand that both the USA and China seek military and economic power and never the well-being of humanity. I invite you to continue reading Red Flag and continue advancing.”

The Beijing Asia Pacific Xuan Hao Investment Project is a mega investment project. It aims to create a free trade zone in southeastern El Salvador. This is a strategic area of almost 2,800 square kilometers north of the Gulf of Fonseca, from the Port of Libertad to that of Union, with access to Honduras and Nicaragua. An investment of \$23 billion is expected.

Chinese investors plan to build an industrial park, a port, an airport and tourist areas, among other things. They are turning El Salvador into a

zone for China’s commercial expansion in Central America. This is comparable to the Chinese imperialists’ attempt to build a canal in Nicaragua.

China and El Salvador signed a framework agreement in 2019, which was ratified this week by the Legislative Assembly. This was only a day after the US State Department made public a list of five corrupt El Salvador officials, including three senior members of Bukele’s cabinet and two former FMLN commanders.

Likewise, in response to what Bukele is doing, USAID announced the diversion of funds originally meant for public institutions, such as the National Police and the Institute for Access to Public Information, to “civil society groups”, in response to what Bukele is doing.

The first Chinese donation that Bukele announced was \$500 million. “They are two aid packages together, without asking us for anything in return,” he said, implying a contrast to US aid.

The inter-imperialist struggle is taking place in every corner of the world. El Salvador is no exception. In a third world war, just as in the first and second, the casualties will be the sons and daughters of the working class.

The political will of ICWP is organization and discussion to win the working class to communist revolution and not to die in wars for capitalist profits.

The Russian Empire in El Salvador

“Did you know that the Bukele government bought a million Russian Sputnik vaccines?” one worker asked another.

The other replied, “Wherever China is, there is Russia. It’s the fight against the United States. It is good that they bring those vaccines, that will help more people, which is the important thing. Those of the North (USA) don’t care about us.”

On the same day that the Legislative Assembly ratified the framework agreement with China, the Presidential House of El Salvador published a photo of Bukele with Russian diplomats with the quote: “There is nothing wrong with having good political relations as long as they are respectful.”

“The relationship is not very close and our desire is to change that situation. El Salvador confirmed its willingness to strengthen relations, and that is a very important step,” said ambassador Khokholikov.

A fascist president wants to deceive us by shamelessly using the whole state publicity machinery to make the working class believe that Chinese and Russian capitalists are better than those of the United States. But the reality in countries like Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan is different. China is carrying out projects to meet its capitalists’ needs for higher profits and expansion of its overseas markets.

The real and revolutionary option for the working class is the ICWP. From India to South Africa, from Pakistan to Mexico, from the US to Colombia, and from El Salvador to the whole world.

In the fight for the communist system, we must permanently organize workers to prepare for new attacks and repression that the fascist policy of the Salvadoran state has in store.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO
ICWPREDFLAG@NYM.HUSH.COM

We Continue Learning About Communism in the ICWP

EL SALVADOR— “We are proud to be invited by the International Communist Workers’ Party to be part of the march on May 1st. We liked it very much,” said a new young comrade. “It was the first time I attended, together with my mother.”

We marched for a cause like communism, where we can express our feelings, be the voice of those without voices. We are motivated to constantly fight for the change that all workers need. To change this oppressive system that subjugates us. To fight and make ourselves heard, to reach the whole world, to let our struggle, our feelings be known. No more silence!

In the march, all the comrades were united,

marching for the struggle of all the workers who live under repression every day, for wanting to have a better life. We raised our *Red Flags* proudly, raising the banners and raising our dreams so that the world knows our communist cause.

We loved it. We were extremely inspired to hear the comrades shout the slogans: “Fight, Overcome, Workers to Power!” “Worker, worker, what is your duty? The seizure of power!!!”

While we were marching, everything we have felt and what has been achieved is what needs to be done, in order to live fully, organized in the Party.

We will continue participating and being part of the communist struggle within the ICWP.

New comrades

Comrades in Canada in Solidarity with Comrades in India

Greetings to the comrades and friends of ICWP. We are new to the party. In March we had an activity: selling food to collect funds for the comrades in India. It was a success. Many people responded, buying food and giving extra donations.

During this activity we had to fight against nationalism. Some people asked why we didn’t help people in “our country.” We said that we are all from the same working class.

We are also starting a study group with three people, two workers and a student, so that we can get to know communist politics better. We’ll stay in touch.

