

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

DHAKA, BANGLADESH TO BENGALURU, INDIA: GARMENT WORKERS BUILD COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY

DHAKA (Bangladesh), July 31—I work among garment workers in the city of Dhaka, Bangladesh. I have received *Red Flag* from a US comrade for over five years. Recently I was contacted by garment workers in Bengaluru.

I want to tell you about my journey of communism. I was a child in 1971 when East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) was oppressed ruthlessly by the rulers of West Pakistan. It is estimated that over 3 million perished in the brutal war.

There was a strong movement for socialism. However, this socialist movement was based on the old notion that one must first fight for nationalist capitalism to crush the semi-feudal system. After nationalist forces defeat the feudal past, it would create the working class to fight for socialism and ultimately communism.

The leftist movement had a mass base. It was supported by millions. Elements of soldiers and workers were actively involved in sabotage and insurrection. However, they blindly followed Mao's line of two-stage theory.

This opportunism led to the betrayal of the workers and soldiers, who were then suppressed by the rulers of Bangladesh. Many got disillusioned and many more were real communists. I was among those who thought that communism is the only solution.

When I started reading Red Flag, I was instantly in awe with the direct line fighting for communism. I told myself, why do we want to save wage slavery when we want to destroy wage slavery itself from its roots? I was very excited.

But the initial enthusiasm did not last long. I tried to recruit my old friends. They believed very strongly in the socialist movement. Without a base around me, I became passive. I would read *Red Flag* but did not recruit anybody. My reading of *Red Flag* faltered. I would only read some articles. Eventually, I would only glance at the headlines and pictures. Every once in a while, stories in *Red Flag* perked my interest. I knew I had to recruit but that was very difficult.

It was at a low moment in my life that I started reading about dialectical materialism. Why communism can win, growing in waves, small things can turn into their opposites: These headlines grabbed my attention. I was thinking that the masses of workers in the old movement never had a clear guideline to study revolutionary communist dialectics.

Recent articles on India and the worldwide pandemic were explained in a very clear way. It was at that time that I started seriously evaluating my commitment to communism. Then came the ghastly news of workers getting killed in the Dhaka factory. Only ruthless greed can explain what happened. We need communism and only communism.

Now I have taken a new approach, learning from my comrades in India. I must go to the workers directly. I must speak their language. I must learn and listen to them. They bring a gold mine of ammunition with them. With these workers, I must collectively learn dialectical communist philosophy and build the party.

To this end, I have five people around the ideas of *Red Flag*. Four are young women and one comrade is from an area near Myanmar. I am now regularly corresponding with our comrades in Bengaluru. Their financial support was overwhelming, and it gave us the strength to carry on the fight for communism. Keep up the good work, comrades!

Bangladeshi Red

BENGALURU (India), August 1—“This is how we are going to win in our battle for communism!” said a young garment worker. She and other garment workers were in a meeting when we received letters discussing *Red Flag* from five new comrades in Bangladesh. Our communist group in Bengaluru collected small donations for our sisters and brothers who were affected by a deadly fire in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The comrades in Bangladesh wanted to know how we can build a large base for communism. “This is a question not only in Bangladesh, but it is also everywhere. Capitalism is a dying system,” said a comrade. “It attempts to survive by attacking the working class through racist, nationalist wars. Look at the situation in South Asia. India, Pakistan, and China, all with nuclear weapons, are willing to sacrifice millions of our workers for profit.”

Another comrade from Bengaluru spoke to clarify how wars are directly affecting the working class. “During the pandemic, our factories were closing like monsoon rains. Workers were losing jobs. Many were dying from coronavirus. The Chinese bosses saw it as an opportunity. They built massive garment factories and upgraded them to produce more garments worldwide. But this did not help the Chinese workers. Their wages dropped to support the upgrading of factories.”

A comrade who has worked for over 20 years has seen many changes. “Both Indian and Chinese workers were suffering due to the crisis of capitalism. But the bosses in both countries were massing up

their armed forces. The Chinese armed forces have overwhelming technological superiority built by surplus labor that comes from the workers. So, while they are talking about wars, we see that wars are a way to open markets. Bengaluru is a high-tech capital now. Many innovations are funded by hedge funds from China.”

Our discussion tried to address the question raised by our new comrades in Bangladesh. In a two-hour meeting, many comrades concluded that the working class has the power to change, but the bosses want us to feel we are powerless. This is the biggest weapon the bosses have. It is not their military might, but that they are ideologically winning us to think that the other workers in other countries are the enemy.

We are spreading hundreds of *Red Flag* in the garment areas of Bengaluru. This is how we are getting new comrades to join and be the leaders of our party. Each new reader is asked to take more *Red Flags*. We are exploring the possibility of printing *Red Flag* in Bengali.

A comrade in Bangladesh related a story relating to the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). He said that a small group of Marxist intellectuals in China was influenced by the success of the Bolsheviks in the Soviet Union. Although the CCP started as a very small group, it built a mass base for socialism and won state power. We can learn from their mistake of fighting for socialism and open the world to communism.

Capitalism will not fall by itself. We need to destroy it.

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US January 6 Commission:**WORKERS AND SOLDIERS EVERYWHERE NEED COMMUNIST REVOLUTION TO DESTROY CAPITALIST STATE POWER**

A US Congressional commission is investigating the fascist January 6 assault on the US Capitol. Was it a failed coup that tried to keep Trump in office by preventing Congress from certifying Biden's electoral victory, or just a show? This commission proclaims its goal is to "defend democracy" from this phony "insurrection."

"I don't have high hopes for the commission," said a *Red Flag* reader, "but maybe we can find out enough to counter the disinformation."

