

# RED FLAG



## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY \* [WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG](http://WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG)



**SRI LANKA  
REBELLION,  
SEE PAGE 4**

## Unemployed South African Youth Build ICWP in Factory Districts

### **INDUSTRIAL WORKERS: KEY TO MOBILIZING FOR COMMUNISM**

GQUBERHA (Port Elizabeth, South Africa), May 29— “If you do your work every day, just like I drive my taxi every day, people will listen to you,” said the taxi driver of a van that transports workers to the factories. “The bosses are lying; you are telling the workers the truth.”

This driver had taken *Red Flag* a week earlier, when we were distributing papers at large factories. Over seven thousand industrial workers are concentrated in this Coega Special Economic Zone, financed by Chinese imperialism.

While all workers and youth are important in our struggle to fight directly for a communist society, industrial workers face the brutality of the system directly in the factories through exploitation.

“Industrial workers are key to fighting the bosses and their system because without them there is no surplus value and no profits,” said a comrade.

Under capitalism, industrial workers develop class hatred and class solidarity in the class struggle. This makes them more open to communism and key to the revolutionary fight to win it. The bosses know that and work to win them to fascism. Communists must confront that.

The driver we met was waiting for his crew (riders) where many other taxi drivers wait for passengers at shift breaks. He said, “Rich is getting richer, and the rest of us are poorer every day.”

The perfect way to introduce how we can get to communism where there are no rich and poor. He read *Red Flag* carefully, exchanged contact information, and even delayed the passengers so he could talk with us about communism.

**Building ICWP: From the Factories to the  
Neighborhoods**

Our confidence grew as we learned from our

experience.

We had a good *Red Flag* distribution at the Volkswagen plant in Port Elizabeth. The largest VW plant in Africa, it employs about four thousand workers, and produces over 100,000 Polo VW cars for export mostly to Europe. Each of us made solid contacts. One comrade knows a VW worker who also gets *Red Flag*. We know that winning these workers will require constant ideological struggle. We will continue to visit these industrial areas.

Two younger comrades took the initiative and showed a new comrade how to reach the masses with *Red Flag*. Each comrade met workers they knew from their township. One Isuzu worker told a comrade she knew how to apply for a job at Isuzu.

“If I were to be employed at Isuzu it would be very beneficial in our struggling to win the workers and trying to create a base inside,” the comrade commented.

We visited the house of a worker who wanted

to come to our weekly meeting but was not able to contact us. He brought another worker who will be there next week. Communication in the townships is hard because connections are unreliable, and airtime is expensive. An older comrade has contacted seven comrades, including Isuzu workers, and plans to meet with them.

Later we visited another Chinese-owned factory that employs mostly workers from other countries. We made contacts with workers from Zimbabwe and Kenya. We hoped to meet other workers during lunch time, but the factory owner doesn't always allow them to go on lunch. He knows that some workers do not have legal documentation and therefore won't report him for locking them inside.

We aim to work with the contacts we made in this factory so they can distribute the *Red Flag* individually to other workers. Another comrade will send *Red Flag* electronically to his co-workers.

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**Cops Exist to Oppress Our Class****BUILD ICWP COLLECTIVES TO DEFEND OUR COMMUNITIES AND FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER**

LOS ANGELES (USA), May 30— “If the cops have no duty to protect you, then the only point of their existence is to be used against you,” reads a meme that Mabel reposted on Facebook.

“Finally,” wrote Mabel, “somebody gets what I’m putting down.”

On May 11, a white supremacist teenager drove two hundred miles to murder ten majority-elderly Black shoppers in a Buffalo, NY, grocery store. On May 15, a gunman killed one and injured four other Taiwanese-American churchgoers in Laguna Woods, CA. And on May 24, a teenaged gunman murdered nineteen mostly Latinx children and two teachers in an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas.

As news came in about Uvalde, shock and horror turned to fury. The police had spent more than an hour outside the school and cowering in the hallways as children frantically called 911. Police handcuffed parents and threatened them with tasers to keep them from rescuing their children. It appears that finally a parent with a shotgun went in and ended the siege.

“We should learn from the self-defense groups in Guerrero, Mexico,” said Yaxkin. “The community could defend itself. I’m thinking that my aunt and I, for example, could go to the local elementary school. It would be the beginning of organizing the community for self-defense. It’s an indigenous social practice to rely on ourselves and our neighbors. We have never been able to rely on the oppressor to protect us.”

**When the masses lose confidence that the government will protect them, and begin to take matters into their own hands, we’re on the verge of a revolutionary situation.** As this becomes widespread, the next step is a plan and a vision. This is when the working class needs a party to organize the struggle, and to plan for the new society—a communist world without oppressors, where we will be able to protect each other.

Mabel continued, “Communities do a much better job at keeping themselves safe than the people who are PAID to ‘protect and serve.’ Especially if they only run into the building to save their own children.

“I have been numb and sad ever since Buffalo,” she added. All this “has just made me unbelievably angry and reinforces my belief that we need ‘alternatives to policing’.”

