

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



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EL SALVADOR

EL SALVADOR MAY DAY: ICWP ORGANIZES TO FREE US FROM THE PRISON OF CAPITALISM

EL SALVADOR, May 2— “Are we going to be afraid? If it had been like this 136 years ago, without the struggle led by Chicago workers, we would still be working 16 hours or more,” said a ICWP worker comrade. “The reasons to fight are still present, so we have to continue, until we achieve the definitive change in Communism,” she concluded.

Organizing the May Day march for communist revolution under the fascist attack of the government of Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele presented obstacles. We overcame these collectively.

We visited as many comrades as we could, to inform them of the plans for the big march. In every meeting of the collective, we shared everything related to this great demonstration of the working class.

In the days before the march, there was much anticipation due to the government’s declared state of emergency. Harassment in the communities by the police and government army is the daily bread. They have even come to factories to carry out searches.

The fascism imposed by the government and its servile ministers threatened workers who participated in the march with jail. It placed groups of soldiers and police (checkpoints) on the highway to prevent them from attending. But these were not enough to keep thousands of workers away from the main streets of the capital.

Fighting for Communism to End Wage Slavery

Dozens of comrades from the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP), convinced of the fight for communism, marched carrying our banner, flags, posters and the *Red Flag* newspaper.

Farm and factory workers, students, teachers, health workers and others participated. Also three workers, a teacher and two farm workers joined us during the march. They took and carried flags and walked with us for the rest of the march.

“Distributing *Red Flag* means a lot to me,” said a young comrade who distributed some of the 1000 copies we got out to our working class. “It is very motivating to hear workers ask for it and say that they need more for others. For next year, there must be more.”

A worker participating in the march approached us and asked, “Where do you meet? I received this newspaper in the United States.” We exchanged phone numbers because he wants to join this effort.

In the days before the march, communication was key to overcoming individual fears. Without a doubt, comradely relations are essential in this fight.

The messages from comrades making calls to demonstrate were important in case anyone had doubts about doing so. They fueled the spirits by making it clear why we had to march.

“We are firm on this. We cannot back down. There is a serious threat, but we must win,” said a worker comrade.

Our *Red Flag* newspaper was on time as planned, as was everything necessary for our red participation.

Morale is now high after we marched and distributed our literature. Our goal is to end wage slavery. We can only achieve it with a massive communist party, ICWP, which is what the workers need.

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INDIA MAY DAY: ORGANIZE FOR THE POWER OF COMMUNISM TO BURY FASCIST CAPITALISM

May 1— “I saw firsthand the brutality of war in Ukraine,” said a medical student in India. “I saw that when we were risking our lives to get out, many people came to protect us. They risked their own lives to help us against the fascist Ukrainian police who treated us like dogs.

“As a medical student, I wanted to help the wounded,” she continued. “I felt helpless. When I returned to Delhi on a flight, ICWP members greeted me. I was with my family, but they made a passionate call for communism and gave me *Red Flag*. I read it repeatedly and it made perfect sense to me. Today, on May Day, I have decided to join ICWP.”

This comrade and dozens of others, Party members and friends, marched on May Day in Delhi, Bengaluru, and Chennai. Others enthusiastically decided to follow her lead to join our Party. We showed that communism is alive and has the potential to grow into a mass party to defeat rising fascism worldwide.

This May Day took place amid intensifying fascist government attacks on the Muslim community. Recently in Delhi, local authorities ordered the unannounced demolition of large Muslim neighborhoods. They bulldozed small shops, houses, and mosques, and to humiliate, this was during the month of Ramadan.

The next day, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson went to a factory that assembles the bulldozers to show off the progress India is supposedly making under the fascist Modi government. The

comrades there chanted (in Hindi): “Modi and Boris, we will bury you deep underground so communism will thrive.”

ICWP comrades in Chennai participated in a May Day that was organized by trade unions. Our contingent of auto workers and friends opposed the demolition of the Muslim areas. Many workers took our literature. They were outraged about the bulldozers, which have become a symbol of fascism in India.

During the march, some workers decided to write to the workers of JCB Bulldozer in Gujarat condemning the use of bulldozers they build to attack Muslims. We drafted the letter with many other workers, asking JCB workers to organize a strike to oppose the use of bulldozers to attack workers.

ICWP Organizes for the Power of Communism, Not for Crumbs

An ICWP member is a veteran of the Great Railway Strike of May 1974. They recalled that the country had stopped for weeks as there was a complete shutdown of the workers. Railway workers seized bulldozers and destroyed railway lines. A large contingent of women organized a total shut down in Chennai (then Madras).

The government called in the army, but widespread sabotage by sympathetic soldiers and uprooted railway lines prevented any trains from moving. “It felt like a revolution was in the air,” the comrade said.

However, the trade union was satisfied with

small crumbs when the working class wanted everything. “This is what ICWP is about,” said the comrade. “We must organize for power, the power of communism. It will spread like wildfire if we are consistent in our struggle and win workers and soldiers to read and spread *Red Flag*.” Young comrades and other workers were riveted by the story of the veteran comrades, and they want to know more about the May strike of 1974.

In Bengaluru, ICWP organized a group of garment workers and some health care workers to join the May Day celebration. We were able to mobilize a small number of Muslim workers and undocumented workers from Bangladesh. This was a big breakthrough for us because in Bengaluru the BJP fascists have been attacking Muslim women for wearing Hijab. Now many states have legally enforced the Hijab ban.