"Highly hypocritical," said another. "The very structure of our government is so profoundly mired in corporate totalitarianism. The real fascist danger won't be blunted by prosecutions. It will give the neoliberals the comfortable feeling they crave that the system is working."

This situation raises questions that workers face everywhere. An insurrection is "a rising or rebellion of citizens against their government." Whose government?

Capitalist governments aren't "by and for the people" (citizen and immigrant workers). They are by and for the capitalist rulers, whether in democracies like the US or military dictatorships like Myanmar. It's true in state-capitalist countries like China and Cuba.

Government is organized "state power." It exercises the dictatorship of the capitalist class over the masses. Whenever we confront capitalism's horrors and disasters, this state power blocks us. When we rise up and rebel, it represses us—as long as it can.

We need a communist world, where working people are in power. We can only get there by fighting and winning a revolution to destroy capitalist state power.

Fascist Coups and Communist**Insurrections: More Different than Alike**

Communist revolution aims to destroy the capitalist state, not to take it over. We will create a new and very different social organization of power.

The masses, organized by our communist party, will participate directly and openly in making and carrying out decisions. They will deal with anti-social behavior in comradely and col-

lective ways, not with brute force.

Once we have crushed the last capitalist resistance, there will be no need or use for organized violence.

In contrast, fascist coups like the recent one in Tunisia or the failed pro-Trump January 6 riot aim to take over the capitalist state apparatus, not to destroy it. They use that state power against the masses.

The fascist "insurrectionists" wanted to criminalize Black workers and youth, migrants, trans people, abortion and more. They wanted to prevent the teaching of anything resembling science or the truth about racism.

Politicians on both sides of the "culture wars" use issues like these to distract workers from attacks on our jobs and well-being. They use racism, sexism and nationalism to divide the masses and increase our exploitation.

Communist power is the opposite. The masses need to defeat racism and sexism to unite ourselves in a collective system of production and sharing. Communism will liberate the study of science and history from their capitalist chains.

Fascist coups rely on the support of military chiefs and imperialist armed forces. The US ruling class is sharply divided. The delay in suppressing the January 6 riot showed that. But, for now, the US military brass supports capitalist dictatorship in its democratic (electoral) form.

Communist revolution, in contrast, depends on winning rank-and-file soldiers, sailors and Marines to turn against the brass and lead the communist revolution. We work now to convince them to join, support and lead communist working-class rebellions, insurrection, and protracted war.

We rely on the international working class to defend and spread communist revolution.

The ICWP's Revolutionary Communist Strategy

Workers must organize for communism at the "point of production" (workplaces). Citizen and immigrant workers must prepare to lead broader masses to rise up, rebel, overthrow and destroy

Red Flag Is One of a Kind

If it's true that a single spark can start a Prairie Fire, then the issue before last was full of sparks the world over.

There was a spark from the factory workers in El Salvador dismissing Bitcoin by arguing "no currency will serve the working class." Another from auto workers in Chennai, India, angry at job losses and capitalist crisis. There were more sparks from MTA workers in Los Angeles and Boeing workers in Seattle discussing building the influence and member-



capitalist governments everywhere.

There is no peaceful way to rescue ourselves and Planet Earth from the ravages of capitalism. We must prepare for armed struggle – insurrections and protracted guerrilla war – until the capitalists are defeated worldwide.

Insurrection and revolution are always illegal. So are preparations for them. But the revolutionary masses have shown it can be done. We have much to learn from the victories (and errors) of the Haitian Revolution and the 1871 Paris Commune. From the 1917 Bolshevik revolution in Russia and revolutionary history in China and elsewhere.

Capitalist state power is strong but not invincible. The masses can defeat it. We can win!

We will bring to birth a new world on the ashes of the old. This new communist world exists in embryo in our Party today. It will take shape and grow amidst hardship and class struggle. It will make leaps forward and suffer setbacks. It will develop unevenly and differently around the world, but always serving the interests of workers everywhere.

Let's not be diverted or distracted by capitalism's false promises of democracy. Let's not be intimidated by capitalism's open fascist terrorism.

We must struggle to engage the masses, always, in the process of planning and mobilizing for communism. We must help them see the need to join and build the International Communist Workers' Party.

ship of ICWP.

All of these discussions were in the factories, the very site from which the capitalists get their surplus value, or profits. They all had something else in common too. They moved from reacting to the attacks of the capitalist class to stressing the need for a communist (not socialist) revolution. In short, they demonstrated a unity in action around the line of the *Red Flag* – Mobilizing the Masses for Communism.

Red Flag Comrade



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Minimum wage:

WE NEED A COMMUNIST WORLD WITHOUT MONEY

EL SALVADOR, August 3— “The worker leadership has met recently, on two different days, with six workers from the factory, to put together an anti-boss strategy that shows the position of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) at this time about the minimum wage increase,” said a worker leader.

The government of President Nayib Bukele proposed a 20% increase (about \$60) to the minimum wage, effective August 1, 2021. The bosses are supported by the government within this capitalist system. They will get a subsidy to increase the minimum wage.

This announcement at the end of June triggered price increases of more than 20% in the markets, the basic food basket and medicines.

“Those of us who earn more than the minimum wage are not going to receive an increase in wages, but we will see an increase in the prices of beans,” said a worker.

Now the bosses are demanding more production from us and threatening layoffs because of the minimum wage increase. We have to fight to get rid of the wage system and produce to meet the needs of everyone. We workers organized in ICWP must have more meetings every week to organize and fight for a system without wages or money: communism.

In El Salvador, when workers are laid off, bosses must pay them “compensation” for the time they worked at the factory. Now the factory bosses argue that they only have to compensate them for the six months from January to June, due to the increase in the minimum wage that begins on August 1. According to them, the buyers of their products will not accept new prices.