**School Cops Attack Students Instead of Protecting Them**

In 1999, two teenaged gunmen killed thirteen students and wounded twenty others at Columbine High School in Colorado. Now, children as young as five participate in active-shooter drills while schools lay off social workers and psychologists and hire school cops.

Over 10,000 school cops hired since Columbine have not stopped a single school shooting. Instead, they’ve arrested over a million kids, mostly Black and Latinx, for routine behavior issues.

This is what capitalism in decline looks like today for working-class families in the US, especially Black and Latinx families. Elders shot down in the grocery store. Baby formula unavailable at any price. School cops arrest kids for wearing a hoodie, but can’t protect them from a school shooter. And if you decide for whatever reason that this is not the time to bring a baby to term, in many states, you can be arrested.

**Build Communist Collectives to Survive, Defend, and Fight for Communist Workers’ Power**

Community policing group in Guerrero, Mexico. Read more at [icwpredflag.org/RF/RF030614.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/RF/RF030614.pdf)

Masses have responded with courage and collectivity. In Laguna Woods, an unarmed guest charged the gunman. He took him down at the cost of his life and the congregation subdued and hog-tied the killer.

After the massacre in Buffalo, the only grocery store in the community shut down. Neighbors organized community food distribution.

In Uvalde, parents fought the cops. One woman jumped the school fence to rescue her and her neighbors’ children.

Like the self-defense organizations in Guerrero, Mexico, groups of armed Black workers like the Deacons for Defense during the US Civil Rights Movement and others, these examples show that the masses can and will organize to support and defend their communities.

**Organizing for communism means building collectives that fight for survival now and for power in the future.** Depending on the circumstances, we must organize collectives that support and defend the communities in which we live. The rulers won’t do it. Their police forces protect the power and property of the capitalists, while they launch genocidal attacks on Black and Latinx workers. It is up to us to protect our class.

The collectives we build now will one day be positioned to fight for power. To fight the battles that will lead to the building of a communist society.

In the late 1960s, the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, openly carrying legal .357 Magnums, 12-gauge shotguns and .45-caliber pistols, followed the Oakland police and documented their racist misconduct and brutality. In 1967, they entered the California statehouse to read a statement saying, “The time has come for Black people to arm themselves.” This so frightened politicians that they passed the Mulford Act, supported by the National Rifle Association, that prohibited the open carry of loaded firearms. This was the beginning of modern gun control laws in the US.



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## USING RED FLAG TO BUILD NEW COMMUNIST CELLS

EL SALVADOR—During the pandemic I felt as if we had reached an impasse in the work of winning the masses to communism. I read the newspaper online. We didn't see each other with our comrades. We called each other by phone and that way we informed each other about the situation of the comrades in the factory. That's how we spent the first year of the pandemic.

In 2021, I chose to get together with my family and some friends, and we talked about communism. Then I shared the ICWP newspaper. I distributed seven copies of *Red Flag* among relatives, and I suggested that they share the communist readings as a family group.

We had been meeting for several months. As we were warming up to communist ideas, the "exception regime" appeared. We suspended the meetings for almost two months. We resumed them two weeks ago. The place where we meet is under some trees in the open air, and police and soldiers occupied that place for several days on several occasions.

Now we gather again, around 8 to 19 people every Sunday. I also share the newspaper with two friends, I give them a newspaper and they share the reading. I have also managed to contact a doctor friend who had lost contact due to the pandemic and today we are meeting again. I sent him the newspaper with another person.



May Day El Salvador 2022: Communist Revolution Will End Fascist Terror

In the meetings we talk about communism, how we believe life can be without using money, about producing what we need, not for profit for anyone, where there will be no bosses who are getting rich.

One reader friend asked: "What do the unions do for the workers? Do the unions agree with communism?"

My answer was that the unions have never been, nor will they be, fighting for the working class. They negotiate the terms of our exploitation with the bosses behind the backs of the workers. They do their business and the highest union leaders are favored. Then they go out

telling the working class the agreements they made, saying that it is the only thing that can be achieved. Sometimes nothing, but they have already received their benefits. They do not fight to end exploitation.

The comrade reader said, "Then they never fight for the workers, we should not support them in anything. We workers must continue to win more people until we break this capitalism, and communism arrives once and for all."

We conclude that only communism will liberate the working class from capitalist exploitation.

Comrade in El Salvador

## GROWING PROTESTS AGAINST FASCISM IN THE PHILIPPINES CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO ORGANIZE FOR COMMUNISM WORLDWIDE

May 27—A new generation of Filipino youth, and their comrades around the world, is rising. They are outraged by the previous fascist Duterte regime and now, even more, by the election of Ferdinand ("Bongbong") Marcos Jr. Many of their parents fought hard against the bloody and corrupt regime of Ferdinand Marcos Sr.

These ruling class families didn't "re-emerge" as some report. They have always been there, unscathed by scandal and bolstered by capitalism and imperialism.