On May Day, our comrades organized to wear red Sari and red Hijab to show that the red colour of communism unites people of different cultures.

We plan to mobilize more workers in many other cities. We have many readers in Mumbai and Kolkata. A group of comrades will participate in Communist School next month. The medical student is taking a leading part in organizing transport and logistics. With her help and some young comrades from Delhi, we will have a solid foundation to continue our march for communism.

CLASS STRUGGLE IN SRI LANKA



Sri Lanka, May 11 — Anti-government protests continue to intensify to unprecedented levels. Masses have burned politicians’ mansions and sent members of the ruling Rajapaksa family into hiding. The populist president had ruthlessly suppressed Tamil’s insurgency. Then he implemented anti-Muslim, anti-Christian pogroms.

Comrades in nearby Chennai, India, think that India is on the brink of a similar situation. India’s fascist Modi is very much like the president of Sri Lanka.

In both places – and worldwide – anti-fascist rebels need a growing International Communist Workers’ Party to convert the wrath of the working class into a fight for communism.

Comrades in India have been sending *Red Flag* to Sri Lanka (in English and Tamil) and plan to struggle to get to know our readers better and to expand our readership there.

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Join the International Communist Workers’ Party
www.icwpredflag.org — Twitter @RedFlagBandera

NEW E-mail: icwp@nym.hush.com

Facebook: icwpredflag

Write to: P.M.B. 362

3006 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90007, USA



Los Angeles May Day:

WE MARCH BECAUSE MASSES NEED TO UNDERSTAND COMMUNISM

“Attending the Los Angeles May Day march and rally with ICWP this year was especially memorable for me,” declared a comrade. “I have been away from the party for a time, and it felt great to be back with everyone.

“I helped to distribute *Red Flag*,” he continued, “and met so many wonderful people who gladly took the paper, made donations to cover printing costs, and were interested in learning more about our communist ideas. They wanted to know what we had to say about our current situation and what a communist future could be like. I exchanged contact information with a few people and look forward to meeting with them soon!



Los Angeles: El Salvador Law of Exception— We will destroy capitalist fascism with communist revolution ICWP



“Many comrades showed great leadership with thought-provoking chants and revolutionary speeches in English and Spanish,” he concluded. “They informed everyone about our communist vision for the future and about the important actions workers are taking around the world that will help lay the groundwork for it.

“Long live communism! Power to the working class!”

Dozens of comrades and friends in the ICWP contingent included students, teachers, transit workers and industrial workers. We rallied on a corner on the march route, distributing *Red Flag* and making speeches. Meanwhile, some comrades distributed our literature at the starting point of the march.

As the marchers went by us, everyone saw our signs and banners. We joined the march with red flags flying high. Toward the end, we took to the sidewalk and posted there as the rest of the

marchers went by. Our speeches, chants, signs, our red flags, and our big banner made an impact.

We distributed all the literature we had: well over 500 copies of *Red Flag* and more than 300 communist pamphlets “Fight for the Day When No Worker Will Be Called Foreigner.”

“The Party is still fighting! I am glad to see you,” said an old friend who was marching with a union group. “Let me see how I can help.” He took five papers and five pamphlets to pass to friends.

“We march in these movements not to ask the bosses for reforms, but to mobilize the masses for communism,” concluded a comrade. “Attacks on migrants, racist wars, police killings of Black and Brown people and homelessness are all issues that can only be fixed after abolishing capitalism all together. We march because we want the masses to understand this.”

Seattle May Day March:

ONLY COMMUNISM CAN UNLEASH THE POWER OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS

SEATTLE (USA), May 6— “I really liked the international outlook of the march,” said M, a young worker. He was part of a large, enthusiastic Filipino contingent. He eagerly took ICWP literature. There were also many Northeast African and Latinx workers and students, many of them first- or second-generation migrants. Youth, with an internationalist outlook, gave the May Day march the spark it needed.

The ICWP boldly declared the necessity of communism to end fascism, wage slavery, racism, xenophobia etc. with signs declaring “End capitalism with communist revolution!”

Many young people who came with socialist organizations were open to the communist ideas of *Red Flag*. We distributed almost all the papers and immigration pamphlets we brought. The young BIPOC people who led the march carried signs and led chants denouncing fascism, particularly in the US and the Philippines.

Outside a nearby church, people leaving a quinceañera mass eagerly took *Bandera Roja*. There was a lot of interest in reading about martial law in El Salvador. There has been little in the US press about it or the fightback against it. No other group mentioned this. That won us a lot of friends, including M, whose parents fled martial law in the Philippines.

We met with M a few days later. “It is really important to connect the local issues with the international ones, and the march really did that,” he said. He asked us to leave copies of *Red Flag*, Mobilize the Masses for Communism, and the anti-racism and migration pamphlets at the coffee shop where he works.

The ruling class would like us to believe that the march was all about union organizing. The Seattle Times headline was “Seattle May Day rally and march tout new union strength.” But most of the rank-and-file who marched were open

to our ideas and wanted to read *Red Flag*.

“Left” politicians push unionization to persuade young people that capitalism can provide a good life for workers. They fear these young workers will decide to fight for the only real solution: communism, a society without money or wage slavery.

M advocates communist internationalism. He saw the contradictions between that and the union chants and slogans. He wants to involve other friends in a collective discussion to clarify the difference.