They used their capitalist laws so that the workers would not rebel against them, and they have terminated their six-month contracts.

“It is unbearable that after compensation the bosses decide to choose how many, and who will stay working in the factories. We must organize and fight against the bosses’ system,” said a comrade who has worked in the factory’s packing area for years.

Part of the union leadership had already negotiated the strategy with the bosses to sell to the working class. It was signed with the Ministry of Labor through an act that commits the boss to compensate the workers every year. But with the wage increase that has not even been given yet, they immediately decided to compensate the first six months. They blackmailed workers, threatening that, if they did not take the compensation, they would never get it again until the company decides, or their contract is terminated.

The owners know our personal needs. They know well that the high cost of living is becoming more difficult every day, the basic food basket is too high, and that today money is not enough to buy food and medicine.

“The wage only helps us to survive, because we do not know what can happen from now on,” said another comrade reader.

As a Party, we are seeing that our working class also needs more consciousness of the class



struggle. We must organize a fierce struggle against the bosses’ laws and their servants.

In the collective meetings, the comrades in the party have taken a more political focus. They have discussed more about the bosses’ attacks on the workers and the need for communist revolution.

The bosses have not taken into account the ideological response that the women and men workers could have. Every day workers are responding, due to the communist leadership of ICWP and because they are reading *Red Flag*

The Party leadership has thought of extending more communist dialogue in the face of this opportunistic attack. We plan to carry out meetings in which we make known to our working class the laws of dialectics, to push forward our revolutionary struggle inside and outside the factory for the implementation of communism. **Reading and distributing Red Flag and organizing in ICWP, the struggle will advance.**

OPENING A DOOR TO COMMUNISM

“I feel more unsafe when the police and the army are everywhere.” That’s how I started a conversation with a classmate from the university, after we saw how they were checking the backpacks and cell phones of two students from this same place.

In recent weeks, President Nayib Bukele gave the order and sent the army and the police to the streets. The militarization and abuse of power

that they exercise against the working class is clear. And the thought runs through my head a lot, “following the party line, how can we reach these soldiers?”

My friend continued the conversation, telling me that her parents have told her about the 1980’s. They have many stories about the war and bad experiences with soldiers. I told her that capitalism uses soldiers to repress us, but also

historically worldwide soldiers have been allies many times and have turned their guns around, refusing to attack the masses.

It was a quick conversation, but it has had a lot of impact on me. She knows that I am in a communist party, and I can keep talking to her and eventually invite her to a meeting.

—Student comrade in El Salvador

FIGHT FASCISM IN EL SALVADOR BY ORGANIZING WORKERS, STUDENTS, SOLDIERS FOR COMMUNISM

EL SALVADOR—“We are living through moments that are very similar to the times during the war of the 1980’s,” said a healthcare worker.

“During that time, the Armed Forces had up to 65,000 women and men in uniform, to fight against the FMLN guerrillas. They were supported economically by the USA, \$2 million a day, with the pretext of defending democracy,” responded a leader of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

“I don’t believe in democracy,” she continued. “It is used at the whim of the capitalist politicians. Under this democratic slogan they exploit and repress the working class. I believe in the struggle for communism,” she concluded.

The growth of the International Communist Workers’ Party is key. This will only happen if the work is determined and constant, with both industrial workers and soldiers at the center of the Party’s revolutionary strategy.

In order to not let up on the attack on working-class expression of criticism or discontent, the government of Nayib Bukele is taking up old previous governments’ strategies like using the army. This is a fascist practice.

That’s why the proposed goal is to increase the

number of troops in the Armed Forces from 20,000 to 40,000 soldiers in the next three years until the end of this administration. Although if they manage to consolidate the fascist support of the armed forces and police, they could be re-elected. They have announced this as a goal that will supposedly benefit the population.

“Give me your phone number, where do you live” are daily expressions of sexual harassment directed by soldiers and police against young students or women workers. Tanks in the street, hundreds of soldiers threatening any young person or worker who appears to them to be suspicious of anything or nothing.

This repressive force of the army supporting the police is in phase 4 of the Territorial Control Plan. They will also receive more equipment and weapons to carry out this plan.

The response to fascism in the past has always been the organized struggle of the working class with unfolding revolutionary actions throughout the country. Today we are organizing for ICWP, fighting directly for communism.

The capitalists are resorting to the police and the army, as a repressive force against any uprising to halt the workers’ anger, since the illusion

of the promised change is disappearing little by little.

In capitalist society, all the police, military and “justice” organizations serve the interests of the ruling class. The working class needs its Red Army mobilizing the masses for communism.

The pressure from the USA is sharp. Bukele met with a high-level commission from the United States, given the possibility that the Salvadoran government might accept aid from the Chinese government.

In addition to receiving help with COVID 19 vaccines, the USA has also sent a ship to “combat drug trafficking,” with the aim of reaffirming the El Salvador-USA alliance. Also this week, Bukele met with pro-US NGOs, coordinated by the US ambassador.

The only way to fight fascism is by organizing in the International Communist Workers’ Party, in factories, workplaces, universities. And in succeeding in influencing the young soldiers, who belong to our class and who should not obey orders from the capitalist bosses. Distributing more *Red Flag* in these areas will help advance the struggle for communist revolution.

El Salvador & Ukraine:

IMPERIALISM AND ITS CONTRADICTIONS

In El Salvador, the contradictions between the main imperialists are clearly sharpening as they try to maintain or win control over each other.