The Marcos Sr. fascist regime ruled from 1965 to 1986, supported by US imperialism. His Labor Export Policy sent Filipinos around the world to be super-exploited as low-cost labor. Twelve million Filipinos – about 10% of the population – are in this diaspora. Most are in the US, Saudi Arabia, Canada, the Emirates, and Japan.

Anti-imperialist rebellions have rocked the Philippines since the 1898 Treaty of Paris ended the Spanish-American war and handed control of the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam to the U.S. There are long historical connections between struggles in Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

A fifty-year civil war that started early in the Marcos, Sr. regime still rages in the Philippine countryside. People say it has cost a million lives. Many of the rebels identify as communists.

Daniel, a young Filipino activist in Seattle (USA), met ICWP comrades who gave him a copy of *Red Flag* on May Day. He carved out time from work, family, and political commitments to meet with ICWP comrades. He "appreciated the emphasis on communism" in the *Red Flag* Seattle May Day report. He asked what the ICWP does internationally to advance communist revolution.

Daniel and others are particularly interested in recent developments in El Salvador. Duterte used gangs as an excuse to intensify oppression and broaden attacks on revolutionaries and even reformists, forcing many underground. The Filipino rulers label even religious people organizing schools for Indigenous children as "terrorists"

and massacre them.

This is like how Bukele used gang violence as an excuse to institute a state of emergency in El Salvador and consolidate his power. He prohibited mass demonstrations and threatened to arrest those who participated in this year's May Day rally and march—which happened anyway!

The rulers in both countries opportunistically ally with China or the US (or both) depending on which dynasty is in power and the conditions of inter-imperialist rivalry. Whoever is in power, brutal, life-threatening attacks on the working class and youth intensify.

### Rely on the International Working Class, Not US Politicians

In Seattle, a broad coalition protested Marcos Jr. Some groups call for elections "free" of foreign intervention. Others focus on building revolutionary consciousness. One group emphasizes the revolutionary potential of Filipino society. Daniel and many others embrace a worldwide communist movement.

Activists have pressured a local congressman to introduce the Philippine Human Rights Act (PHRA). They hope to use it to prevent further US meddling in the Philippine military. The military has targeted Filipinos who are speaking out against the government and to attack the working class.

In 2018, the U.S. Congress passed a similar act to ban aid to the openly neo-Nazi Ukrainian Azov Battalion. Today, the Biden regime calls the Azov Battalion "heroes" and funnels millions to them.

We can never trust capitalist politicians. Relying on them promotes the illusion that workers and youth can pressure this system

into providing a decent life for the masses. There is a long history proving this to be untrue.

The fight for communism needs more revolutionaries willing to struggle directly for communist ideas. Our strategy of mobilizing the masses directly for communism is attractive to many, including Daniel.

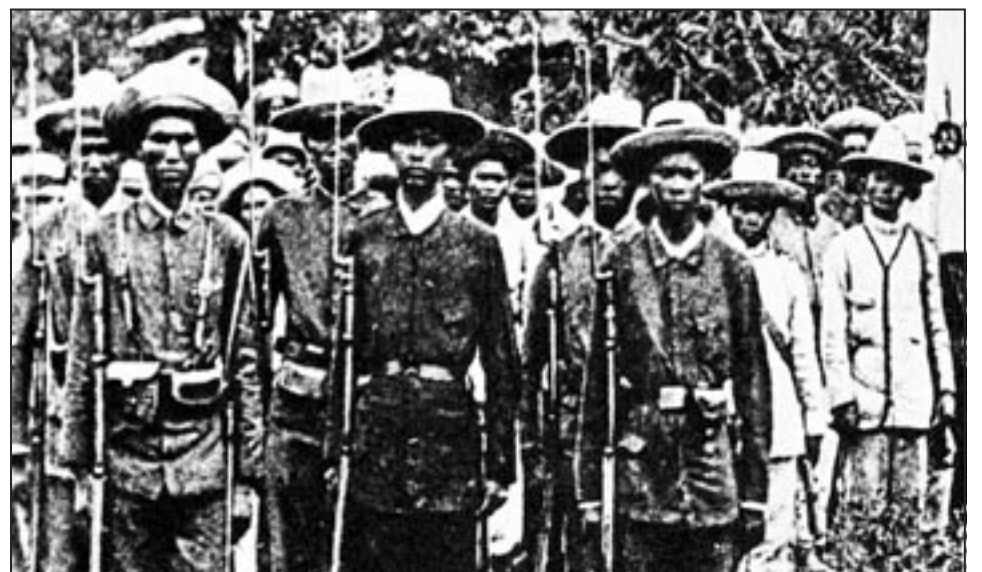
Relying on the international working class means we must reach more with our communist ideas and build communist relationships with them. Daniel wondered how many people read *Red Flag*. Thousands do now, electronically or in print.

We agreed that we must get it to many more friends in the US, the Philippines and around the world who would appreciate our bold promotion of communist politics.

We need to develop more international communist organizers for our international working class. Local meetings and social/political events and international zoom ICWP meetings all help.

Let's cement relationships to advance our shared goal of international communist revolution. Let's build the International Communist Workers' Party everywhere!