A migrant from the Tigray area of Ethiopia was outraged at how poorly the US treats migrants from there versus the open arms for Ukrainian refugees. He wholeheartedly agreed that capitalism and racism are the culprits. He took *Red Flag* and an immigration pamphlet and joined us for a photo, his arm raised in a fist. He recommended our communist literature to his contingent.

A young white University of Washington student was intrigued by our line of fighting directly for communism. While marching, we exchanged contact information and talked for about twenty minutes. We plan to meet with him and some of his friends soon.

The young, enthusiastic marchers demonstrated the potential for communist revolution. They were not fooled into taking the side of one capitalist or another. They recognized the NATO/Russia war in Ukraine for what it is: a fight among capitalist/imperialist fascist rivals.

M later told us that communism is “the ultimate step. I don’t advocate it right away. If you do that in the Philippines, they will kill you.” Comrades explained that socialism is just a version of capitalism, as it maintains the wage system and other institutions that bolster capitalism. So only fighting directly for communism can win a world without racism, sexism, xenophobia. He would like us to get together with his friends to clarify these im-

portant points.

To Recruit New Comrades, We Must Have a Plan

Comrades have had success recruiting new comrades and friends from political marches and rallies. Our collective has a three-part plan to consolidate potential comrades. In a day or two after a march or other event, comrades share the discussions they had to write up for *Red Flag*. As soon as possible, comrades meet with the new contacts. In a month or so, the party organizes a larger social/political event and invites the new friends.

We have already visited M and are planning a BBQ for early June. Several people from an earlier multi-racial May Day potluck missed the march because of COVID and family emergencies. We will invite our new contacts, others who missed the march, and additional workers from Boeing and the schools to discuss the fight for our communist future.

We must take base-building seriously, using the contacts we make as a springboard for further meetings and discussions. Seeing so many young people in the streets and open to communism, a potential generation of new leaders, increases the enthusiasm of long-time Party members and friends. We really do have a world to win!



Read our pamphlet: FIGHT FOR THE DAY WHEN NO WORKER WILL BE CALLED FOREIGNER

EL SALVADOR: COMRADES SHARE MAY DAY EXPERIENCES

El Salvador: Worker Reconnects with ICWP on May Day

I am a worker in a textile factory in the western part of El Salvador. Through a friend from another garment sweatshop, I learned about *Red Flag* and the International Communist Workers' Party back in 2012 and since then I have read *Red Flag* online.

A few weeks ago my friend and I met again. He started talking to me about the Party and invited me to participate in the May Day march in San Salvador. I didn't think twice. I told him yes, that I would attend, and that I would invite two more workers from the factory where I work. Despite the government's threats to imprison those of us who marched for the international day of the working class.

On May 1st I left the house at 6:20 am, but they stopped me at every police checkpoint on the highway, five in total. They took us off the collective transport in which we were travelling. They searched all our things, and no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't get there in time to participate in the march of us, the workers. I arrived almost at the end, at the rally's assembly point in the center of the Salvadoran capital.

But I was able to greet the worker friend who had invited me to march with ICWP. I feel very excited to have had my first experience.

I will continue reading the *Red Flag* newspaper, now in print, and I will pass it on to other workers. The comrades have already invited me to participate in the meetings of the collective, to study the communist philosophy, which I plan to attend and invite other comrades.

—Worker 2012

El Salvador: "To More Repression, We Respond: More Struggle!"

"The time has come to become aware. Taking to the streets as workers was our slogan!" The activity began and we began to distribute *Red Flag* in the Salvadoran capital.

"The capitalist system used all its tools against the working class, instilling fear and threatening to label as terrorists those who dared to march to commemorate the international day of the working class, remembering the heroic deeds of the Chicago martyrs," said a worker ICWP leader.

Fearing being captured by the police and the military, who blocked all the streets in the center of the capital, many workers had problems and arrived late. Some decided to stay at home.

But an old slogan: TO MORE REPRESSION, WE RESPOND: MORE STRUGGLE! raised the spirits of many farm and factory workers, teachers, and students to come out with a single goal.

The International Communist Workers Party that is mobilizing the workers of the maquilas

was at the forefront, in the face of this "Law of Exception" imposed by the current government. This incompetent and fascist government tried to end the workers' march.

But even so, all the organized workers in the ICWP decided that it was time to be the stone in the shoe of this rotten system. We could not let fall victim to the anxiety caused by the government.

We left very early to go to the assigned place to meet and wait for more comrades.

It was worrying when, at one point, police surrounded us. But we couldn't leave the place because our comrades were arriving. When they arrived, we looked for alternate streets to reach the central place of the march, since many comrades from other areas of the country were waiting for us there.

The spirit was growing as the march developed, seeing how many workers read *Red Flag* and asked for more copies.

This May Day, the *Red Flag* newspaper and the red flags waving throughout the route broke with the threats and fences of the fascist government.

RED, RED, RED IS THE FLAG OF THE WORKING CLASS!

LONG LIVE THE WORKING CLASS!

—Comrade in El Salvador

Communist Revolution Will Free Us from the Chains of the Fascist-Capitalist Oppressor

"We will not fall or be silenced anymore," were our thoughts when organizing all the comrades as we started our revolutionary communist march this May 1 in El Salvador. Despite all the obstacles and barriers that this fascist government wanted to put up, we broke down the borders of fear that they wanted to impose on us. We managed to confront them and show that our collective is standing up, is fighting and will continue to fight, mobilizing the masses for our communist Revolution.

