

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

ICWP FACTORY WORKERS FIGHT BOSS-UNION ATTACKS

EL SALVADOR—“Give us some *Red Flag* t-shirts (with the ICWP logo). Today we're going to wear them. That way the bosses can see that we don't agree with them,” two young maquila workers told a comrade from the International Communist Workers' Party in the maquila factories (sweatshops). The young workers wore them proudly inside the factory throughout the day.

That day they were challenging the bosses and the trade unions for their attack on workers' schedules. Workers in this factory work Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm and on Saturdays from 7:00 am to 11:00 am.

The man from Human Resources told us that we were all going to sign a paper agreeing to work on Saturday, June 11, from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, and have Saturday, June 18, off.

Faced with this, a group of workers joined us, and we all refused to sign this paper, because we realized that it was in favor of the bosses.

They needed to export merchandise that we produce, and they were doing it that way so they didn't have to pay us overtime. They used the lie that it was to give us Father's Day off as an unpaid holiday. However, it wasn't for a celebration, but for the profits they wanted to make the previous weekend.

When the bosses realized that a group of workers refused to sign, they called on the union leaders to talk their members into signing.

The union used a strategy, saying that if we didn't sign the agreement and left at 11:00 am, our pay for that day plus the seventh day (which is understood to complete a full week) would be deducted because of the four hours we didn't work. That was how they forced the workers to sign.

Out of seven hundred workers, only fifteen of us refused to sign and decided to leave work at 11:00 am.

We hoped that there would be more Party members and others who would reject this action by the bosses and unions. But they were afraid of threats and reprisals from the bosses, working hand in hand with the unions.

“Here it became clear that every union, no matter how militant it claims to be, is also part of the bosses' plans,” emphasized a woman leader of ICWP.

“But we have learned the lesson that the bosses and the unions are wings of the same bird,” said a male worker.

Men and women workers around the world must continue studying Political Economy, the laws of Marxism and the communist articles in our *Red Flag* newspaper, so as not to fall into the traps of these sell-outs.

These actions inside the factories are creating new leaders of the working class with the vision of a communist world free from the chains of capitalist exploitation.

—Comrades of the Maquilas.



India Youth Rebellions:

“ORGANIZE INSIDE THE ARMY TO SERVE THE PEOPLE”

DELHI (India), June 19 —Millions of youths in several dozen cities in India descended on the streets to protest the fascist government's new army recruitment policy. The new directive called Agnipath (“path of fire”) aims to recruit youths (17-22 years old) called Agniveers (“carriers of fire”) for four years. After four years, only 25% of the Agniveers are retained. The remaining 75% are demobilized with no future and no pension.

The bosses rely on the youth to fight and kill for their profits. But they have created an army of unemployed youth with every reason to destroy capitalism. Agnipath gives us opportunities to get military training to destroy our class enemy.

Over half a billion people in India are only seasonally employed. They rely on government subsidies to barely afford two meals a day. Many are youths who have struggled for years of study and exams that give them no future to work. Many look at the army as a way of survival. They attend courses to pass rigorous training and only a very small fraction of them make it to the army. The remaining unemployed look for government and

railway jobs. They wait as much as 10 years even to apply for these openings.

The Agnipath directive infuriated the youths. They saw it as the government's ploy to prolong their frustration with no future. Thousands attacked police stations, railways, public transport, and banks. Several young people died from police fire. The government was unable to contain the youths' fury as demonstrations continued for five days.

The Indian rulers face increasing pressure to maximize profits for giant multinationals like Reliance, Adani, Tata, and Birla. They aim to expand markets and increase production. They use automation and efficiency to achieve maximum profit. The cost of these is leaving millions of youths without work. It creates conditions of communal violence and attacks on Dalits and women workers. The NATO-Russia war in Ukraine has created a huge gap in the workers' ability to buy food as the petroleum prices have skyrocketed.

Many of the youths took to the streets in Bihar

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Building Political/Personal Relationships:**THE CONTINUING STRUGGLE TO DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST LEADERS**

Fascism has grown in the months since the last International Committee meeting of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP).

*Workers in El Salvador live under an emergency decree.

*The Duterte-Marcos tandem has consolidated fascism in the Philippines.

*In South Africa, the racist, xenophobic Dudula movement has spread, even to political parties vying for state power.

*In France, Le Pen's far-right party has made electoral breakthroughs.

*Every day the caste attacks and assaults against Muslims increase in Modi's fascist India.

*In the United States, fascist militias and politicians are becoming more aggressive while the Summit of the Americas has once again exposed the decline of U.S. imperialism.

ICWP comrades are involved in the fight against this growing fascism. Our goal is to recruit and consolidate communist organizers and leaders amidst this uproar.

Escalating political and economic devastation follows capitalist decline. The proxy war in Ukraine between NATO and Russia has intensified raging inflation, brutal unemployment, and food shortages around the world.

From Tunisia to Sri Lanka to Mexico, ruling classes can't rule in the old way. The international working class can't live in the old way. Hundreds of millions have no choice but to risk life and limb to protest.

Only communist revolution can end the natural expansion of fascism and war caused by capitalism's chaotic decline. The same goes for ending racism, sexism, xenophobia, nationalism and more. Unfortunately, capitalist ideas still domi-

nate the anti-fascist movements even when increasing numbers of workers and youth are turning against capitalism.

Masses in the streets will not, of their own accord, lead to communist revolution. Communist revolution requires a communist party with unbreakable ties to the working class. This means we need more communist leadership.