At the same time, the needs of the working class are also deepening economically, socially and ideologically. Faced with this reality, we workers have no alternative but to again take up the struggle in defense of the working class that the old communist parties have abandoned worldwide. This is precisely the opportunity that our International Communist Workers' Party gives us by rekindling the fight for communism. We can do this in many ways; for example, by creating communist social networks, and reading online and distributing our *Red Flag* newspaper.

As the international working class, we must be clear that what is happening now is part of the imperialist struggle allied with the Salvadoran ruling class to control the wealth that the working class produces.

No empire is good. They have the same goals: to get maximum profits by exploiting the working class. In addition, El Salvador and Central America as a whole are a strategic geographic area for both the North American empire and its rivals, the Chinese and Russian empire, which are vying for world hegemony.

The messages from the US empire to President Nayib Bukele are clear. One top official recently sent to El Salvador is Victoria Nuland. She is the same US imperialist politician who tried to persuade Victor Yanukovich, former president of Ukraine, to turn his back on the Russians and thus become part of the European-North American bloc.

Yanukovich ignored the message and a year later was overthrown by his adversaries, supported by the US.

Similarly, Nuland said that El Salvador does not have the option to choose between China and the US.

"We have a commitment, and we will continue to improve relations," the US charge d'affaires in El Salvador also stated in an interview on a Salvadoran television channel.

Nayib Bukele is supported by a group of big capitalists, whose wealth comes from exploiting workers.

Any reforms promoted by this sector of the bourgeoisie that claims to benefit workers (educational reform, access to internet networks, etc.) are secondary. These initiatives seek not to improve the conditions of the workers, but to deepen their exploitation to help the bourgeoisie accumulate more wealth.

What is similar between what happened in Ukraine and what is happening in El Salvador today? It is the political and ideological manipulation of the apparatuses of capitalism and imperialism. They want to confuse the working



class by making them believe that the transformation processes they currently offer will benefit the workers.

In reality the empires and their local bourgeois allies seek to continue exploiting the workers and seize not only natural resources and markets, but also geopolitically strategic areas. That's why the working class must not support any capitalist empire or government. They look out only for their class interests and we, therefore, as the working class, have to look out only for our class interests.

The alternative to the warmongering avalanche that lies ahead is to build our party and to pre-empt their war with communist revolution.

STUDENTS COMMEMORATE 1975 ANTI-FASCIST STRUGGLE

EL SALVADOR— Forty-six years ago, on July 30, 1975, thousands of students from the headquarters of the National University came out to demonstrate against the military occupation of the University's western headquarters that had taken place a few days earlier.

The government of the fascist Colonel Arturo Armando Molina deployed the army to stop the march. Hundreds of students were massacred. Today there is still no exact count, because after the massacre, the army henchmen tried to wash away the blood of our martyrs in the struggle.

They tried to legitimize the repression as a response to a "communist plot." Communist or not, that generation of young people joined the struggle, inspired by revolutionary movements around the world. May our commemoration serve to safeguard the legacy of their genuine intentions for revolution!

From that massacre to the present, this commemoration has been a sign of the state of the struggle in El Salvador. This year has been an opportunity for young university students to shout "Presente!" in the fight against the government of Nayib Bukele.

Bukele has reaffirmed the gradual addition of 40,000 new troops into the armed forces in the next five years. This shows the political impor-



tance that he attaches to weapons in his project of power. In the midst of an economic and health crisis, in a context of increasing militarization, hundreds of people came out to protest against his government.

The masses are still largely absent from these protests. The vast majority of them continue to

trust Bukele. But reality is increasingly difficult for them, too. Social discontent is growing. Bukele's capitalist project will betray the expectations of the masses. That gives us the opportunity to intensify the political struggle for communism.



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SOUTH AFRICA: SHARPENING CONTRADICTIONS DEMAND COMMUNIST LONG-TERM SOLUTION

CAPE TOWN (South Africa), August 3— Over the last month, particularly following the incarceration of Jacob Zuma, South Africa has been gripped with violent protests and riots. Some are in support of Zuma but mostly the protests are happening because the masses are desperate.

The contradictions of capitalism in South Africa have intensified. This is reflected in the ever-growing inequality, joblessness, poverty, and desperation. In a way it is reflected in the intensifying of contradictions within the ruling party, the African National Congress (ANC).

The ruling class consists of the untrustworthy

reformist faction (the “Radical Economic Transformation” or RET) and the untrustworthy centrist faction led by Ramaphosa. Both are capitalist. At the centre of the factionalism is the fight over which capitalist controls the economy and destiny of South Africa.

The RET faction is backed by recently-emerged small black industrialists. It is more or less aligned, or would align, with the eastern imperialists Russia and China. Whereas the Ramaphosa faction is backed by the white business establishment and more or less likes the Western imperialists.

These fights within the ruling party are important

in explaining some of the chaotic developments within the country. But they are not the primary drivers. The failure of capitalism, or more correctly the exploitative nature of capitalism, is the primary reason why we have chaos and destruction.

But for communist movement there is a huge opportunity.

The capitalist system created racism. And the racist capitalist system, consistent with its nature, has failed to address racism. Instead, it relied on it. It brought misery instead of prosperity, poverty and inequality instead of taking care of the primary

needs of masses.

All of this is the direct opposite of the communist society that we will build on the ashes of capitalism after we make a communist revolution. Therefore, the fight of the collective here in Cape Town and all of South Africa is to fight the misery and poverty by destroying the source of this misery. That is, we fight for a complete communist revolution.

Some comrades are trying hard to recruit new members. We have joined some student groups and formations to recruit and spread communist ideas among the students. South Africa has a potential for massive growth of the party. But without spreading our ideas, we won't realise the potential.