"Will we give up? Will we be afraid?" NEVER, because we believe in our struggle, in our cause and we want a change that is imminent right now and with our communist revolution we will overthrow this fascist government.

The government believes itself to be all-powerful, threatening to jail those who were going to march, exercising its authority through violence, coercion, repression and the manipulation of the entire system.

This May Day showed that the working class will not give up. Workers achieved all our objectives. We created a reference NO MORE OPPRESSION. Our ICWP is fighting for the communist revolution.

All our comrades here and around the world

wage increases that they had just seen eroded by mounting inflation.

We marched with teachers who can't afford to live in the city they teach in, whose students are traumatised by their families' struggle to find work and make it, hearing that their schools are being closed. Closed to make way for privatised charters or sold to real estate developers. The richest country in the world, one of the richest cities in the country, but the capitalist system hasn't got the money to feed the hungry, house the homeless, educate the children, pay their workers a living wage?

I'm proud to advocate for a different system, the communist system: "From each according to their ability, to each according to their needs".

—Bay Area Red

march with banners, flags, communist posters, as a collective united for our cause.

In the same way, we distributed our RED FLAG newspaper. We feel proud that many recognized us and already knew about our party and our newspaper. We achieved the victory of reaching more workers so that they know us and become part of our readership.

Up with the communist revolution!

—Young Comrade

El Salvador: Student Comrade's May Day Experience

A cordial and fraternal greeting to all! A second-year high school student greets you. I am 17 years old and a daughter of workers. For me, this May Day has been one more experience of marching with the International Communist Workers' Party, since I have participated in the Party's contingent for three years.

We left the house that morning to go to where we would meet with our comrades from the factory. We were wearing our red ICWP t-shirts. Suddenly we were surrounded by police checkpoints, and we had to go back to put on other shirts and hide the red ones, until we reached the place of the march where we put them back on.

Despite the difficulties that always occur, and even more this year with the fascist threats to jail those of us who participate in the commemoration of the working class for the sacrifice of the Chicago martyrs.

It was forbidden to march, but we were able to overcome these obstacles of the capitalist system and we were able to march. I distributed our *Red Flag* newspaper and proudly carried our flag.

Nothing stopped ICWP, the Party was not left behind. We marched through the main streets of San Salvador, and we could observe and analyze another victory for our Party.

I will continue with my parents talking, handing out the *Red Flag* and studying more about communism.

—Young student



SEATTLE (US), May 10— "Say no to another fascist dictatorship in the Philippines!" This was the angry response to the election of Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. (son of a notorious fascist former president). Friends we met at the May Day march invited ICWP comrades to an emergency protest rally and march. Participants who hadn't gotten *Red Flag* on May Day read the paper as a mostly young crowd gathered. A comrade explained to two young women that she had come because she wanted to end capitalism around the world. "Me too!" they responded.

Capitalism's Contradictions Show Urgent Need for Communism

On May 1st I joined the comrades passing out *Red Flag* for the May Day March down Market St. in the center of San Francisco.

I spoke with people preoccupied with the global warming catastrophe funded by Wall Street and the trillion-dollar corporate industries, which continues unabated. Meanwhile the US war machine is revving up with weapon production, military budgets zooming up, the threat of nuclear war looming again over all of us.

We passed the homeless and the hungry, trying to survive in the shadow of new gleaming multi-million-dollar condominium and office buildings. Workers marched with their unions who had struck for

US-Russia War in Ukraine:

ONLY COMMUNISM CAN STOP IMPERIALISM'S MASS DESTRUCTION

“The US aids Ukraine and her people so that we can fight Russia over there and we don't have to fight Russia here.” So declared leading US Democrat Adam Schiff during the first Trump impeachment trial in 2020. That was two years before Russian troops invaded Ukraine!

“We are no longer in an indirect war with Russia,” wrote Thomas Friedman in the *New York Times*, “but rather edging toward a direct war.” (5/9/22)

So much for the imperialist lie that the war is about “plucky little Ukraine defending itself from the bloodthirsty Russian bear.” As *Red Flag* has said all along, the war is fundamentally between US imperialism and expansionist Russian capitalism.

It is an imperialist war over control of energy resources and the geopolitical leverage such control brings. Over the redivision of Europe between larger global powers (Russia and the US) while Chinese imperialism positions itself to reap the greatest economic benefits.

As the retired veteran US diplomat Chas Freeman put it, the West has been cynically saying, “We will fight to the last Ukrainian for Ukrainian independence.” Except that it's not for Ukrainian independence. It's for US imperialist domination.

Now the US media are letting out a little bit of the truth. “The United States and its NATO allies are engaged in a proxy war with Russia,” former State Department official Eliot Cohen told *The Atlantic*.

CNBC reassured its audience that “it's outside the realm of possibility right now that there's going to be a nuclear war or World War III that really spills over that far beyond Ukraine's borders.” Right now? What about tomorrow?

Warren Buffett, a leading US capitalist, warned his investors that “The world is flipping a coin every day as to whether people who can literally destroy the planet as we know it will do it. And, unfortunately, the major problem is with people

who have large stocks of nuclear weapons and ICBMs.

“We have no solution for it,” Buffett continued, “and there isn't any solution.”