We invite all *Red Flag* readers to help with these tasks, however you can and wherever you are.



Filipino insurgents resisting US occupation after the 1898 Treaty of Paris



## COMMUNISM WILL USE TECHNOLOGY TO MEET WORKERS' NEEDS, NOT TO CREATE MASS UNEMPLOYMENT

SOUTH AFRICA, May 23—Massive unemployment is devastating the lives of whole communities here. If you count people who have given up on looking for work, 46% of the workforce is unemployed. Two-thirds of youth (15-24 years old) are unemployed. People are hungry. People are afraid. People are angry.

Khwezi (not his real name) is a 38-year-old Black worker. He has worked for eight years for an American company, Huggies, that makes disposable diapers. Until last year, 102 men worked in his unit, divided into ten teams. Their tasks were cutting, stamping, gluing, assembling, and shipping.

Last year there was a massive layoff in his production unit. "In 2021, the bosses told us that we were not meeting our targets," Khwezi told us. "They said if we don't improve, we will have layoffs."

The workers were very nervous, as most of them worked for a contractor who charged them as much as half their pay. They had no security, no paid leave, and no medical services. Effectively they earned less than the daily minimum wage. All of them walked to work from a township far away because they could not afford transportation.

"The bosses said they were going to upgrade our entire unit, which would make our tasks easier, and it would improve efficiency," Khwezi continued. "Everybody understood that would mean more work for some of us and many work-

ers would lose their job. When the new machines came on the production line, they asked ten workers to go to specialized training. We realized that they were phasing out the other ninety workers and we were going to be the new unit.

"The new automated machine that I operate is producing 1000 pampers a minute. All the tasks are done by 10 workers instead of 100 workers. The machines require one person to operate everything from cutting to shipping."

**This phenomenon has been occurring for hundreds of years, since when the capitalist system took its root.** The bosses need more profit. They compete with other capitalists. This forces them to create efficiency, speed up, and automation to lower the cost of production.

This requires the bosses to invest more into machinery that replaces workers. And since only workers create profit, fewer workers can only be profitable for the bosses with a huge expansion of their market share, thereby directly destroying their competitors and causing even more layoffs.

**Capitalism is at present in crisis.** It has produced enormous forces and efficiency to create commodities in huge numbers. But instead of the workers benefiting from the fruit of our labor, the bosses have created conditions of mass layoffs. The drive to increase profit is causing the rate of profit to fall. It undermines the entire capitalist system. It presents itself as racist layoffs worldwide. It pits workers against other workers.

Only when the workers seize the means of pro-

duction from the bosses can we free the working class from wage slavery. We must unite employed workers with the unemployed in our common goal to smash capitalism and create a communist society.

**In a communist society,** free from exploitation, the fruit of our labor will enrich entire humanity as we build our society based on our needs. Health care, housing, and education will rest on a new foundation. No more of capitalism's vicious racism, unemployment, starvation, gang violence, and profit wars!

We are bringing this message to the hungry, angry masses to recruit them to our party.



South Africa, 2022

### SOUTH AFRICA INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, from page 1

#### Advancing with the *Red Flag*

Unemployed comrades carried out these mobilizations. We estimate that we distributed over two thousand copies of *Red Flag*. We know we are the only party that gives a communist perspective to the workers.

Twenty-five young workers, mostly unemployed, enjoyed a high-spirited and politically sharp braai (barbecue) and meeting that concluded this project and kicked off its next stage.

By consistently distributing *Red Flag*, visiting industrial workers, and convincing them to join ICWP, we can affect thousands of industrial workers to fight for a communist society without bosses. This work must start with developing more communist organizers and forming a nucleus like the comrades who have shown the way.

We will take the taxi driver's suggestion seriously and fight to continue our work, not for just a few weeks, but regularly.

Dialectical materialism states that "quantitative change leads to qualitative change." Paper by paper, visit by visit, we must mobilize the working class all over the world to seize power through a communist revolution.

#### Workers Need ICWP's Communism, Not SACP's Socialism

At Strundale, an automotive hub, when we mentioned "communism" some workers were confused. They thought we represented the South African Communist Party (SACP). We explained the difference. The SACP allies with the ruling African National Congress, whose leaders are among the owners of the very same companies that exploit the workers daily.

SACP advocates a socialist society where the government replaces individual bosses from controlling the means of production without replacing the wage system. But the individuals in control will receive special privileges, and that creates a new ruling class. In contrast, as the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) we are fighting for a classless society.

A worker in another industrial area also thought we represent SACP. He saw the word communism and said, "I've been looking for you, how much is the joining fee?" A comrade explained that we are not SACP but the ICWP.

We are fighting directly for communism, a society where the means of production will be owned and controlled by the working class. A society where the workers will contribute according to their ability and benefit according to their needs. He gave us his number and we will continue to struggle with him to join the party.

Three women took *Red Flag* in Perseverance, another industrial area. One started to browse through it, then said, "I don't want to hear about politics because it makes people hungry. They will want us to protest and lose our jobs."