Comrades in Montreal

Mass protests continue in Colombia against police violence, poverty and capitalism’s growing attacks.

Huge demonstrations were organized on Friday, May 28 throughout the country. They were viciously attacked by the police. In Cali alone, the police killed 13 protesters on Friday.

The President ordered the army to Cali on Saturday to try to quell further protests. But the masses continue mobilizing in the streets, defying the bosses’ terror.

52% of Cali’s residents are Black. It has the second largest Black population of any city in Latin America. Colombia has the third largest Black population in the hemisphere after the US and Brazil. The Colombian rulers’ racist oppression and mass terror have steeled these workers in battle against their oppressors. Cali is the epicenter of this gigantic struggle.

Masses of Black workers are taking leadership in the protest against racist capitalism’s attacks. But the rebellion is not consciously against racist capitalism or for communism. Racism is the point of the spear of capitalism’s attacks on all workers. Racism and capitalism were born together and must be ended together.

This mass fight shows the potential to unite workers in Colombia for communist revolution, the only way to end poverty, exploitation, racism and police terror. We invite *Red Flag* readers in Colombia and elsewhere to join ICWP to mobilize the courageous masses for revolution and communism.



CALI, COLOMBIA—Protests target the Escuadron Móvil Antidisturbios—the murderous anti-riot squad.

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.

NEW COMRADES IN PAKISTAN MAKE PLANS TO BUILD ICWP

Greetings from a Comrade in Pakistan! I'm a leftist, a rights activist, a theatre artist and by profession I'm a teacher. It's been a while that I was working with a socialist party in Pakistan but recently I have joined ICWP. I believe this party is going to unite all the comrades across the globe. It's the only international party which is not having borders and any comrade across the world could be its member.

I want to see our society as a classless society and it would only be possible through Communism. And we have to struggle to get our desired goals of communism.

Nation-states are byproducts of imperialism and they are all governed by the bourgeois class. It's time we unite workers and youth to be the part of this struggle.

I suggest we should engage with youth and make them realize the hazards of capitalism. If youth join us then this world would see *Red Flag* everywhere.

Now the question arises: How will I contribute to the building of ICWP? Well, honestly, I'll try my level best to convey ICWP's message to the masses through leaflets and pamphlets. I'll have study circles. Group discussions. Workshops, seminars and through theatre. These are the services I could offer to the party. Red Salute!

New comrade in Pakistan



Comrades, it's a great honor to be part of you. To fulfill the great historical task of the overthrow of the neo-liberal imperialist world order. And to establish world communist society, where all forms of oppression will be abolished. This task has been bestowed on us. We are very lucky that history has chosen us for this greatest cause: liberating humankind from imperialist bondage and barbarity!

Our party's revolutionary organ, the RED FLAG, has an exceptional role in the struggle to build the party and revolution. Our revolutionary history proves this. Its main task is to help overcome ideological disorder, and organizational fragmentation. It should free the communists from the influence of opportunist elements. And give direction to the spontaneous workers' movement around the principles of revolutionary Marxism.

In building the party and organizing the revolutionary movement, RED FLAG has an outstanding role to play. Our historical goals should be clearly expressed in the paper. It should promote a militant revolutionary spirit, defending revolutionary Marxist theory against every sort of opportunism. It should steadfastly and consistently bring communist consciousness to the working masses and conduct a principled struggle against bourgeois liberalism and the petty bourgeois revolutionism. It should be our ideological and organizational weapon.

Consistent practice of the principle of Communist organization, spirit, fidelity to communist theory, and close contact with the masses should be applied to our RED FLAG.

It propagandizes and explains the Program and Rules of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) and the most important

propositions of communist theory. It educates the masses in the spirit of proletarian internationalism.

But in Lenin's words: "The role of a newspaper, however, is not limited solely to the dissemination of ideas, to political education, and to the enlistment of political allies. A newspaper is not only a collective propagandist and a collective agitator; it is also a collective organiser." (Lenin: Where to Begin)

Hence, we have to convert it into a militant collective organiser.

Experienced communist revolutionaries are assigned to this difficult and responsible work. Indeed, it's a difficult task but we have to fulfill it with our revolutionary commitment.

Our Plans

We have a plan here in Pakistan to translate our party newspaper in our local languages. This means that we have to do a hard work. We have to generate resources to materialise that plan. We have to do a great deal of work to organize a comprehensive network of correspondents (writers) for the RED FLAG.