Capitalists cannot stop the massive destruction imperialism is already inflicting through its deadly wars and its profit-fueled climate catastrophe. But there IS a solution. It's in our hands – the hands of the international working class.

We can't afford to wait and see whether full-scale World War III explodes now in Ukraine or later in the Pacific or somewhere else. We need to mobilize now for communist revolution as soon as possible.

Things Are Changing Fast

Workers can't live in the old way. As bad as it used to be, things keep getting worse.

Capitalists can't rule in the old way. Their crises, spiraling out of control, expose the viciously racist, sexist, anti-working-class dictatorship of the rich over the masses.

And when they mobilize masses for war, they risk losing control over those they send to kill and die for their profits.

This may be happening now with Russian troops in Ukraine. It's certainly what Ukrainian president Zelenskyy is trying to instigate by telling them, in Russian, to stop fighting and save their own lives.

The US propaganda magazine *Newsweek* reports Security Service of Ukraine claims to have intercepted phone calls revealing Russian troops rebelling against the generals, refusing to fight, or sabotaging their own tanks.

We can't confirm this, but it certainly happened a lot among US troops in Vietnam. And among Russian troops in 1917, who were key to overthrowing the Tsar and the capitalist democracy that came next.

“There's clearly a lot of dissent in Russia,” says Freeman, “although I'm sure it's

being exaggerated by our media. The war is a fog of lies on all sides. It is virtually impossible to tell what is actually happening because every side is staging the show.”

Rebellion and resistance show the potential for revolution but are not in themselves revolutionary. We need to fight FOR the communist world we really need. A world without borders or nations to go to war. Without money or profits to fight over. Without a wage system that enslaves the masses.

Our war is the class war: our fight is for communist workers' power.

If *Red Flag* readers are in contact with friends or family in Ukraine or Russia, please share information with us about what's going on there. And share *Red Flag*'s communist vision with them.



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

May Day Greetings from a Metalworker in South Africa

Recently, we all celebrated May Day as workers all over the world.

Here in the Eastern Cape, there were two separate May Day celebrations. This is because of the fragmentations in the trade union movement, which only helps the bosses.

There is also one political party which declared on this day that it opportunistically intends to form its own trade union. This comes from what transpired somewhere in the country where workers booed the Bourgeois nationalist president of the country as it was his turn to address the workers.

Workers in the North West province, mainly in the mines, have been on the strike for two months. They are demanding, among other things, a lousy R1000 (US\$62) and the employers are refusing them, only offering R850. The strike is continuing.

As I was indicating, there were two main celebrations in the same area of Motherwell. In one venue, workers were not there in numbers, but in the other venue there was massive support.

As workers arrived in numbers, already singing and dancing along, waiting for the arrival of the keynote speaker, I was asked to address the workers about the significance of this day.

I did not hesitate. I took to the podium and took the workers through what happened on 1st May 1886 in Chicago, USA. I learned from May Day celebrations as ICWP, here in Port Elizabeth. So it was just easy for me drawing lessons from those past celebrations.

And again, as history tells a story, before 1994, as workers we used to celebrate this day by staying away from work until the Apartheid regime made some concessions and declared the May Day as a public holiday. So this day did not come on a silver platter; workers had to lose wages, limbs, and lives.

This is what I reminded workers about as we waited for the keynote address.

I also pointed out that we are celebrating this May Day at the backdrop of two main world events. One, the Covid-19 pandemic which has taken millions of lives whilst the few capitalists were making millions of dollars, Rands, etc. Whilst workers suffered stagnation to their wages, the bosses doubled their take home pay in the form of huge bonuses.

Second, the US/ NATO escalation of war against Russia in Ukraine which has seen the devastation of workers in those countries. Workers in Russia and Ukraine stand to lose in the escalation of war, so the significance of this May Day should be to mobilize workers in these

countries to unite together against the capitalist bosses and reject the proxy war.

That was my message to the workers on May Day.

Viva May Day Viva!

Viva ICWP Viva!

Viva Communism Viva!

Another Communist Wave Will Advance

We went to May Day last week. It was a catalyst for us to reflect on the Party's work here in South Africa and internationally. The upcoming Party meeting is an opportunity for us to reflect on our failures and successes. We have had waves of advancing before. Now it is the time for another wave to advance.

We have made concrete plans for the Communist school this coming weekend, and to distribute our material, working toward the Communist school and beyond to consolidate the work we have done. So in the next week we will be concentrating on that.

The impetus for this came from the recent meeting to revive the commitment of the comrades, to remind them of the historical task to overthrow capitalism. I think it was very productive.

—Comrade in South Africa

ICWP RAISES RED FLAG IN MASS STRUGGLE AGAINST RACIST SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Oakland, California is one of the major cities in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Bay Area is home to the third largest concentration of billionaires in the world. Oakland is home to an exploding tent city population and a school district that apparently is always bankrupt or near bankruptcy.

Enormous wealth versus chronic bankruptcy; the bigger the wealth gap, the bigger the contempt the billionaires have for us. And, in return, the bigger the fury we harbor toward them. That is the way class struggles play out.

It is this dynamic that has unfolded in Oakland, California, since the first days of February. It was then the Oakland School Board announced plans to close (meaning “charterize” or sell to real estate developers) eleven more schools. They were schools in working-class areas with predominantly Black students.