A comrade explained that we are not an electoral party or a union, and we are not saying they must protest and lose their jobs. We want them to join ICWP to fight for a world without bosses who retrench them (lay them off) to lower costs and maximize profits. A society where they won't worry about hunger.

### SRI LANKA: ANGRY PROTESTS SHOW NEED FOR COMMUNIST ORGANIZING

June 1— Angry masses in Sri Lanka protest the worst economic crisis in decades. They have attacked offices and homes of openly corrupt capitalist rulers. Food prices are skyrocketing in this Indian Ocean island nation. Water and fuel are scarce.

Electricity functions only a few hours a day. Mass insurrectionary violence in Sri Lanka heralds a growing worldwide rebellion against wage slavery. Communists must recruit mass organizers to ICWP everywhere to transform this storm into communist revolution.

Comrades in nearby Chennai, India are distributing *Red Flag* massively to young workers. Many in Chennai have friends or relatives in Sri Lanka.





## COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL END CAPITALIST MISOGYNY AND SEXISM

SEATTLE (US), May 14— “Communist paper? Give me one. Here’s a donation.” Hundreds of people told us this as we distributed *Red Flag* at an abortion rights rally of thousands.

The US Supreme Court is threatening to overturn its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that declared a woman’s constitutional right to terminate her pregnancy. Rallies and marches across the US are protesting it.

ICWP comrades in Seattle and Los Angeles attended with *Red Flag* and our pamphlet “The Communist Fight Against Sexism.” Many marchers welcomed our message that only communist revolution can end capitalist misogyny, as well as racism, xenophobia and everything else capitalism uses to divide workers.

**Capitalism places the responsibility of child-rearing on individual women and their immediate families.** Pregnant people worldwide face hard choices. Those without access to resources to raise their children, or to affordable and safe contraception and legal abortion, often have only the desperate alternative of an unsafe, illegal abortion. The attack on abortion is an attack on the health of working-class and other poor women around the world.

But in a communist society, economics will have no role in the decision to have an abortion. Because there will be no money, no one will have to worry about the cost of raising a child. We will collectively share the responsibility of feeding, clothing, educating, and loving our children. Everyone will have access to the best health care, including reproductive health.

The biggest mistake the Seattle comrades made at the rally was not making any contacts, even though we distributed hundreds of *Red Flags* and nearly 100 pamphlets. We had under-

estimated both the size and the enthusiasm of the crowd. It took us too long to focus on our main task as communist organizers: to meet people, exchange information, and thereby create an opportunity to get to know them, struggle with them, and convince them to join the ICWP.

At first, we tried to distribute *Red Flag* by talking only about the communist analysis of sexism in the issue we were distributing. But many marchers did not want to limit themselves to that. They were very open to discussing the many ways capitalism oppresses the whole working class. And most importantly, how communism can end these horrors. They welcomed our communist internationalism.

Two young women raised their fists to have their picture taken for *Red Flag*. They were pleased to get a communist paper and read about what the party was doing around the world. Then they posed for another picture with the anti-sexism pamphlet.

**“I didn’t know this was going on in El Salvador,”** many said about the front-page article. They wanted to read about the communist fight against fascism there. One friend said, “I see the GOP is eager to copy laws from El Salvador about sending women to prison for miscarriages.”

Some young people were there with parents or grandparents who had stories about fights around abortion rights and other issues of sexism in the 1960s and 70s. One woman said her grandmother talked to her about marching with communists in New York City when she was young. Another said she would gladly take the paper, as her sons-in-laws thought she was a communist anyway.

We discussed how no “rights” are ever safe under capitalism. Whatever benefits the bosses is the order of the day. Many fear that gay marriage



will be next.

**Lessons:** Have enough literature. Approach everyone – people you’ve stereotyped might surprise you. Ask anyone friendly for contact information. If they won’t exchange information, at least give them ours.

Capitalism is in deep trouble. It is our responsibility to take advantage of this at every opportunity. The anger of the people around us, wherever we are, can become communist internationalism and the fight to make a revolution.

We must spread our message via *Red Flag* AND make it our goal to have contact information and follow up with it very quickly. People are hungry for our message.

### Domingo and Viernes:

## LEARNING FROM THE HISTORY OF FILIPINO WORKER ACTIVISM

Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes were murdered inside the Seattle (USA) ILWU union hall on June 1, 1981. Both Filipino workers were only 29 years old.

Many of us who were living in the Seattle area remember that day with anger and tears. We had fought against racism and war in the 1960s and 70s, but we knew very little about the struggles of mostly Filipino and Asian workers in the Alaskan canneries.

Domingo and Viernes had met as teenagers, working summers in the canneries in Alaska, as their fathers had done. They experienced horrible conditions and racism. They worked 20-hour days with their hands and feet in icy water, cleaning and butchering salmon with long, sharp knives.

When they weren’t working, they stayed in unheated run-down barracks, eating rice and fish heads in segregated mess halls. White workers and managers stayed in single-room dormitories and ate a variety of foods including fruits and vegetables.