We have to deal with the problems of distributing it here, to form groups to distribute the copies among the masses as well as political workers. A network of distributors needs to be formed, to distribute the RED FLAG among the toiling masses, send news reports to the editorial board, and organize support groups.

Thanks very much and Lal salam (Red salute) comrades.

Down with enemies of the peoples!

Down with neo-liberal imperialist slavery!

Long live peoples' struggle. Long live world communist revolution.

With communist regards,

A Comrade

Join ICWP—Everyone's Contribution is Valued

"Thanks for being here for us," M would often say as I distributed *Red Flag* outside the transit division where he works. He has been reading *Red Flag* almost from the beginning.

He said it again when I returned after being away for a year due to the pandemic. I answered as usual, "Thank you!" But later I stopped to think about a better response.

"I have something to ask you," I said when I saw him this week. "How do you think you can contribute to the cause?"

He was in a rush, but stopped up short. "That's a good one. I have to think about that," he replied. A few seconds later he declared, "I already do! Every day!"

"You talk to people about it?" I guessed.

"Yes! I pass the paper along to my brothers and sisters. And you have so much online, now my sister N is really interested. She reads a lot. She sends things to other people she knows."

"That's great!" I said as M moved off, again in a rush.

My collective met a few days later – our first time meeting and eating together in person in over a year. We talked about the changes we've seen. Most of us had stories about people we know who are more consciously anti-capitalist and more open to communism than before. We acknowledged that we have not yet taken full advantage of this. One comrade reported she'd invited three more people to join

our meetings (either the in-person dinners or on Zoom) and several said they will.

I told the story about the transit worker and his family. There is a plan to try to meet his sister and to move beyond the brief conversations at his job site.

We agreed that this comrade worker is already doing the main work we expect from party members, except for being part of a collective. When we meet with him and his sister, we will try to work out with them how they can work with one.

Too many people we know seem to think that being a good party member means being available 24/7 or attending a lot of meetings. Or they think there is some yardstick to measure "commitment" and that they fall short.

This transit worker is committed to spreading

communist ideas among his family. The commitment of other party members and friends, comrades all, is demonstrated in their actions.

For some, that means talking about communism with people we know or in groups we belong to. Or mass-distributing literature and attending rallies. Or helping write and produce *Red Flag*. Or just participating in the collective and supporting the work. There are many ways we contribute and we value all of them.

And we want everyone who contributes, in any of these ways, to feel confident that they are full members of the International Communist Workers' Party. To be part of a collective that helps us all do better communist work together.

Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

Read our manifesto

Mobilize the Masses for Communism

available at:
icwpredflag.org/mmce.pdf



PARTY CLUBS GIVE US A GLIMPSE OF THE COMMUNIST FUTURE

Strong party clubs are crucial to the fight for communism. They embody the collectives that will be the basic unit of communist society—a society where we aren't workers and bosses, or leaders and followers, but comrades. Clubs are where comradeship, the main feature of communist relationships, is struggled over and developed. It is the unity and struggle in strong party clubs, alongside the production and distribution of the paper, that guarantees the work of mobilizing the masses for communism.

The West Coast (USA) schools collective includes teachers and their former students, from our 20s to our 80s. It grew out of political work in high schools in Los Angeles and the SF Bay Area. It includes comrades from Los Angeles who are now in Alaska and Arizona. Our concentration is on recruiting students who will be workers and soldiers, and developing younger comrades as party leaders.

The club in Los Angeles has always fought for regular meetings—even when it was only three of us late at night in a Jack-in-the-Box. When the pandemic produced the lockdown, this practice helped us overcome individual fears and go out in the streets in a safe way on the very first weekend. In the middle of the George Floyd rebellions, a few of us distributed *Red Flag* to National Guard soldiers. Both actions gave confidence to the party as a whole.

Collective work gets results. At the beginning of the pandemic, the club in Los Angeles switched quickly to Zoom meetings. When the party asked us to lead a May Day Zoom, we reached out to comrades on three continents and put together an inspiring meeting. Soon comrade teachers in the Bay Area asked to join our club.

Although the two of them had been meeting more or less regularly, their practice showed them it takes more than two to function fully as a club. They put the Bay Area ICWP book club on Zoom. And a long-time friend whose first ICWP meeting was last year's May Day forum has just joined the party.