We face a contradiction. While millions around the world have lost faith in capitalism, too few see a path to a communist alternative.

This contradiction is the main obstacle holding back our class. This contradiction won't be resolved spontaneously. To resolve it, we need many more communist leaders who have unbreakable relationships with the working class. The upcoming International Committee meeting will continue the international struggle to develop these leaders.

Where will new communist leaders come from whose motivation is to serve the masses? It is hard to tell in advance who will come to the fore over time. But we have the best chance of developing these leaders from among those who build expanding circles of communist relationships.

We must build the kinds of relationships that will recruit to the party. This won't happen overnight. But the effort we put into communist relationships is not sacrifice. It is an opportunity to grow as communists and to see how the masses view our line.

Every comrade and friend must ask, "Whom do we know? What is the nature of the relationship?" We must fight individualism. Our collectives must spend more time helping each comrade to strengthen these relationships.

ICWP Is an International Party.

We have the great advantage of learning from the global struggle. We are not "allies." We are all comrades collectively struggling to develop communist leadership everywhere.

There is uneven development in different parts of the world. We can't let that dilute our determination to build these relationships wherever we work and live. Every area has potential. Setbacks are expected. We will not dismiss any areas, nor become "giddy with success" in others.

Sometimes comrades say, "Without ties to the workers, the line is irrelevant." Even more so under fascism!

Comrades from South Africa will start the meeting. We've read about the distribution of *Red Flag* in a factory district. Now we can discuss the emerging personal relationships needed to develop communist leaders among experienced comrades, new recruits, and friends.

Comrades in the El Salvador maquilas will share how nurturing communist relations with industrial workers is key to advancing under fascism. The time spent at work and socially with our co-workers is invaluable, especially under fascist repression.

The upcoming meeting will make time to hear from comrades in India, the US, and other areas. The discussion will continue afterward in the pages of *Red Flag*.

The long-term and rewarding work of building unbreakable ties with the working-class masses is key to getting our party to the point where revolution is possible, and communism is within sight.

—ICWP Steering Committee

COMMUNIST INTERNATIONALISM HELPS BUILD RED FLAG NETWORKS

LOS ANGELES (USA)— "What's that newspaper about?" asked a garment worker. "It's a communist newspaper that carries articles from countries like South Africa, India, El Salvador, Mexico and here in the US," replied the ICWP comrade.

"And from Honduras?" asked the garment worker.

"Hmm, well in this edition we don't have anything from Honduras. But if you help us write an article, it would come in the next edition," said

the comrade

"Let me read it and I'll let you know later," responded the worker.

We have distributed *Red Flag* in various factories in the garment industry here for years. Many men and women workers know the newspaper and take it with pleasure. The garment industry has shrunk in Los Angeles but there are still thousands of blue-collar workers in the area.

There is consistency in these *Red Flag* distributions. But a sharper approach to seeking contacts and struggles, inside and outside the factories, is missing. We are beginning a process of visiting and struggling with our friends who work in the garment industry and from there trying to develop a real mass concentration.

Our ICWP collective was previously made up of garment workers. Now it includes workers in service industries, cleaning, and small industrial workshops. There is the potential to create new fronts of struggle and bring workers to our social activities and study groups.

The struggle is that each member of our collective, at different levels, can create networks of *Red Flag* readers with whom they develop a connection that leads to the recruitment of new members of the Party.

Part of this plan is to constantly write for *Red Flag* about struggles such as a world without borders and problems within the factories and how these are linked to the fight for a communist world.

The articles from the maquilas in El Salvador and India on the struggles of garment workers help a lot to show the international communist line of our party.

Also, if the comrades in Honduras could help write from time to time about the struggles there, it would help spread communist internationalism.

We will continue building the relationship with the worker from Honduras and to develop new struggles and opportunities for the recruitment and growth of other Party.

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)



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COMMUNIST PRACTICE, THEORY, AND RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING IN SOUTH AFRICA

June 21—In the past month we have intensified our efforts to mobilise and recruit workers to join the party. We have been visiting industrial areas around Port Elizabeth (South Africa) to distribute the *Red Flags*, as dialectics states that “quantitative change leads to qualitative change”.

We have received some positive reactions from the workers. We met one of our comrades who works in a gas container factory. The fact that she works there will give us an advantage in terms of trying to form a base/cell since she is already on the inside.

We gladly explained to workers that even the socialist party and the unions will never end the misery of capitalism. Because as long as we are in a capitalist society, there will always be a class struggle and capitalism can never be reformed.

The only way to end this misery of capitalism

is for the workers to join the International Communist Workers' Party and defeat the capitalist system through a revolution.

We have also met workers who are opposed to a communist society. We understand that in our struggle to realise a communist society, there will be servants of the bosses who will be an obstacle.

A new comrade has also joined and showed commitment to distribute the *Red Flag* whenever we visited these industrial areas.

We have also decided to go through the dialectics on the next few collective meetings we will hold so that the new comrades can better their understanding about the party. This will make them grow in confidence, to be able to answer questions posed to them whenever they mobilise, recruit, and invite people to the party.

—Comrades in Port Elizabeth

South Africa 2015



WATER CRISIS CAUSED BY CAPITALISM, NOT BY THE WEATHER

PORT ELIZABETH (South Africa), June 19—A water crisis is facing Port Elizabeth and the Eastern Cape in general. Whenever we read the news, there is this misconception that the reason for this is because of the lack of rain. But as an ICWP collective we adopted the view that this crisis we are facing is manmade. This is a symptom of capitalism.