Back in Seattle, Domingo and Viernes saw that elders who had worked for years under these terrible conditions were in very poor health. Angered by this blatantly racist treatment, they went to the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to file racial discrimination complaints against several Alaskan canneries. Several class-action lawsuits were filed also.

When the union that collected their dues, Local 37 ILWU, failed to support them, they formed the Alaska Cannery Workers Association. Both were

then effectively banned from working in the canneries.

Supported by their co-workers, Domingo and Viernes became rank and file leaders in the union. They led a struggle to end the way members were traditionally dispatched to jobs through the union hall, where mostly the president’s cronies got the jobs. Street gangs who controlled gambling operations in the canneries bribed Local 37 to get their members jobs.

A few months later, Domingo and Viernes were shot down inside the union hall. But this wasn’t just a trade-union fight. It took years for their families to prove that President Marcos of the Philippines ordered their deaths, and that the corrupt union president and his gangsters carried out the murders.

**Communists know that workers cannot win the world we need through unionism or reforms. We have learned this through many years of struggle.**

Domingo and Viernes were not communists. But when they became involved with the KDP (Union of Democratic Filipinos) and the May First Movement, they started to recognize that capitalism was the real enemy. Both groups

fought against Marcos’s regime and martial law in the Philippines.

Capitalism is why millions of workers all over the world are killed. Police and gangsters pull the trigger, but they are working for the bosses. To achieve justice for the working class, we must mobilize the masses to fight for communism. Telling the history of the international working class is essential to win young people to join the fight.

*Most of the information here comes from Ron Chew, Remembering Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes: The Legacy of Filipino American Labor Activism (2012)*

Conditions in the fish house were wet, cold and dangerous.





## LET'S ORGANIZE OURSELVES TO DEFEAT IMPERIALIST-INSPIRED VIOLENCE WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

The Uvalde elementary school student lay next to her dying 4th grade classmate who was covered in blood. Carefully wiping that blood over herself, she pretended to be dead. That is how she survived.

“Capitalism comes into the world dripping from head to foot in blood and dirt,” Marx wrote over 150 years ago. It is still as violent as ever, worldwide. Yet the USA has a unique bloody epidemic of mass shootings.

Why do the shooters seek to sow terror at sites of community interaction: supermarkets, places of worship, schools?

Author Priya Satia pointed to the industrial revolution in Britain and the development of imperialism. In the 1700s, its wars entailed unprecedented mass violence. They reshaped gun use in civilian life, too. For the first time, Satia writes, “we find a discharged teenaged soldier walking on Bristol Bridge waving his musket around until without notice, he ‘wantonly drew the trigger’ and killed a young man.”

The US Pentagon recently admitted that it has dropped 337,000 bombs and missiles overseas in the last twenty years - an average of 46 strikes per day.

This violent assertion of US power has wrecked wedding parties, homes, markets, hospitals, and schools. It has maimed and killed shoppers, babies, school children, charity workers and anyone else unfortunate enough to be caught in the cross hairs.

The domestic cost of this carnage can be seen in the relentless attacks on the standard of living of the US working class. Wages stagnate; people are forced to work longer hours; they have fewer vacation days per year and are easier to fire than their west European counterparts. The bottom 50% of wage earners now claim only 1% of the nation's wealth.

The social costs include the opioid crisis, rising suicide and homicide rates, increasingly open racism, and sexism, more car accidents, and a falling life expectancy. And in the highest rates of police shootings and incarceration in the world.

This impoverishment of the working class is



May 15, 2022—Protest in Buffalo, NY, USA, following racist murder of ten mostly-elderly Black shoppers in a super market by a young white supremacist.

fertile ground for conservative and liberal media and politicians to build a fascist movement.

Shooters like the 18-year-old in Buffalo emerge from this climate of imperial violence abroad and relentless decay at home. He belonged to an organized Discord group some 15 strong, 6 of whom were actual accomplices to the massacre who knew details of his plans some 30 minutes beforehand and failed to sound the alarm.

The young Uvalde shooter also emerged from this same climate of violence and decay. Republican politicians try to deflect the outcry about easily available assault rifles with talk about mental health. But they do nothing to create the conditions necessary for mental health or services to treat those who are struggling.

Uvalde had few resources of positive interven-

tions but plenty of funds for a “school security” police force that hid in a corridor for an hour while brave 4th graders strategized how to save themselves and their classmates!

And the self-organization of the Uvalde 4th graders brings us to the final point: the growing anti-fascist, anti-capitalist reaction. Massive demonstrations against the racist murder of George Floyd swept the globe two years ago. More recently, a post-pandemic strike wave has broken out across the US. Walkouts at some two hundred schools protested the assault rifle violence in Uvalde.

The masses are in motion. Capitalism, born in brutality, has nothing to offer except more brutality. Constructing a world with caring community interaction at its core is the task of the communist revolution ICWP has started to organize.

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



Mexico City, May 15—Comrades distributed hundreds of *Red Flags* during the march celebrating the Day of the Teacher.