Some struggles take longer than others. A comrade who for years had been going to mass demonstrations as part of the crowd was won during the pandemic to showing up with *Red Flag* as a communist organizer. The club is the key site for persistent revolutionary struggle. Changes like this don't remain singular advances but sharpen the struggle within the club.

All of us have been able to get vaccinated, but it's been more than a year since most of us have



done regular agitation. **Consistent struggle in the club has allowed us to overcome our fears and subjectivity**, and to go back out on the streets on the weekend before the verdict in the trial of the murderer of George Floyd, on May Day, and to go back to distributing the paper to transit workers in Los Angeles.

“Thank you for never giving up on me.” Covid-19 put a serious hold on our concentration at a high school in Los Angeles. In the past year and a half, we have concentrated on relations with former students—now young workers and university students. We organized a “*Red Flag* Reunion” before May Day 2021 with several ex-student comrades who had been inactive. Life under capitalism, especially during the pandemic, has meant that some folks have become less active. The struggle in the club has allowed us to maintain patient struggle with those comrades. Still, we have been uneven and inconsistent about this. We need to do better.

Comradely struggle helps us to fight individualism. Some of us just talk too much, and forget that we're not always right. Sometimes we fight so hard for OUR UNDERSTANDING of the Party's perspective that we don't listen to each other. But we have learned through struggle that we and the party are strengthened by the contributions of comrades with different strengths and life experiences, but a common commitment to a communist world. Collective struggle has helped us to learn humility, to be consistently re-

spectful to each other, and to rely on criticism and self-criticism when we fall short.

Meetings are only part of the process. We have been with each other in the hard times, through the deaths of family members, raising children and grandchildren, celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. Building a party collective requires a decision to join your fate to the collective while always fighting to expand the circle. These are your comrades, fighting side-by-side in a life-and-death struggle. You know they have your back...now and in the future. We have cried together, laughed together, and continue to do so—on Zoom and as we go back to seeing each other in real life.

Our students and former students, colleagues and former colleagues, fellow church members, neighbors, old friends, aunts, uncles and cousins are being more sharply attacked by capitalism every day. The Party not only gives us the tools to understand the world, but a glimpse of the communist future. **Party collectives working together, building the ties that allow us to stand shoulder to shoulder in the struggle, can inspire our friends and family to join us.** In the end the club provides the best arena where the line the party has developed is put into practice and evaluated. It is where comradeship shows its revolutionary value. Together, we can become the revolutionary force required to crush capitalism and build the communist future that we all need.

BUILDING A TRULY COLLECTIVE COMMUNIST PARTY

SEATTLE (USA) — “I want to be clear about this,” said a long-time friend in Portland who has rekindled his interest in joining a communist party after many years. “I still believe a communist society is the only answer. I believe in communist revolution. I know the only way to get these two is with a party. But I have questions about building a truly collective party.”

He is writing something on the political content of collectivity. How it applies to a party and education. We agreed to continue this discussion in future *Red Flags*.

This friend works in education, focusing on anti-racism. He agreed to send us something he wrote on how we need comrades, not allies. He believes that all writing should be collective.

Collectivity and its relationship to communist work seems to be on many friends' minds. A neighbor couple was discussing collectivity just before we left on this trip. Their question was how individualism became a code word for cap-

italism, especially among “conservative Americans.”

Hospital Worker Joins Party Collective

A comrade who joined our collective during the Portland visit had some answers about how to build the ICWP. She is very enthusiastic. She described the conditions at the huge medical complex where she works, and her struggles with a half-dozen hospital workers and other friends.

One friend is very brave. Everyone at her job knows what this friend thinks and they all see her reading *Red Flag*. Another friend she has known since he was a child. A third was very active last summer and wrote for the paper. Over dinner, the new member worked out a schedule to visit all of them with the post-May Day *Red Flag*.

We hadn't been able to meet with these friends and comrades because of the pandemic. Last weekend, we had three meetings in two days. We talked with our Portland friends and comrades about building the party and also about the global

pandemic.

The collective will discuss the work of our new comrades. In this way—with many twists and turns—we can build a collective in Portland.

The communist plans we made mean devoting more time to visits and coordinating better. With the addition of the Portland comrade, the Northwest collective now includes three health care workers. Other health care workers are in or close to collectives around the world. We plan to organize an international Zoom meeting geared toward these workers.