Because if you look at the South African Breweries, they are continuing to produce beers and ciders uninterrupted. Most of the mines are using water. Coca Cola is producing soft drinks and energy drinks that are harmful to the health of our class brothers and sisters. And yet we cannot have water.

You find the bosses' houses in Summerstrand and other places; their swimming pools are full and their paths are clean. But for us here in the townships, they can only switch on water every

three or four days.

Imagine! You cannot even use the toilet, let alone to drink or wash. So, these are the conditions we are living in, not because of the low rain but because of the neglect of capitalism and the corruption of the system.

To address the question of water not only here but also other places in the world we need to eradicate capitalism. Because this is the cause of the lack of water, because they commercialize it.

Now if you exceed some set litres, they can simply switch off your water. Telling people to use fifty litres (thirteen gallons) a day, a household of seven or eight people, they have to wash, they have to cook, they still have to use the restroom. All of these on fifty litres of water. While the wealthy people have these yards and everything in their own houses.

This is a problem not because of the rain. This

is the problem because of capitalism.

As an ICWP collective we have taken a decision that we are not going to take this lying down. We will continue to mobilize industrial workers for communism. We will continue to recruit our class brothers and sisters so that they can join the party to fight the scourge of capitalism and join the party.

Not to focus only on the water crisis or the electricity because these are the symptoms of capitalism, not the disease. We need to eradicate the disease, remove the cancer which is capitalism.

We took it on ourselves to distribute and also write so that we can produce *Red Flag* and share our experience about our struggle with our comrades so we can exchange views and solutions on how we can strengthen the fight against capitalism.

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Work of South Africa Comrades Inspires Us All

“If you do your work every day, just like I drive my taxi every day, people will listen to you,” the driver of a van full of industrial workers said to our comrades. “The bosses are lying; you are telling the workers the truth.”

This started the front-page article in the previous issue of our paper. It reported on a mobilization of two dozen young, mostly unemployed comrades distributing two thousand *Red Flags* to industrial workers in Gqubherha (Port Elizabeth, South Africa). Workers gave comrades their contact information. Comrades planned follow-up, participated in political struggle, and made an important advance in building ICWP in this industrial center.

We thank our comrades in South Africa for this inspiring work. We know that you, like many others, face very difficult material condi-

tions that includes mass unemployment, gang violence and anti-working-class crime, government repression, and a daily struggle for basics like food, water, and transportation.

Some workers and youth respond to such conditions by adopting capitalism's cynical individualism of “looking out for number one.” Young Party comrades in South Africa are showing the communist alternative of fighting for collective survival by taking Party organizing very seriously.

Their commitment to consistent, principled struggle is an example to all Party collectives and *Red Flag* readers. We must build stronger international ties to support and learn from this work and advance the struggle for a communist world. Where possible, we must raise more money from more friends to support this work.

—Comrades in Los Angeles (USA)

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SRI LANKA UPRISING INSPIRES EXPANDED COMMUNIST ORGANIZING IN INDIA

CHENNAI (India), June 19— “What would happen if we had thousands of ICWP members in Sri Lanka?” asked a comrade who works at an auto factory here. Everyone in our makeshift office responded: about fifty friends and supporters. Almost half had lost jobs. They worked in the auto industry, which is crippled because of high gasoline prices and inflation.

The violent May 9th uprising in Sri Lanka created the possibility of mass unrest worldwide. Conditions in Sri Lanka are no different than in the rest of the world. Mounting unemployment and the increasing cost of living make survival very difficult.

The Ukraine war is adding to the misery of the working class. Sweden, which is applying to join NATO, has a higher unemployment rate than Rwanda. On every continent, youth especially are unemployed in large numbers.

The bosses’ response to this crisis is to promote communal violence, xenophobia, and rampant sexism and racism. Sri Lanka bosses built poisonous violence to attack Muslim and other minority workers in their desperate attempt to divide the workers.

However, for eight months, unemployed young people demanded jobs, food, and fuel.

They rejected all the political parties. The fury of the youth spilled into the streets. Every town and city saw massive crowds attacking and burning government politicians’ homes.

The masses lacked one key ingredient: the revolutionary communist party ICWP that would turn rebellion into a communist revolution to seize power from the bosses and end wage slavery.

“When I worked in a Ford auto factory, my wages were good,” said a comrade. “I thought I could buy a small house to move out of the slum. After working for sixteen years, I still live in the slum and now I am without work, supporting four family members.

“I think what happened in Sri Lanka is going to happen here. I have come to believe that we live in a system that is working against our interests. I used to get very depressed not having a job. But after I read *Red Flag*, I spend at least an hour every day going to my neighbors and talking about how communism will change our society. I distribute *Red Flag* to many people.”

“But how long will it take to destroy capitalism?” asked a youth who has tried to get a job for the last five years. “I am fed up with the system. I get very angry. But I don’t see that we

will have communism in my lifetime. I want to see change now.”

“The bosses spread their lies that their system will survive forever,” an ICWP organizer responded. “But their system is extremely weak. They survive only because the working class is weak and divided. They hope that workers can be bribed by wage slavery. But we can show workers that capitalism has no future. It only perpetuates wage slavery. Communism is the only way to break wage slavery.”

The debates and discussions continued for over three hours.

A comrade concluded, “We have seven billion workers in the world. We can win most of them because everyone is a wage slave and only communism can break wage slavery. But to organize seven billion people, we must build long term relationships of trust and confidence among people we know and struggle with.