### We Need Strong Collectives to Continue the Fight in Horrific Times

“Truly, I live in dark times!” begins a poem “To Those Yet Unborn” by German communist poet Bertholt Brecht.

“An unwrinkled forehead suggests insensitivity. The man who laughs has simply not yet heard the terrible news. What kind of times are they, when to talk about trees is almost a crime, because it implies silence about so many horrors?”

“I came among men in a time of revolt and I rebelled with them,” Brecht continues. “Our forces were slight. Our goal lay far in the distance. It was clearly visible, though I myself was unlikely to reach it. So passed my time which had been given to me on earth.”

I first found this poem fifty-six years ago, during the US war in Vietnam. It spoke to me then as it does now—of the horrors of capitalism and the challenge of fighting for a communist world.

I share it with my comrades this week because we are definitely living in horrific times.

Anyone who is not in pain at the deaths that our class is suffering, from Yemen to Tigray to Ukraine, from Port Elizabeth to Buffalo to Uvalde, is truly insensitive. And we must not become insensitive to the pain of our class.

But if we are immobilized by our sensitivity, we won't be able to fight to end the horrors of capitalism.

A younger comrade texted to me, “I'm definitely not immobilized by the tragedies that have just passed. I'm using my pain and anger to continue fighting for a world which does not suppress the masses.”

We must continue the struggle, but we can't carry on that battle alone. Capitalism teaches us to suck it up, to keep our problems to ourselves, and to carry on—until we can't anymore.

Communists know that we must build strong collectives that support each other in this struggle. Reach out to your friends and comrades. Share your pain and renew your dedication to fighting for a communist world.

A comrade



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

### Why is it so important to go to the May Day March?

Spain—On May 1, after the march, my partner's 15-year-old son asked us why it was so important to go out on the street. It was his first experience participating in a march.

At dinner we talked about the working-class struggles of the farmworkers in El Salvador, starting in 1932, up to the formation of the armed movements in the civil war in the 1980s.

We told him that in the past, the working day was over eight hours long; that in the past and today the bosses are only interested in the profits that we workers generate. And that thanks to struggles of workers in the past we have vacations and some other benefits that did not exist before. We talked about the history of the workers in Chicago and their fight for the eight-hour day. He was amazed at these stories of workers' struggles.

But does there have to be so much violence to achieve changes to improve the conditions of the workers? And if those goals have already been achieved, why continue going out to the streets to demonstrate?

Violence comes about because the machinery that the system uses, such as the police or politicians making laws favoring the rich and powerful, force us to defend our rights. The bosses will never be on the side of the masses.

Building a communist system is a fight that we have to carry out as a family. Being part of the International Communist Workers' Party is how we will be able to carry out that goal.

Communist practices such as collectively helping each other with household chores are signs that we can build a better world. Washing the dishes is not just a chore that mom has to do.

"Now I understand more. I think there are very strong reasons for the party to grow and for us to fight to change the world! I think I was being too conformist before," my son told us.

For this world to change we have to spread communist ideas massively and thus dialectically prepare the workers for a struggle in the near future and to overthrow the capitalist system.

As a family we are the collective where the fight begins. We have to transmit those ideas. We start by defeating sexism and ensuring the party's survival in quantity and above all in quality.

—Family of Comrades in Spain



El Salvador, May Day 2022

### Fighting for a Better World

I'm a factory worker and supporter of the International Communist Workers' Party.

In 2018 a friend and co-worker told me about the Party, but then they changed our area and we no longer had contact. After years passed, we met again and talked about *Red Flag* again. I asked him if he still met with party members. He said yes, and that they had created meeting cells where they shared the organized work.

He invited me to one of his meetings and I liked it a lot. I am very motivated to continue.

In the meetings, I've taken away many experiences that have helped me to think differently, to fight for a better world.

I am new to reading the newspaper and I want to continue learning about communist ideas. We maquila workers are already tired of discrimination and forced labor for a starvation wage that is not enough for anything.

—ICWP Supporter in El Salvador

### Fascist Law Won't Stop Communist Struggle

El Salvador—The broad state of emergency adopted by the government is an attack on the working class, violating all basic rights that capitalism claims to provide, all in the name of "PUBLIC SECURITY."

This has become a gag rule more than anything. This government does everything necessary to continue its fascist-capitalist dictatorship, promoting fear among the masses with the goal of continuing to oppress the working class and suppress opposition.

This has been a topic of discussion since before our May Day march. Using the police, the army, and their politicians, the government wanted to sow fear in us so we would not invoke our right to march or to speak.

Because of this law, many were afraid. But at the same time, those of us who marched defied the rulers. We raised the slogans "NO GAGS OR FEAR", "all together for our revolutionary communist struggle to end this fascist capitalist system."

When we met with workers after the march, we delivered our *Red Flag* newspaper.

Worker E commented, "I would have very much liked to attend, but this government that we have and with this Law of Exception that they forced on us, they tried to silence us and scare us, and they succeeded because it happened to me. I thought about my family, if something happened to me, that scared me."

"The same thing happened to me," said L. "The same fear oppresses us, and we have no way of saying anything."