It is not that the masses reject our ideas. It is that they mostly don't ever hear them. That is why most of them are fighting for short-term reform, with no clear long-term future solution.

ICWP is the future solution. Communism is the solution. A society with no exploitation, no money and no private accumulation of wealth is the solution. A society that seeks to destroy racism rather to use it is the solution. A society that solely exists to take care of the needs of the masses, not individual profit, is the solution.

Many more people, young and old, agree. With discipline and dedication many more will join the party and take the communist struggle forward.



Dialectical Materialism:

OVERCOMING CONTRADICTIONS IN RECRUITING TO ICWP

LOS ANGELES (USA), August 2 —A new comrade said during an ICWP collective meeting that dialectical materialism is confusing and just sounds like jargon. However, the communist philosophy of dialectical materialism is vital to understand how the masses can make a communist revolution. Communist philosophy is not just a personal point of view or a set of values. It describes reality. It's a guide for action.

Our club decided to plan a series of three forums to discuss the three main laws of dialectics.

We studied our pamphlet on dialectical materialism and scheduled Zoom meetings so as many people as possible could come. Three young people who don't usually attend our meetings participated along with the club members and another comrade.

The first session focused on the first law, the law of contradictions. A contradiction is a pair of connected things where (a) the two sides are at least partly made what they are by that connection, and (b) the two sides also interfere with each other, hold each other back or actually fight with each other.

Every process has its own contradictions. We can identify the main contradiction and strengthen the side we want to win.

It is important to identify our contradictions both internally and externally to be able to improve our recruiting for the party. During our first session, we asked, “What contradictions do we deal with when it comes to recruiting?”

A comrade expressed that there is a contradiction between wanting to win people to communism and being afraid they wouldn't like her if they knew she was a communist.

We talked about the contradiction between wanting a communist society and working to survive in a capitalist one.

Another comrade said, “Being a mother and considering the price—that is my fear. Building for a communist revolution is an enormous project. It's somewhat alarming.” The fear that she shared was something that many people have.

A comrade replied, “Without your comrades you feel alone. Collectivity helps us realize that we are stronger together and it will help defeat that fear.”

One way of stating the main contradiction is: individualism vs. collectivity.

Capitalism pushes individualism. Comrades and the entire working-class struggle with conditioning focused on their families and close friends within their circles. “My family, my paycheck, my apartment, my phone,” etc. This is the life capitalism provides where we are forced to compete for jobs to provide for our families.

On the flipside you have collectivity. The masses also rely on each other in their daily lives. We couldn't survive without it. Coworkers in industrial worksites particularly, but also classmates, neighbors, family members, participate in

networks of cooperation and provide support in many ways. This is the legacy of pre-class society, and the promise of the communist society to come.

The Party learns from the best practice of the masses. We fight for collectivity and against individualism in our political work, which involves producing and distributing *Red Flag*, participating in study groups, helping to recruit and build the party etc.

In communism, collectivity becomes primary. It involves production of goods that the working class needs to survive: food, clothing, shoes, shelter and healthcare. We will share in abundance as well as in scarcity and nothing will be bought or sold.

Even our social lives will see a transformation in collective society. Social relationships will be more meaningful and go beyond familial and just people we work with. Relationships and interconnectivity will flourish as we grow to see ourselves and our families as part of a greater community worldwide where we all matter and need each other for society to be how it should be.

In the conflict between the two sides of a contradiction, one side is almost always dominant. Situations where the two sides are “even” are rare and temporary.

But the dominant side does not have to stay dominant. The side that is dominant fights to stay on top. The other side fights to gain the upper hand. We are fighting so that our collective side wins and that we will be able to topple capitalist society. We will win but only together.

Our next article will focus on the law of “quantitative to qualitative” change.



HEALTHCARE MARCHERS WELCOME COMMUNIST IDEAS

SEATTLE (USA), July 25—“Finally!” said J. She had just spotted the ICWP sign “Fighting to reform the capitalist healthcare system is a waste of time. Healthcare workers and patients need communism to create a healthy future!”

Comrades brought *Red Flag* to “Medicare for All” (M4All) marches and rallies here and in California. We said that capitalism can never provide decent, non-racist, non-sexist healthcare for the masses. We opposed the M4All organizers, liberals and socialists, who tout “Medicare for All” as the solution to deadly capitalist healthcare.

J was visiting Seattle from the San Francisco Bay Area. She had come to the rally to meet “comrades.” She held the sign, grabbed a copy of *Red Flag*, and had us take a picture. Within minutes, she had forwarded it to three friends. She took half a dozen papers to read and circulate to her friends and partner.

We texted her two articles about the communist fight against racism at Boeing. Later she responded: “Thank you so much!!! I read the issue you gave me and I loved it!” She has joined the ICWP Healthcare WhatsApp group.

As speakers droned on, claiming that Medicare for All is the answer to expensive, unequal healthcare, we talked with participants who weren’t so convinced.

Many conversations went beyond just blaming capitalism—though that’s the truth. People were interested in our ideas about how communist healthcare will create a healthier future.

D moved to Seattle from South Carolina five years ago. He was excited to talk to us after browsing through *Red Flag*. He came to the rally precisely to gather information like this. He considered it a bonus to learn about the communist fight against racism at Boeing and about a society without money.

A woman petitioning for M4All was interested in how public healthcare programs worldwide are increasingly subcontracting to private corporations, often private equity firms. More than half of the revenue of the largest “non-profit” U.S. healthcare plan, Kaiser Permanente, goes to private, for-profit subcontractors.