“We organize a small group of ICWP comrades who will eventually organize masses to confront the bosses in the class struggle. The events in Sri Lanka are of vital importance to us. Small groups of ICWP members in thousands can lead to communist insurrection. That will inspire the working class everywhere, opening a door to worldwide communist revolution.”

Comrades here are very inspired by the comrades in South Africa who are spreading *Red Flag* and recruiting new comrades. We need to recruit more members to our party.

We aim to double our distribution in working-class areas of Chennai from 1000 to 2000 *Red Flags* next issue. We have around fifty comrades here. If we each struggle to build close communist relationships with consistency and patience, we aim to reach at least 500 close friends.

A recent visit by comrades from Bengaluru and elsewhere has added to the urgency of our work. We are more committed to working with our collective regularly and we have formed study groups to apply dialectics to our daily life. We now distribute about 100 *Red Flags* in Sri Lanka and hope to visit readers there shortly.



April 3, Colombo, Sri Lanka: protestors block highway.

India Youth Rebellions from page 1

and Uttar Pradesh where there is especially high unemployment. Four months ago, young people in Bihar went on a massive, violent protest when the government postponed their ability to apply for jobs in railways.

Some ICWP members from Delhi went to Bihar and established a network of new *Red Flag* readers. Delhi comrades sent five ICWP members to be with these new friends in Bihar.

“I was expecting something like this,” said one youth. “The youth see no future in the system. It is either grinding work for years till you drop dead or depressing life with no jobs. We want a revolution that will wipe out all the filth and decay. We have to destroy this capitalist system that promotes division among us. I am thinking more seriously about what ICWP is saying about communism.”

We heard words like these everywhere we went, equipped with a one-page *Red Flag* article and a summary of *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.

“Let us organize now, what can we do today?”

“I am tired of the politicians who give empty promises.”

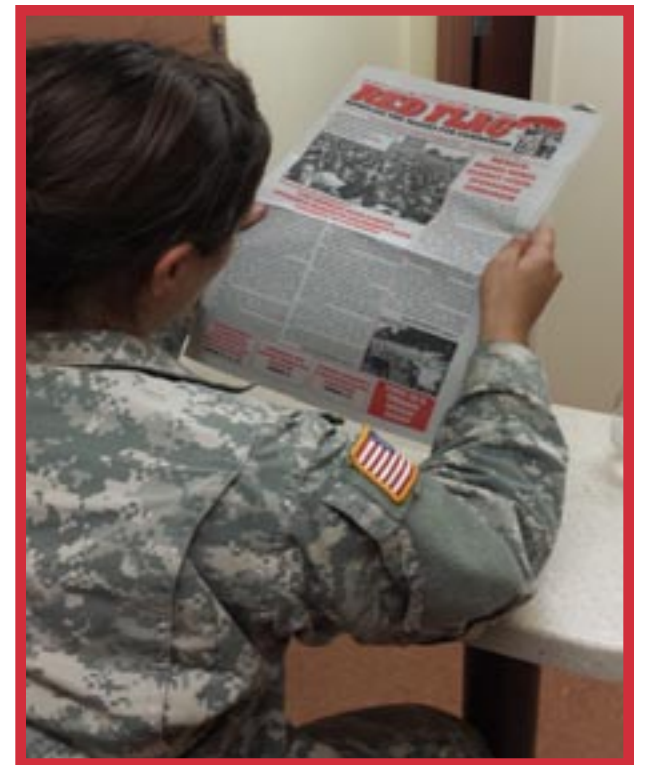
“Let us organize all the unemployed to smash RSS [fascists].”

“What happened in Sri Lanka was very powerful. Many young people saw when the masses destroyed the homes of the Prime Minister and others. I believe our struggle got a huge boost.”

“I want to organize inside the army to serve the people,” one declared. This is key to our party’s revolutionary strategy. The most oppressed youth with guns in their hands will fight for the working class, not for the capitalists.

ICWP comrades are tirelessly talking with many new supporters and *Red Flag* readers. Many have asked us how they can join us. We explain to them that everybody is welcome to join the party. We are holding numerous meetings in schools to talk about organizing new comrades.

Today’s youth must lead the future of communism. The rulers are poisoning us with fascism, communalism, and disparaging women with sexism. When the working class sees that our youth are organized by ICWP, defending the class interest of the workers, they will join and support us.



Read our pamphlet:

**Soldiers, Sailors, Marines:
Crucial to a Communist Workers’
Revolution**

available at icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf

Gun Control Cannot Protect Us

END CAPITALIST VIOLENCE WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

USA, June 20— “I don’t understand why an 18-year-old would need an assault weapon,” said a friend. “The Republicans and Trump supporters are crazy, and so many people have been killed!” Another said, “Expecting teachers to have weapons in the classroom so they can defend their students is ridiculous! This breaks my heart.”

We share their anger at the heinous gun violence against children and working-class people of color. But the proposed solution, strict gun control laws, addresses only a fraction of the violence capitalism commits worldwide every day.

“There are so many intersecting factors it makes a person want to scream,” said another friend. The only way to address those intersecting factors is by smashing capitalism.

While there is capitalism, workers can never be safe.

In the US, suicide is the second leading cause of death for young people. One child in thirty experiences homelessness each year. Death from gun violence intersects with lack of health care, especially mental health. Capitalism’s vicious racism and sexism mean that people of color and women are disproportionately affected.

For the masses, there is no such thing as safety and security under capitalism, a society built on exploitation for profit. Capitalism means suffering and death for the working class: Profit wars. A billion people facing starvation. Six million confirmed Covid deaths. People of color killed by the cops. Families forced to flee their homes and turned away at borders.

We are fighting not to end one deadly issue, but to end them all.

Laws Are Made to Benefit the Rich

Ruling-class laws can never truly benefit the working class. Seeming advances such as abortion rights can be taken away in a heartbeat if the ruling class feels it will benefit.

Another friend asked, “But what if more representative politicians were voted in? And everyone had a chance to fairly vote... would this argument still hold?”

Absolutely. Politicians represent the people who pay them. Big money chooses candidates and finances campaigns. The class who profits from the system will never allow it to be any other way.

Until we have eliminated money and wage slavery, the material cause of racism, sexism, and xenophobia, the masses will have no power and no security.

Historically, US gun control laws have been enacted and enforced selectively. The ruling class passed the Milford Act when it was terrified of guns in the hands of the Black Panthers. Any gun control law the politicians make will be to protect their position and assets, not for the good of the masses.

Trump supporters may want to have their guns ready for another insurrection, but the main faction of the US ruling class is more concerned with controlling the military, where the real weapons lie. Neither side worries about protecting us or our children. If they did, refugees would not be whipped and forced back at the US southern

border. Health care would be universal and free. No one would be unhoused.

But instead of providing for us and protecting

our children, the rulers attack us by denying abortion rights and access to safe medical care. They promote racist, sexist theories to divide us and to build a fascist movement. The global capitalist crisis fosters racist, sexist, homophobic violence as the imperialists move towards world war.

End Capitalist Violence with Communist Revolution

Our work as communists is to build a mass party in preparation for a revolution to end the scourge of capitalism. It will take armed struggle with guns in the hands of the ICWP-led working class, alongside revolutionary soldiers, and sailors.

The state claims a monopoly on the use of force. But the military is composed mainly of working-class young people. They will learn that their interests do not lie with the bosses who send them to kill and die in wars for power and profit. We can win them to turn the guns around and join the communist revolution.

We don’t want the bosses to disarm the working class. Agitation for gun control laws leads workers and youth to recoil from armed struggle. Pacifist ideology is suicidal for our class. It means remaining wage slaves and cannon fodder instead of overthrowing our oppressors.

So our immediate task is political: to win soldiers, sailors, workers, and youth to the necessity of armed revolution.

In communism, we will make decisions about gun usage collectively, not individually. Decisions will rest on struggle for the workers’ best interests. The racism, hate, and fear that motivate murderers will eventually become a thing of the past.

No one will be isolated. With close relationships, we will know if someone is planning to harm themselves or others. This is the only real safety for us all, and it will come with the death of capitalism-imperialism and the building of a communist world.



Photo: El Salvador

We have learned from experience that a communist revolution requires a party with a mass base, a revolutionary line and a military strategy.

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Who Should Control Guns?

In conversations about the unending series of shocking gun massacres, especially the school shootings, people often ask: Is ICWP in favor of gun control?

I think the best answer is yes – control by the Party.

Of course, what they meant was US government restrictions on who can own guns and what types. We don’t endorse these because we might want to own guns ourselves. And, anyway, it’s not likely to happen. The Republicans are totally against it and the Democrats are for it but in a typically wishy-washy way. The slaughters will continue until communism washes it all away.

But what about in communism?

Communism will have strict control of guns. The basic principle is that guns will only be available to members of the Party and its mass organizations. We will mobilize the masses to recruit into our Red Army and other organizations like community defence groups.

Membership in such armed organizations will

be controlled. Guns will only be distributed to individuals who have demonstrated loyalty to communism and even they will not be given unlimited access. For example, they won’t necessarily be permitted to keep their guns in their living quarters.

There will be no guns in the hands of unaffiliated private individuals. Special arrangements will be made for sports, like target shooting, hunting, and animal control.

Communists in the past sometimes talked about the need to arm workers in general, but this was a mistake. Initially not all workers will support the revolution and we don’t want to put guns in the hands of our opponents.

Nevertheless, before communism ultimately triumphs, we will try to arm as many supporters as we can. We will encourage young people to get experience with firearms, from handguns through assault rifles to heavy artillery. Under Party guidance, of course.

Some people with arms will be, or become, terrorists. They may plan or attempt mass shootings. How will we thwart these counter-

revolutionary attempts?

By mobilizing the masses to defend themselves. Some especially reliable individuals will be allowed to go around armed, including carrying concealed weapons. They will be trained to immediately confront terrorists and lead others to do the same. (Unlike the cowardly Uvalde cops).

Some readers may be shocked that the ICWP is enthusiastic about arming youth and workers. But communists are not pacifists. Every communist revolution has had to defend itself against massive armed attacks. We will not be wiped out because of underestimating the importance of armed struggle.

Let’s also remember that this is a temporary situation. Once capitalism and its supporters have been eliminated worldwide, that will be the end of guns being used against people. We may keep a few around, for sporting use or for use against wild animals. But never again will parents have to worry about their children being shot.

—Comrade in Canada

January 6 Hearings: Fight Sharpens Among US Rulers

WORKERS NEED COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, NOT CAPITALIST DEMOCRACY OR FASCIST COUPS

USA, June 21— Donald Trump, his allies and supporters are “a clear and present danger to American democracy,” declared retired judge J. Michael Luttig. Luttig addressed a televised meeting of the congressional committee investigating the January 6, 2021 assault on the US Capitol.

Luttig is a prominent arch-conservative Republican with close ties to the most right-wing US Supreme Court justices. He testified as an advisor to Mike Pence, formerly Trump’s vice-president. His testimony shows that a powerful bloc of US capitalists, though deeply divided on social issues, are uniting to squash a threat to their ability to rule.

“Trump and his cronies have no low they wouldn’t cross,” remarked a friend.

“The wheels of justice grind slow but grind fine.” (Sun Tzu) is how a comrade summarized her friends’ reactions to the hearings. They want to see Trump and his cronies behind bars.

But it’s power – not “justice” – that’s at stake.

The word “justice” unites two ideas: righteousness, fairness, equity on one hand, lawful-

ness on the other. But capitalism’s “rule of law” protects private property and the exploitation of the propertyless masses. So “justice” is a contradiction where the rulers use the illusion of fairness to get us to support the unequal legal system that serves them and not us.

In no society is it “lawful” to overthrow or interfere with the government.

Luttig’s “clear and present danger” references a Supreme Court doctrine about how the government can limit freedoms of speech, press, or assembly. That 1951 case concerned government suppression of the Communist Party USA.

The CPUSA built illusions that communism could be achieved through elections. The International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) has no such illusions.

Our work today – distributing literature, building ties with workers and youth, participating in their struggles – may be legal in the US although not everywhere. But whenever and wherever we get close to leading revolutionary masses to seize power and build communism, we will be completely illegal. We prepare today for that struggle.

Right now, though, the US rulers are wielding their anti-communist legal precedents against the fascist coup-plotters. They seem ready to crush the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers that led the assault on the Capital. Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, police arrested 31 members of the white-nationalist “Patriot Front” before they could attack a recent Pride event.

Greg Jacob, Pence’s former lawyer, testified about what would have occurred if Pence had followed Trump’s orders to declare him the winner. “An unprecedented constitutional situation ... that might well then have to be decided in the streets.”

That could happen in

2024. Would local police side with pro-Trump fascists? Would National Guard or regular Army units suppress them? The rulers are worried.

As Luttig said, on January 6 “Americans were at war with each other – over our democracy.”

This isn’t just a metaphor. Rep. Mo Brooks (R, AL) told Fox News that “we need our guns” so that “we can take back our nation.” The Texas Republican Party just asserted its state’s right to secede.

US imperialism faces this growing internal crisis while its Russian and Chinese competitors challenge it globally with increasing success. Another civil war is not impossible. The Soviet Union broke up – the United States could too.

This internal conflict is not a class struggle between workers and capitalists. It is a fight among capitalists: those who are using the democratic process to stay in power and those (including Trump) who can’t. Over 700 people were arrested for the January 6 attack. Over half were CEOs, business owners or professionals like architects, doctors, and lawyers. Only 7% were unemployed. Relatively few were workers.

The masses of disaffected workers and youth – including white workers and youth – are not won to racism and fascism. The January 6 Commission wants to win them to actively support democracy and justice. That means supporting capitalist state power and laws that chain them in wage slavery.

We must expand our efforts to mobilize the masses to communism worldwide. The rulers use charismatic leaders when they can and (more often) fear of a “greater evil.” They control most of our access to information. They have their legal monopoly of force.

But we have the only solution to the mounting problems of workers everywhere: a communist society where all work as they are willing and able and all share according to need. Where the masses, organized by ICWP, make decisions collectively based on communist principles and full information.

Let’s seize history and start building our communist future.



June 16— Government workers in Tunisia paralyzed this north African country with a nationwide strike. Workers demanded increased wages to counteract inflation. They denounced the government’s proposed spending cuts and privatization. President Kais Saied wants these to satisfy the International Monetary Fund amidst an economic crisis. Masses are also furious with Saied’s revision of the 2014 constitution to increase his power. Tunisia was the only country to emerge from the Arab Spring with the democracy demanded by the masses. As ICWP said then, we need to fight for communism – not for democracy.

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Education in Pandemic Times

The poverty in education in El Salvador is becoming more acute every year. Before the pandemic, according to studies by the World Bank and UNESCO, this phenomenon was alarming since they indicate that 10-year-old children are not capable of understanding texts. Before the pandemic there were already 53% of them with this problem and it has risen to 73% with the health crisis.

If the ability to understand and analyze is diminished, so will be the potential to learn and use knowledge to function in life. Added to all this is dropping out of school, grade repetition, older children just starting school, and migration.

These results are very good for capitalism. We know that it is convenient for the system to have these results to continue generating profits and increasing the exploitation of the working class.

Only a communist revolution will stop this problem. As a teacher, I think it is urgent that

we do the work of spreading communist ideas among our colleagues. It is urgent that the new generations grow up doing collective learning, avoiding self-centeredness, individualism or whatever the system wants to call education by competition.

In El Salvador, technology is being delivered to the entire student population of the public system. That’s good, but it doesn’t pay off, with a teaching staff that is comfortable with repeating content. The equipment for the youngsters and children is still stored in its boxes.

I feel the need for teachers to start changing the course of education, directing it towards a communist education, where the objectives are meaningful learning for collective benefit. We need teachers with communist ideas to put a positive spin on education.

We must win the masses of teachers to communism, just as we are winning more workers in the factories. Only communism will defeat capitalism.

—Communist Teacher in El Salvador



Read our pamphlet:

Communist Education for a Classless Society

available at icwpredflag.org/epe.pdf

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Resolving Contradictions to Build the ICWP/PCOI We Need

The inspiring work of comrades in El Salvador, South Africa, and India starts to show how we can become not just a bigger, but a better International Communist Workers' Party: A mass party of dedicated members with an even more massive base.

*Where "from each according to commitment and ability, to each according to need" describes our communist work now and in the future.

*Where the way we make, carry out, and evaluate decisions today points ahead toward how we expect to do it later.

*Where we carry out our line collectively while enabling party members and collectives to help develop that line further based on practice.

Recruiting dozens of workers and youth, as some collectives have begun to do, can transform ICWP into the Party we began to envision in MMC. But we need clearer ideas about this.

Ideas about party organization are part of our political line. For example, South Africa comrades explained to workers that we don't

collect "dues." Instead, we get the money we need by explaining that need and asking friends to contribute as they are willing and able.

Communism won't tell the masses to "work or starve" like societies based on wages, including socialism. We'll explain why tasks are necessary and ask everyone to contribute as they are willing and able. Today we don't set "quotas" for distributing *Red Flag* or attending meetings. Instead, we work collectively to resolve contradictions between what we want to do to build the party and what holds us back. We plan how each comrade and collective can best contribute to the work.

Sometimes we ask a friend to join the Party and they say, "I support you, but I can't be as active as you are" or "I don't understand the line well enough." We respond, "this is a mass party, we welcome everyone who supports communism." But maybe they don't join, or they say "okay" but then drop away.

Why? Partly because we're not clear enough on the politics of party organization. We are not yet the party we strive to be. We must resolve some contradictions to move forward

(and discover new contradictions). Examples:

Should we be building a mass Party now, or is it okay to be a small Party with a mass base? How does the answer affect recruitment?

What do we mean by "leadership"? How do we identify and develop comrades to take on more responsibilities? The experiences of El Salvador comrades who are advancing the factory work should advance our line as well as our practice.

In communism, the Party will organize masses to make decisions. But we don't have an effective practice today for resolving contradictions or disagreements. Resolving this contradiction will let us move forward on the others.

Once we could all get together and work toward consensus. We can't anymore, even on Zoom. How do we organize discussions and decision-making now in a way that begins to show how communism will work? What practices will effectively help recruit and organize many new comrades? When we start looking for answers, we'll find them.

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

Communism Is the Solution to Growing Inequality

After reading the last edition's article, "Class War in Oakland (USA) Schools," I reflected on my frequent visits to Oakland, CA. My last visit was in May 2022. Often, when I visit, I rent a hotel room in Downtown Oakland near Lake Merritt. Since 2020, I have noticed unhoused individuals sleeping in Lake Merritt Park.

The homeless situation in Lake Merritt Park has grown increasingly worse since 2020. Additionally, Downtown Oakland appears to be a Ghost Town. It is sparsely populated. Even the luxury restaurants and shops at the marina near Jack London Square do not see a lot of patrons.

Oakland's Chinatown is part of the Downtown Oakland business district. It is important to note that Chinatown experienced a rise in Anti-Asian Hate Crimes in 2020. I was informed that this exacerbated financial losses to Downtown Oakland businesses. Also, in the past few years, Oakland lost its professional football and NBA teams.

Clearly, Oakland is struggling financially. Not investing in the future of the city (closing schools) will turn a bad situation to worse. To add insult to injury, economists predict that a down stock market and record inflation will soon lead to a recession. With all the wealth in the San Francisco Bay Area and the United States, how is this growing inequality possible?

Well, we have a solution! The solution is to mobilize the economically oppressed people of



Oakland (and the world) to fight for communism. With Oakland's strong history of activism, we believe there is an appetite for real equality. For example, the Black Panther Party for Self Defense was founded in Oakland. If you are sick of falling victim to the bourgeoisie, join us now!

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

Learning About Mobilising for Communism

My name is Eshile Bongani, and I am also known as Mark. I am happy to say I have joined ICWP. On 15 May 2022, we had a meeting at comrade Themba's place at New Bright. I was introduced to the members who were present in the meeting. Nomlanga explained to me and also to other new members what is ICWP. I won't lie. At first, I was a bit confused but throughout as he spoke, he explained.

What I have learned is that communism is not a one-day thing that you can learn overnight. It needs time and studying through dialectical materialism, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, *Red Flag*, etc.

I have really got to say that I was lucky to be invited to experience mobilising. Through that I have seen and learned the meaning of mobilising. What I have learned is that mobilizing is

giving the people the ideas and the information about what is going in our world.

—New comrade in Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Communist Struggle: A Breath of Fresh Air

Greetings comrades I received the two *Red Flag* articles about the work in South Africa and they are indeed inspiring and encouraging. And they are a breath of fresh air after being bombarded with the toxic news in the media all over. But this is really a breath of fresh air. Continue, the good work, comrades.

It is a pity that I am limited in terms of writing, but it is worth noting that all over the world ICWP is alive. And in no time masses will be led by the ICWP for communism. Many are currently involved in fights all over that have nothing to do with our interest, the interest of the working class. Workers are involved in fights that are reformist and take us nowhere, they are recycling poverty and our miseries.

But these two articles give us the reason to live, the reason to look forward to.

Viva ICWP Viva!

Amandla!

—Metalworker in South Africa

US IMPERIALISM DECLINING AND INTEREST IN COMMUNISM RISING

LOS ANGELES (USA), June 10—“Revolutionary communist? Sure, let me have one.” That’s how many responded to *Red Flag* while entering the People’s Summit.