It planned to close them in May, as soon as the school year ended. No debate, no parent, teacher, or community input. It would just close them. It was a display of racist contempt. It would close them because, in the final argument, that was the “fiscally responsible” thing to do.

“Fiscally Responsible!” That’s a phrase that is supposed to silence debate. Unfortunately, it is not just a phrase. It has real social forces organ-

ized behind it. In the case of education, that organization is “FCMAT” (pronounced Fic-mat). It is a state-appointed board that rules whether any educational district is bankrupt or solvent.

This appointed FCMAT has the power because it controls the purse. FCMAT is the education face of what Karl Marx called “the dictatorship of Capital.” The democratically elected School Board is just a fig leaf.

Working-class struggle against the dictatorship of Capital! That is the best way to sum up this powerful mass movement of teachers, parent community (and now ILWU longshore workers) that the Oakland School Board unleashed when, in February, it announced its rush to close schools.

Crammed school board meetings stretching into the early hours of the morning, hunger strikes, pickets, parent-teacher fundraising barbecues, teach-ins, marches, rallies, outreach committees, poster-making collectives, critiques of textbooks...if FCMAT is the face of Capital, then this movement is the raised fist of the working-class struggle.

The ICWP has been in this struggle inside the schools, the meetings, and on the streets, with *Red Flag* and our vision of a share-and-share-

alike communist (not socialist) future. As masses are learning today from the struggle, we envision education in the future that will not serve the interests of Capital but will instead emerge from the needs and the practice of the masses.

Imagination is vital – we don’t build anything without first imagining it – but most people in the movement aren’t there yet. Enough are not yet fighting capitalist state power for workers’ power. For all its positive energy it is still reactive and defensive. It is still only fighting to restore Public (State-run, FCMAT budgeted) schooling.

The teachers’ alliance with the longshore workers (ILWU) limits itself to trying to stop the building of a Baseball Stadium in a dockland area that would cut longshore jobs. It is not calling for a world that would house the unhoused tent-city dwellers. The movement has gone far since February, but it still has further to go.

Multi-racial sustained struggles against capital, like this one, can strengthen our confidence in the capabilities of today’s working class. *Red Flag* and our Communist Education pamphlet have been well received at all the rallies we have attended. The revolutionary ideas planted today will mature in future struggles.

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

May Day Greetings from Mexico

On May 1st, five ICWP members distributed 550 copies of our *Red Flag* newspaper among the workers who marched in two different contingents for the International Day of the Working Class.

We openly presented our idea of Mobilizing the Masses for Communism as the only way to fight the war between the imperialist powers in Ukraine. Through *Red Flag* we urged the workers to join us.

It was not easy to strike up conversations with many workers during the marches. However, the help of a comrade’s daughter caught the attention of some who heeded her invitation to take the newspaper.

We had two meetings to prepare for our participation in the march, in one of which we read an article from the previous edition of *Red Flag*. After that, we were all excited to attend.

We have resumed our meetings and with renewed effort we hope to contribute to the organization of our working class in ICWP. We have these meetings to do our bit to turn imperialist wars into wars to emancipate ourselves from the wage labor system, capitalism-imperialism.

Greetings to the comrades and friends who join ICWP around the world!

—Comrades in Mexico

May Day in Spain: Make Communist Ideas Mass Ideas

SPAIN—Once again we went out to the streets to celebrate May 1, the workers’ day, to distribute the *Red Flag*. We shared 500 copies of the newspaper, which marchers received well.

We spoke with several workers. One asked if we support Maduro or the policies of Cuba. We replied that we are a Communist Party and do not support state capitalism. We explained that in Cuba and Venezuela there is no Communism. By keeping money, they remain societies maintained by wage slavery.

They told us that they would read the paper and write us their concerns.

The March was marked by the demands of the trade union sellouts who asked for a fair salary, for freedom and for reformist struggles. We

workers need more than crumbs, we need to defeat capitalism and build a communist society in which the main thing is to meet the needs of the workers and improve our quality of life.

The far-right fascists of the VOX party also held a march and the workers shouted “Assassins” at them, “Zaragoza Antifascista!”

The International Communist Workers’ Party is at the forefront in the struggle to defeat capitalism and we will continue to make communist ideas mass ideas to achieve a communist revolution.

Let’s unite and build that society we long for, A COMMUNIST SOCIETY!
LONG LIVE THE FIRST OF MAY!
LONG LIVE THE WORKING CLASS!

—Comrade in Spain

Communist May Day Message “Spot On”

It was so good to join with ICWP in this year’s May Day! A good turnout for our contingent in the march, and I thought great representation for us, the working class.

I particularly thought what was said by the woman and man on the bullhorn was so spot on. I’m glad it was stated so emphatically to the May Day crowd. I concurred as they called for ending exploitation of slave wage workers, racist police attacks and murders, and the criminalization of Communist demonstrators and protesters around the world.

It was an honor to help in the struggle.

—Worker in Los Angeles (USA)

Abolish Wage Slavery!

Some articles in *Red Flag* talk about getting rid of money, instead of about abolishing wage slavery. But wage slavery is the form of social relation in which workers produce surplus value which the capitalist exploiters accumulate in the form of capital. Capitalists use money to facilitate commodity exchange and buy workers’ labor power to extract surplus value from their unpaid labor. For the working class, labor became alienated and op-



pressive. Because what we produce belongs to the capitalists.