She is from England. She told us that the National Health Service does the same thing. Nei-



SEATTLE (USA), July 27—Rally in Westlake Park remembers Kaloni Bolton and denounces medical racism. Kaloni, 12, sought treatment for asthma at a Renton, WA Urgent Care facility. She was sent elsewhere, waited in the car for over 30 minutes, then went into cardiac arrest. She died two days later. In communism, health care system will serve the masses, not profits.

ther she nor D was surprised that the so-called public plans are just another way to generate profits for the ruling class.

Communist revolution will eliminate these profit-hungry racist exploiters and their money system. It will let us build a new society where everything, including health care, is produced and shared according to need.

ICWP Will Mobilize Communist Masses to Guarantee Public Health

Communist society will employ science unfettered by the profit motive. It will primarily organize active masses to assure a healthy society. Rather than relying on elites, masses everywhere will actively participate in providing collective healthcare and advancing science.

Communism will open up access to healthcare and mobilize masses to do what is necessary for public health. The Chinese communists mobilized a million and a half peasants to interrupt the life cycle of the deadly “snail disease” in the late 1950s.

In communism, we will learn from the successes (and the errors) of models like this on a massive scale for all healthcare.

Real Progress Possible: ICWP Must Grow

Comrades in the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles distributed over 175 copies of *Red Flag* at the marches and rallies there.

At the suggestion of Seattle comrades, a friend attended the rally in Portland. An East Coast healthcare worker was unable to attend one there. But she is inviting co-workers to a BBQ and cir-

culating recent issues of *Red Flag*, pointing out the articles on communist healthcare.

The Seattle collective used this mobilization to reconnect with friends, one of whom is studying public health. We plan to ask them to join the Healthcare WhatsApp group and to attend our own August BBQ.

Amidst the global pandemic and the crisis in US health care, it has become clear that this issue is a gateway to communist struggle around many others. More people than we may realize are open to embracing the all-encompassing need for communism.



OLYMPICS: “A FESTIVAL OF NATIONALISM DRIVEN BY PROFIT”

“It’s more about nationalism than internationalism,” agreed a group of Seattle (USA) *Red Flag* readers who were discussing the Olympics. Only a few watched the televised events. But all agreed that the athletes were taken advantage of by their national Olympic committees and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Most agreed with a comrade who said, “It’s a festival of nationalism driven by profit.”

This year, people worldwide have been looking at the Olympics differently, and not just because of the pandemic. The bosses push the idea that sports has nothing to do with politics but this year that illusion is fading.

Female athletes have been using this platform to fight sexism by taking ownership of what they wear during competitions. And to endorse the fight against racism.

Several women’s soccer teams—including the U.S. team before its opening match against Sweden, as well as Chile, Great Britain and New Zealand—began their matches by taking the knee as an anti-racist gesture.

“My purpose and my mission are bigger than sport,” said US hammer thrower Gwen Berry. “I’m here to represent those who died due to sys-

temic racism. That’s the important part.”

Win Htet Oo, born in Myanmar and now living in Melbourne (Australia) had qualified in swimming. But he decided to forego competing to protest the military junta that has taken over Myanmar.

US gymnast Simone Biles became a leading voice against sexual abuse by speaking up about the crimes of Lawrence G. Nassar, the former doctor for the US women’s gymnastics team and Michigan State University athletics.

Biles, favored to win gold, withdrew for the sake of her mental health, citing the need to protect both her mind and her body from the pressures of the competition.

“What the IOC is interested in, is the financial bottom line and putting on a good show,” said an Australian professor of sport studies. He said that turning a blind eye to human rights abuse is “part of the history of the IOC and the Olympic movement.” The worst example was the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Nazi Germany used the Olympic Games for propaganda, to promote an image of a new, strong, and united Germany while masking its growing racism, anti-Semitism and homophobia.

The real purpose of these capitalist games is to advance nationalism as well as racism and sexism. And to make money for the bosses at the same time!

Questions for *Red Flag* Readers: Athletics and Communism

Should we have athletic competitions when we have achieved communism? Since there would be no nations or borders, there would certainly be no Olympics, World Cup, etc. But just as certainly, for the health of the masses we would encourage sports, in various forms.

We encourage collectivity and cooperation. What should athletics look like after the communist revolution? Would there be “winning” in the sense there is now?

Since there would be no money, there would not be financial profit from sports. But would competitive games undermine a basic premises of communism – that humans do better when we work together?

Please send us your ideas about what sports might look like when we have achieved communism and there are no more nations or money or bosses!

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

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.

First ICWP Study Group in Pakistan Struggles to Build the Party

I recently arranged a meeting with university students. In that meeting I tried to give them a bit of the idea about communism, and the drawbacks of rotten capitalism.

I was surprised that they had no clue about communism. When I started telling them about communism and our struggle, they raised a few questions which I was not expecting.

The first was: "In communism, everybody is equal, doctor, engineer, pilot, labourer, driver, etc. and they all would be getting equal facilities. Then who is going to study hard to become a doctor or engineer if you know that everybody gets equal things regardless of their educational attainment?"

I answered that people would be aware that education is good for themselves and society as a whole. In communism, people would attain educational degrees to benefit the whole community. Some people would prefer to get professional degrees and they would do so to contribute to the commune.

The second question was: "Because of communism, our society would stop having competition, which means our society is not progressing."

I answered that society wouldn't stop progressing. Competition is injected in societies by the bourgeoisie class just to control people and to get the masses to fight each other. Those who compete the hardest get material benefits like a big salary, big house and other luxuries.

In communism, the masses are not going to fight against each other, because the circumstances would be different. I also mentioned that the capitalists decide what profession should get maximum salary and who gets minimum wages. Like labourers who do manual labour are paid less and people having degrees and who do intellectual work are highly paid.

The whole game is maximization of profit and surplus value. Upper middle-class people are mostly in these positions, and they mostly have white collar jobs. This class tries to safeguard the interests of the capitalist class, for which they get perks in return.

I tried to answer all their questions, and they were slightly convinced. This meeting was so interactive that a few passersby joined as well. I hope if I organize meetings regularly and with different people, it would be fruitful for our party and our struggle. And, due to this, I would have a collective of young and energetic people.

I believe all comrades across the globe should arrange meetings with people, so our message gets conveyed to the masses, and our struggle becomes more and more effective.

SURKH SALAM

A Comrade in Pakistan

Fighting the Tyranny of Capitalism's Money System

"I hate money so much, and that we are ruled by it," exclaimed E. Our collective was discussing the article "How can communism work without money?" in the last issue of *Red Flag*.

"It affects everything," she continued. "Our homes, relationships, families are torn apart

when there isn't enough money."

C described how she brings this up when distributing the paper at rallies. "I ask them what they would do if they weren't scrambling for a paycheck. One guy thought for a minute and then said he'd be fixing bikes for people."

"We wouldn't be judgmental about work like fixing bikes or serving coffee," responded E, who works at Starbucks. If nobody were paid, she explained, manual work that is currently low-paid would be respected. "We would spend our time for the community."

"Do you talk about this with other people?" B asked. "Family or co-workers?"

"One of my sisters is on the same page as me," said E. "I think when people really don't agree, there is no point to arguing with them. You have to lead by living your values."

We talked a little about contradictions. People will say anti-communist, pro-capitalist things, but usually our friends have other ideas or values that conflict with capitalist reality. If we listen carefully, we'll find opportunities to point that out and share something about our vision of a communist world.

"There are things people don't like about their lives," said E, "but they see it as a personal failing. Like going to a job they hate just for the money. They blame themselves. We are taught to blame ourselves rather than thinking bigger. But there is a solution."

"It's the Puritan ethic that misleads them," suggested C. "In a communist society you wouldn't feel that you were messing up. Capitalism creates winners and losers. There is a planned scarcity of success."

"People don't realize that the US is the evil empire, the Death Star," concluded E.

"We all know more people who would like to be in discussions like this," said B. "How can we get some of them to come to our next meeting? And, looking ahead, how we can build more groups like this."

Collective in Los Angeles, USA

Comrades Criticize Articles on Climate Change

The page 2 articles in the last issue of *Red Flag* dealt with climate change and women's leadership in fighting its effects. Climate change is a global disaster caused by capitalism's incessant greed for profits and we definitely should write more about it.

It's also useful that the article pointed out the disparate impact of climate change on women, migration and the role of women's leadership in mass organizing against it. We commit to writing more about this in the future.

We think a couple of things should have been included.

First, the massive role of NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) in formerly colonized countries. The article said: "From Bangladesh to Sudan, from Nicaragua to Fiji, women are organizing the masses to create local solutions." It would be more accurate to write: "From



Bangladesh to Sudan, from Nicaragua to Fiji, women – in NGOs – are organizing the masses to create local solutions, not a revolutionary solution."

Imperialism left Africa, Asia, South and Central America by the front door only to return via the back door. Since the 1980s when the US-dominated World Bank and IMF started to make loans to 'developing' countries based on cutting state run health care, education, and social welfare programs, NGOs began to pop up like wild mushrooms.

Foundations (like the Ford Foundation, or Bill and Melinda Gates) grant money to civil organizations, or even propose them to organize around a specific program. The civil organization is therefore reliant on the charity of the Foundation. The NGOs that "empower" women to start small businesses are designed to deflect angry masses of women in oppressed communities away from revolution and into local self-help projects.

The article was right to highlight the upsurge in political activity among women the world over but it wasn't clear on the key area, the NGOs, where the battle of ideas – pro-communist or pro-imperialist – needs to be fought.

Second, the political question of climate change cannot be addressed without raising the need for mass revolutionary struggle. The depth and urgency of the crisis means that the present hold capitalists have on state power will be increasingly challenged – by other domestic capitalists, by international rival capitalists and by the angry masses organized by ICWP.

When we say that "it's only capitalism that stands in the way. Capitalism and the angry masses' limited vision of what a communist world would look like" we must emphasize what capitalism really is. It's the dictatorship of capital—in which all the decisions are made to benefit the capitalist class and the armed power of the state is used to enforce them. If we don't emphasize this, we encourage an idealist understanding of social transformation.

In the US, it took the Civil War to wrest State power from the powerful profit-hungry capitalist enslavers and put it in the hands of the up-and-coming industrial capitalists. We can expect nothing less from the giant fuel industry, backed by the world's largest military, which in turn confronts other states' fuel and military and industrial might – World War in some form or other. Social transformation needs boots on the ground to confront capitalist state power and we can't avoid mention of it.

West Coast Schools Collective

CUBAN REBELS MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN COMMUNIST REVOLUTION AND CAPITALIST-IMPERIALIST ENSLAVEMENT

Mass rebellions broke out in Cuba on July 11. Angry youth and workers, many Black, protested racist police terror, mass unemployment, and lack of food and medicine. The pandemic has made living conditions even worse.

The government, like all capitalist governments, attacked the demonstrators viciously with tear gas and live munitions, killing at least one worker.

Conditions began deteriorating for the Cuban masses in the 1960's because of the embargo imposed by US imperialism to get the masses to overthrow the anti-US Cuban government.

But Cuba's main problem is internal: In 1961 Fidel Castro declared Cuba socialist. Socialism is state capitalism. It keeps wage slavery and the exploitation of the masses for profits. It creates a new capitalist class which reaps profits exploiting the masses as wage slaves and enslaves them to the ups-and-downs of the capitalist-imperialist world market.