This was a gathering of “unionists, activists, grassroots organizations, and progressive people of the Americas” to counter the Summit of the Americas, which usually brings together leaders of all the nations of the continent.

This year’s summit in Los Angeles was a “debacle” for US imperialism – according to Richard Haass, president of the influential US liberal rulers’ Council on Foreign Relations. “The US has no trade proposal, no immigration policy, and infrastructure package. Instead, the focus is on who will & will not be there. Unclear is why we pressed for it to happen,” he tweeted.

It was “a measure of how far the U.S. has fallen.” (*The Atlantic*, June 13, 2022)

The summit exposed US imperialism’s weakening grip on Latin America. Russian and Chinese imperialists are making inroads in the region. Absent were the presidents of Brazil, Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Bolivia. Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua were not invited.

More important for us, the US rulers are losing their ideological control of the masses, especially people under 40. A 2019 poll showed that almost 40% approved of communism.

People’s Summit Anti-Communists Couldn’t Stop Masses from Taking Communist Literature

Comrades distributed over 200 *Red Flags* and about 100 pamphlets: “Fight for The Day No Worker Is Called a Foreigner.” Over half of the attendees eagerly grabbed them on their way in.

Some organizers freaked out. Three “security”

people tried to run us off the public sidewalk. They said, “the summit is a private event and therefore the sidewalk is no longer public.”

We told them to ask a civil liberties lawyer. One came out and, of course, agreed that conference “security” had no right to run us off. We continued to distribute our literature.

But the organizers kept “all members of your organization” out of the event because “you might disrupt it.” Friends who were attending the conference and tabling for their organizations were appalled by these anti-communist attacks.

Our Party had no interest in physically disrupting the People’s Summit. But we came back the next day prepared to disrupt it politically. We distributed over 200 more *Red Flags* and about 100 copies of our pamphlet, “The Communist Fight Against Sexism.”

We brought, too, a new leaflet that sharply confronted the conference line.

“*Maquila workers in El Salvador, members of the International Communist Workers’ Party defied bans and threats of arrest to march on May Day,*” it began. “*Their leading banner proclaimed: ‘Communist Revolution Will End Fascist Terror.’ Not ‘democracy,’ not ‘socialism,’ not ‘peace,’ not ‘labor rights.’ These industrial workers, mostly women, organize for communism and nothing less.*”

Articulating values shared by many attendees, the leaflet called for “*A communist world without capitalism’s borders and nations. Without the capitalists and money. Without the wage system that enslaves and commodifies us while nourishing racism, sexism, casteism, xenophobia, and all other capitalist ideologies used to divide and exploit us.*”

Taking their disagreements head-on, it explained why it is always a mistake, “*to fight for something else: national liberation, democracy, or socialism. Socialism, keeping money and markets, ended up being another form of capitalism.*” And “*today, Russia and China, once centers of world revolution, are imperialist powers challenging US imperialism for world domination.*”

Faced with rising fascism and the growing risk of a nuclear World War III, the leaflet continued, and with masses worldwide in motion, “*Communism is more urgent than ever.*”

Build Communist Relationships with Anti-Capitalist Younger People

Comrades were inspired to see how many younger people are questioning capitalism, looking for radical solutions, and ready to act on their beliefs.

Defying the summit organizers’ heavy-handed thought police, most attendees were open to communism. They were not won over by the leaders’ reformism. Neither were most firmly committed to democracy, national liberation, or socialism.

The closing march on the Summit of the Americas showed this vividly. Hundreds of marchers – about 30% – eagerly took our leaflets, papers, and pamphlets. In the march, a young participant came to us, asking for Red Flag and told us, “Long Live the Communists!”

We saw the potential, but actualizing that potential is the work of more than a few days. Let’s develop plans for consistent work among younger people, especially those who are already anti-capitalist. Let’s seek out and embrace opportunities to build relationships with them that will lead to more revolutionary communist leaders.



May Day, 2022 San Salvador
Communist Revolution Will End Fascist Terror

El Salvador: Persecutions and Arbitrary Arrests

Honest workers who fight to survive under a fascist capitalist government that puts a gag law to silence our voice. A capitalist system, where you live without rights.

There are many cases of our working-class brothers and sisters who have themselves, or have had family members, arbitrarily and unjustifiably captured during this exceptional regime (martial law).

I had a meeting with B, a worker who sympathizes with communist ideas. At the meeting I shared our *Red Flag* newspaper with her. At the same time I told her that we are an international party.

She liked it a lot and she told me, “I want to tell you our story so that other parts of the world realize what we are experiencing in our country with this exceptional regime.”

B told me that her nephew Diego was unjustly captured at the end of April. His story fills her with much pain, because he is a 17-year-old boy, autistic, a farm worker from San Sebastián Salitrillo in the department of Santa Ana.

Despite his autism, he is a great worker of the land. He farms and helps his mother in whatever way he can. One day he took the corn to grind and, since he was hungry, he was eating a mango. At that moment he was unjustly captured for no apparent reason.

So far nothing has been done. Under the ‘law

of exception’ no one has the right or the means to raise their voice.

Worker B told me “I don’t agree with anything that is happening and I still criticize everything this government does, but I can neither say nor do anything. We cannot speak but we can end up imprisoned “

There are many more cases just like Diego’s and that is why we continue to fight for our Communist Revolution and break the chains to which we are subjected. It is the right time to mobilize the masses and move forward together.

Long live the communist fight!

—A young comrade