When we think about money, we don’t think about the connection of selling our labor power as a commodity to the capitalists to survive. Money became a fetish. We as workers have been deprived of any means of production to sustain life from the beginning of capitalism in the enclosure movement in England. So our labor is a commodity for sale to make chump change as wage slaves to sustain life and raise the next generation of workers if the capitalists find it profitable.

We workers produce commodities in the factory, grow food as farmworkers in the field, transport commodities and produce everything. Everything is produced socially by the workers and owned privately by the capitalists, who own the means of production. This is the main contradiction between workers and capitalists: social production and private appropriation. The relationship between masters and wage slaves.

When we make communist revolution and wrest political power from the capitalist class, we socialize the means of production and produce collectively to meet our needs. We own the fruits of our labor. We will be our own masters to determine our own destiny. We will abolish wage slavery and commodity production with its exchange value of money once and for all. Long Live Communism!

—Comrade in the USA

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Sharing Our Communist Vision

“Thank you for sharing that vision. I loved what you said about a communist world, where no one has the power to force us to sell our labor power,” said Alice. “We’ve been talking about the ability to control our own lives and our own destiny, and what you said sounds like what I want.”

We were in a Zoom book club at the community college where I work. We’ve been meeting for the past two years, talking about equity—the fight against racism, sexism, xenophobia, and homophobia. Despite being on Zoom during the pandemic, we have built close bonds and have had meaningful personal and political conversations.

This discussion had started by talking about gender roles. We agreed that children are molded to fit into gender stereotypes, and that it is both difficult and essential to talk to children about fighting for their own possibilities, against a system that operates to fit them into pigeonholes so they can be labeled, divided, and exploited.

The recent decision of the US Supreme Court came up, and the discussion turned to the ban on legal abortions and the predictable increase in pregnant individuals dying from unsafe abortions. We began to discuss how to fight for a society without these fascist attacks on women.

“I have some communist friends,” commented Janet. “I get frustrated with them because they only want to stick it to the liberals. We need unity on the left. We have to defeat the Republicans who are building a fascist movement by attacking women.”

“I’m a communist,” I said. And I shared the picture above of myself holding a communist sign at a protest against the Supreme Court decision three days ago. “This is not a situation with a quick fix. We need a long-term solution, and in my opinion, we need to fight for a communist society.”

What does communism mean to you?” asked Magdalena.

“The society I’m fighting for,” I responded, “is one without wage slavery or markets, where nothing, including the work of our bodies, is for sale. We will work together, cooperating to produce what we need, and sharing it, rather than selling it. When we do away with market relations—what Marx called the ‘cash nexus’—we will have to build strong, egalitarian, collaborative relationships. We will be able to make sure that no one has power over anyone else. We will be able to get rid of the competition that leads to racism, sexism, and homophobia.”

“I come from a communist country,” said Natasha. “Communists made abortion legal before anyone else did.”

“The USSR certainly did,” I responded. “But that was socialism. It kept wages and the job market, and eventually the gains of the revolution were reversed. We’re fighting for communism.”

Natasha, Alice, Janet, Magdalena and another woman out of the eight people still in the zoom room gave me their email addresses so I could send them an article about abortion from *Red Flag* published in January 2017. I also sent them our pamphlet, *The Communist Fight Against Sexism*. I look forward to more and deeper conversations with them.

—Red Teacher

Capitalist Anti-Abortion Laws Serve Bosses’ Profits, Not Women’s Needs

“Women have to have the right to do what they want with their bodies. Abortion has to be legal because it is a woman’s decision, and only we know what is best for us. More resources for health have to be provided for all women regardless of their social class.”

That was the opinion of one of my two daughters, whom I asked for her opinion on the article “Trump’s Gag Rule.” It was an article we wrote in *Red Flag* five years ago about abortion. Now the US Supreme Court has announced that it intends to reverse the legality of abortion. If so, the US would become the fourth country to make abortion illegal since 1994, after El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Poland.

Many countries around the world regulate and limit access to legal abortion.

Currently 91 million women of reproductive age live in 24 countries that prohibit abortion regardless of whether the fetus is malformed or the product of rape, or whether the desperate woman does not have the financial means to feed one more mouth.

Five countries do not allow abortion at all. El Salvador gave 18-year-old Evelyn Hernández 30 years in prison, after a gang member repeatedly raped her and she had a miscarriage. The judge sentenced her because she did not seek prenatal care. Before 1998, abortion was legal in extreme cases. Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic have extreme anti-abortion laws, not allowing abortion under any circumstances.

Bosses impose laws based on their needs in a particular place and the historical circumstances in which they find themselves. The truth is that capitalist society by nature is sexist in trying to keep men and women divided with their different social roles.

In this capitalist society, more women will continue to die alone in some dark and smelly room, bleeding and without medical attention. This is because capitalist society does not care about the welfare of a woman who they consider bad for making the decision to abort, without understanding the reasons that led her to make a decision so hard and painful, both physically and mentally.

The reversal of the US Supreme Court decision that allows abortion may have several reasons. The most visible seems to be an attack on Black and Latina women. The least visible may be the influence of the most right-wing and racist leadership of the declining empire, or it may just be the cutting of funds to finance the current war in Ukraine and raising funds for other wars to come.

We don’t know all the details of what US imperialism has in store for the international working class. But because of the dirty history of all the wars, racism, and sexism, we know that the path of the exploiting class is not good for us. It is pure capitalism, where the class that has the economic power decides the lives of the hundreds of millions who have nothing but our arms and minds to produce their merchandise and their profits.