Listening to the comments, we discussed everything that we experienced during the march and the enormous satisfaction that it gave us that together we fought for our communist ideas. This gave us courage and helped those who did not attend lose their fear.

Seeing the entire organization of our ICWP party, which is mobilizing the masses for our revolutionary communist struggle in different parts of the world, they commented, "We feel the party's support and we will attend the next march."

We will continue to meet always for the struggle to get more readers of our newspaper and for more comrades to join our cause and our party. They will get to know about everything that is other workers experience around the world through the news published in our *Red Flag* newspaper.

In the face of gag rules, we step up our fight for communism!

—Young Comrade

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# US Imperialism in Crisis Threatens World War

## WORKERS MUST TAKE HISTORY IN OUR HANDS AND DEFEAT ALL IMPERIALISTS

May 30— When unemployment, extreme weather, hunger, and violence stalk our neighborhoods, intensifying global conflicts can seem remote if not irrelevant. But they're not. They shape our struggles, our lives, and our deaths—for now.

During US President Biden's recent visit to South Korea and Japan, a reporter in Tokyo asked whether the US would respond "militarily" if China sought to retake Taiwan. "Yes," he said.

Did he mean it? An official 2018 report warned of a "decisive military defeat" for the US in a war over Taiwan. Would US imperialism accept this – or escalate into a full-scale third world war?

This article reports recent US diplomatic setbacks in Asia and Europe that could lead a desperate declining power to launch or provoke all-out war. It explains why the response of the working class must be communist revolution rather than supporting some other imperialist power.

**Masses worldwide are not sorry to see viciously racist US imperialism struggling to find allies and regain its former global supremacy.**

In Tokyo, Biden met with top officials of India, Australia, and Japan. He hoped to consolidate an alliance with fascist Modi of India. India has a long-standing border dispute with China and wants to limit Chinese naval activity in the Indian Ocean. So the meeting was able to agree on a new real-time maritime tracking system. But Biden failed to get Modi to support sanctions against India's long-term ally Russia.

Chinese imperialists, meanwhile, launched a bold diplomatic initiative to pry ten south Pacific Island nations away from the US and into its orbit. Several of these voted with the US and against China in the UN to exclude Russia from the Human Rights Council. One – Papua New Guinea—recently agreed to a new US-UK-Australia naval base on its territory.

But these island nations are now negotiating with China. China has not gotten the grand multilateral agreement it wants. But it has signed bilateral agreements, island by island, in a region formerly dominated by the US. Another setback for US imperialism.

### NATO Expands in Europe but US Grip Weakens

The US seeks to take advantage of Russia's floundering invasion of Ukraine. Finland and Sweden are ready to join NATO. But Turkey, once subservient to US imperialism, threatens to block this.

Erdogan cites Sweden's policy of granting asylum to Kurdish separatists that Turkey considers "terrorists." More important, though, Turkey is not on board with NATO's stand on Ukraine. Instead it wants to be a "mediator" between Russia and Ukraine.

The upshot: Erdogan is challenging US leadership of NATO. At worst, Turkey could leave NATO and ally with Russia.

Intensifying global conflicts are shaping our struggles, our lives, and our deaths right now, in ways that we can't always see clearly. The international working class can change that by mobilizing massive communist class struggle against all capitalists, all imperialists.

Communist class struggle must become the main force driving world events. So that we can win an armed revolution for a world without borders or nations to fight over. A communist world where a massive and inclusive International Communist Workers' Party will organize production and distribution, without money or markets, to meet our needs.

That's the answer to the unemployment, hunger, and violence that stalk our neighborhoods. It's the start of a solution to the rising oceans that threaten whole Pacific islands and the rising temperatures burning up large parts of the world.

Let's understand how intensifying global con-

### The enemy of your enemy isn't always your friend.

That's an example of the dialectical materialist principle of the "negation of the negation."

German imperialism under the Nazis was the enemy of the Soviet Union. After Pearl Harbor, Germany declared war on the US. US imperialism became the enemy of Nazi Germany. But it was no friend to the Soviet Union. It only opened a "second front" once the Red Army was chasing the Nazis back to Berlin. This, although the Soviets had by then betrayed working-class internationalism and their original communist goals.

**Many today who rightfully hate US imperialism see its enemies – Russia and China – as the friends of the masses, or at least as a "lesser-evil." But all capitalism, all imperialism, attacks workers. It destroys our lives in its inescapable drive to maximize profits.**

We side with industrial workers from Shenzhen to Sri Lanka to San Salvador to Port Elizabeth who slave under the yoke of Chinese capitalism. With the Russian masses who worry about price increases, corruption, unemployment, poverty, and sharpening inequality.

With the Russian soldiers sent to kill and die in Ukraine for no reason that makes sense to them—and with Russian and Ukrainian soldiers who are refusing to fight their bosses' wars. Those soldiers show the revolutionary potential for communists again to organize soldiers to turn the guns around and fight for our class.

licts create increasing urgency and increasing opportunities for soldiers, sailors, workers, and youth to lead masses to the communist world we need.