Thus, Cuba's survival depends on exporting sugar, doctors, and attracting foreign tourists. The worldwide capitalist economic crisis and the pandemic has devastated Cuba's tourist industry throwing millions into crushing poverty.

In the early revolutionary years, Cuban workers were inspired to work collectively for the good of everyone. Castro called this doing "communist work."

But it was just a ploy by Castro and the dominant section of the party to motivate workers to work harder, while using individual incentives and wage differentials. Higher paid government officials got rich.

Today, the Cuban masses, like hundreds of millions of workers worldwide, are in motion

against capitalism's racist and inhumane attacks.

Working class rebellions either serve the working class or the capitalists-imperialists

If working class rebellions – spontaneous or not – don't mobilize the masses for communism, they end up supporting one or another group of capitalist-imperialist exploiters.

Without a mass communist party to mobilize the masses for communist revolution, the Cuban masses' discontent with capitalism is being channeled to support either the Chinese-Russian or US imperialists in their dog fight for world domination.

Strategically located, if controlled by a hostile power, Cuba could become an existential threat to US imperialism. Aware of this, in 1898 US rulers sank their warship the *Maine* in Havana Harbor, blamed Spain and started the Spanish-American War to take Cuba from Spain.

Possessing Cuba enabled the US to consolidate its control of the Caribbean, its position as the dominant hemispheric power, and eventually rise as the world's dominant imperialist power.

Cuba is geopolitically important because it lies near the mouth of the Gulf of Mexico, the transit route for huge quantities of US exports and imports, especially to Europe, the Caribbean and South America.

A hostile power's navy in Cuba could blockade the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico restricting US access to these areas.

It could cut off trade and access to oil, metals and other natural resources crucially needed for military production, especially in wartime.

Cuba could be to the US what Taiwan is to China: an unsinkable aircraft carrier. The Chinese and Russian imperialists know this. Both are expanding and consolidating their economic, political and military ties with Cuba. They support the Cuban government, which in turn is pushing its citizens to patriotically defend the "Revolution" from those "right wing rebellions."



The US imperialist press is using them to build anticommunism, screaming that "communism doesn't work." Socialism or state capitalism is what failed in Cuba, not communism.

Biden's government is supporting the rebellions, calling on them to fight for capitalism's "freedom and democracy." The goal is to organize a "Color Revolution" to put a puppet in power that would align Cuba with US imperialism.

That is why Biden is tightening sanctions against Cuba, while calling for rebellions against the worsening conditions they help create. This exposes the hypocrisy of US imperialism.

Whether the Russian and Chinese imperialists or the US imperialists win out, the working masses in Cuba and internationally lose.

Cuban workers, like workers everywhere, need a revolution for communism, not socialism. Only by ending capitalism and imperialism, can workers produce and share the product of our labor to meet the masses' needs.

Many angry protesters in the streets aspire for a different life. Their aspirations can only be met by a communist society. Only communism can offer us a world without racism, sexism, wage slavery, police terror, unemployment, inter-imperialist rivalry and war.

Only a communist society based on collectivity, without money, markets or profits, with no special privileges for anyone, can make real the slogan "from each according to their commitment and ability, to each according to their need."

This requires building the International Communist Workers' Party among the angry masses in motion to fight for revolution and communist workers' power.



RACISM IN CUBA: ROOTED IN CAPITALISM

Racism came to Cuba with the Spanish conquest in the 16th century. First the Spanish rulers stole the land of indigenous Taino and Guanahatabey people. They destroyed the egalitarian indigenous societies. They enslaved the people and worked them to death on plantations to produce sugar to sell in international markets. Then they enslaved millions from West Africa and their descendants to keep increasing their profits.

Capitalism was the root of racism in Cuba. It rebuilt anti-Black racism after legal enslavement finally ended in the 1880s. Plantation owners like the father of Fidel and Raul Castro brought in more Black laborers from Haiti and elsewhere to keep sugar profits flowing into the 20th century.

US imperialism brought with it legal racial segregation. Buildings displayed signs saying "no dogs or blacks." Most Black people were excluded from better jobs and schools.

The 1959 revolution promised to end this official racism, winning the support of many

AfroCubans. And in 1962, Fidel Castro pronounced it over.

But it wasn't. It couldn't be, because the Cuban revolution didn't end the capitalist system of money, wages and markets. (See article) That system remained the material basis of racism, as it is everywhere.

Raul Castro's "liberalization" (2007-2013) intensified racism. "The new policies produce losers, because their chief concern is economic growth," commented a US analyst. "None of these policies is racially defined, but they produce new forms of social inequalities [that] tend to be racialized quickly."

Today, AfroCubans are much less likely than white Cubans to get dollar remittances from relatives abroad. Fifty percent of whites but only 11% of Black Cubans have bank accounts. Whites control 98 percent of private businesses. Dark skin is widely seen as a social liability.

Almost all Black Cubans are wage-slaves – if

they can find jobs. The huge tourism industry preferentially hires whites. Few AfroCubans have professional jobs. Urban Black men often find no way to make a living except for the illegal underground market, which subjects them to police harassment.

Cuban police "stop and frisk" Black and mixed-race young men far more often than whites. They refer to them with the racist term, "citizens with characteristics." Incarceration rates are small compared to the US, but Black people are also disproportionately represented in Cuban prisons. So it's not surprising that one of the causes of the July 11 rebellion was the June 24 police murder of Hansel Hernandez, 27, an unarmed Black man they shot in the back.

To end racism, the Cuban masses – like workers and youth everywhere – need to mobilize for real communist revolution. It's the only way to dig racism up by the roots.