Only in a communist society will women, together with men, be able to decide what is best for themselves and for their entire group. They will no longer be alone against the world. The decision to abort, like other decisions of the utmost importance, will be made by the same historical actors, such as the workers, and not by outside forces such as guilt and laws imposed by those who are not the ones with the problem.

“I strongly agree with this article,” said my daughter after reading a draft. “The government is not banning abortion for the interest on women and newborn lives, but mainly for their financial benefits. It is true that cutting off abortion will provide them with more funds that they will use for their personal benefit.”

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)



Read our pamphlet
The communist fight against sexism
available at icwpredflag.org/sxse.pdf



Thirty Years after the Rodney King Rebellion: TURN ANTI-RACIST REVOLTS INTO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

LOS ANGELES (USA), April 29—Thirty years ago, the acquittal of the four racist cops who brutally beat Black motorist Rodney King sparked a six-day multiracial working-class uprising here. Millions had seen a videotape of the beating, as King lay helpless on the ground. Like the 2020 Black Lives Matter demonstrations, the revolt reverberated around the world.

The terrified US rulers can't forget it.

Neither should we.

Videos of the 1992 rebellion ran 24/7 this week in China, South Africa, and elsewhere. The U.S. media emphasized friction between Black and Korean residents, trying to drown this historic outcry against racist police brutality in a sea of identity politics.

Spontaneous protests quickly overwhelmed the Los Angeles Police. The rulers called out the California National Guard and the United States military. Several federal law enforcement agencies deployed more than 5,000 federal troops to enforce martial law, including a ban on demonstrations. When the unrest ended, they had killed 63 people, injured 2,383 more, and arrested more than 12,000.

Communists Celebrate May Day, Break Ban for Whole Working Class

Here is the story – from comrades who were there.

Founding members of the International Communist Workers' Party (who were then in Progressive Labor Party) organized a motorcade in Los Angeles on May Day 1992 to break the ban on demonstrations. We had come from San Diego, Bay Area, Seattle, and all over LA. Farmworkers had come from Delano.

Knowing there was a ban, we showed up at the usual assembly point in Downtown LA ready to march. When the cops stopped us, we were ready with Plan B. We got back into our cars and trucks, turned around, and drove through empty streets to the area in south LA where we had been organizing in schools and neighborhoods for at least ten years.

When we got to the Sports Arena, people jumped off the trucks and started distributing communist literature to the National Guard troops stationed there. "They were just very young men who had more in common with us than with the people who were telling them what to do," a comrade remembered.

As we turned down Vermont, past a high school where two comrades worked, people started coming out to greet us. The cops disappeared. "They were more afraid of the people on the sidewalks than of what we might do," said another comrade. "As well they should be."



The motorcade proceeded as slowly as possible. We gave out more papers as neighbors walked alongside the trucks and cars proudly displaying our communist message. The May Day demonstration continued for about 4 miles through the heart of south Los Angeles. Comrades gave speeches from the truck the whole time.

After three days of rioting, many buildings had been burned. The bosses warned white people to stay out of the area. But on May Day, masses in the streets were thrilled to see our multi-racial group of white, Black, and Latinx comrades.

"I felt a little scared," a Latino comrade remembered, "but afterwards I felt very strong with the support of the comrades and what I saw in the streets."

"I was frightened," admitted a white comrade, "but the reception was so overwhelmingly positive."

At the end of the motorcade, we formed a picket line outside a supermarket. An all-Black National Guard unit from San Francisco was deployed to keep us out of the parking lot. A multi-racial group of comrades—including soldiers and former soldiers from Ft. Ord, CA, and Ft. Lewis, WA—talked to the Guard members.

We explained why we were breaking the ban on demonstrations. The soldiers relaxed and started to point their rifles towards the ground, with their fingers off the triggers. Then the LA cops reappeared. They rushed between us and the troops—no doubt afraid we would convince the soldiers to disobey their orders.

Our very successful May Day ended with a picnic in a neighborhood park.

"It is one of those experiences that made me realize that the ruling class is not all-powerful," reflected a comrade. "Particularly the forty or fifty blocks when the cops just disappeared."

"Beforehand we had gone to workers in the garment district, in transit, to pass out papers and leaflets," added another. "I had a lot of confidence

after. We felt the power: Here we are, and the people are accepting us. We were not just breaking the ban but coming to the working class with what we want and what we need."

"It made me feel like the working class was unstoppable!" declared a third.

Build Communist Unity Among Workers, Soldiers, and Youth

When the U.S. ruling class had to call in the military and National Guard, they risked even greater catastrophe for their system. We saw that in the positive response of the National Guard soldiers and the panicky reaction of the cops. When troops were mobilized in LA in 2020, amidst the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter protests, a group of us went to speak with some of them.

We could have made even greater headway in 1992 if masses of garment and MTA workers, students, and ex-soldiers had approached more National Guard and military with our Party's plan to end racism with communist revolution.

Thirty years ago, communist soldiers with a base in their units could have brought us closer to revolution. Rebellions like the Rodney King uprising in the US are becoming more common worldwide as capitalist crises proliferate. The political work we do today in the military, workplaces and schools will prepare our class to turn the future uprisings into communist revolution.



Read our pamphlet

Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Crucial to a Communist Workers' Revolution

available at
icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf