

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

Bengaluru, 2020: ASHA workers on strike against long hours and low pay



Bengaluru, 2022: Accredited Social Health Activists strike

COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY WITH LAID-OFF GARMENT WORKERS

EL SALVADOR, October 1— “Only Communism will end wage slavery,” said a flyer distributed by comrades of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP). “We are the largest, most revolutionary and powerful social class.”

Comrades distributed this communist leaflet to maquila workers, denouncing the wave of layoffs in the APS factories and the closure announced by CAMTEX (Chamber of Textile Industry) of another Fruit of the Loom plant in October, in which it is a partner.

The flyer was clandestinely distributed hand to hand to various factory collectives, to be shared with more factory workers. We also invited them to read it and act in solidarity with those of our class.

The comrades in the factory have shown solidarity with the fired workers. We have collected and delivered some basic things that help a little in these moments of crisis.

Fruit of the Loom has been exploiting our class for 171 years. It started in 1851 by exploiting workers in the US slave South. That kind of slavery ended, but racist super-exploitation of African American workers meant lower wages for whites as well. In the 1990s, to maximize their profits, Fruit of the Loom closed its US factories that paid \$736 a month. In Central America they would pay \$144/month.

Today, the ICWP is the only organization speaking out against the dismissal of hundreds of workers by exploitative bosses who left families without the possibility of having the basics in their homes.

The only alternative for the working class is

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INDIA: WOMEN HEALTH WORKERS SHOW POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNIST HEALTH CARE

BENGALURU (India), September 29— Monsoon rains flooded this city of thirteen million for almost two weeks. Electricity, internet, roads, and hospitals were quickly restored in the affluent areas, but the working class is still reeling from the lack of basic services. Hundreds of thousands are sick, and some dying, from gastrointestinal diseases and unsanitary water.

Garment workers’ neighborhoods are the worst affected. The ICWP collective waded through shoulder-deep water to distribute leaflets denouncing the murderous capitalist system, to be replaced with communism.

Only under communism can the working class take care of each other. Without money and the bloodsucking capitalists, workers will distribute our resources according to need. Rents, slumlords, skyrocketing hospital bills, and for-profit education will be gone.

As we build a new foundation based on communist collectivity, we will also end the caste system and religious hatred the bosses push on us because they are the only ones who benefit from it.

Women workers from Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) came to help our neighborhood of garment workers. ASHA means “hope” in Hindi. Over four million ASHA and other workers have been trained to give vaccines and collect samples of TB and other diseases. They deliver babies, providing care to mothers before and after birth. They supply family planning and sanitation in slums and rural areas. Most of these primary-care providers are married women with less than 10th-grade education.

ASHA workers are on-call day and night for deliveries or urgent care. These super-exploited women get between Rs. 2000 to Rs 8000 (US\$25 to \$100) a month. They get only Rs. 640 (US\$8) for a normal delivery that requires them to be with the mother and child for at least four days.

ICWP members welcomed a dozen ASHA women who came to us. Right away, we talked to them about communism and how health workers like them will provide care when capitalists no longer shackle them. All were full of anger

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IRAN: HEROIC MASS REBELLION SHOWS THE NEED FOR A MASS ICWP TO LEARN FROM HISTORY

October 1—Iranian “morality police” detained, beat, and killed Mahsa Amini, a Kurdish woman of 22, on September 13th for wearing her hijab “improperly.” They didn’t anticipate the storm they would unleash. Now the Iranian ruling class is shaking.

Night after night, in the largest protests since 1979, masses have turned the streets of over eighty Iranian cities into battlefields. They call for the overthrow of the Islamic regime, death to Khamenei and an end to the forced hijab and all oppression. Women are once again in the lead.

Fascist police have killed over fifty, wounded many more, and arrested hundreds. The government shut down social media sites and some cell phone service. Yet the masses continue to fight.

Outrage at Mahsa Amini’s death snowballed amidst economic crisis and political repression. A growing military budget drains resources to finance the second-largest army in the Middle East. Masses suffer from rising inflation and unemployment, worsened by government corruption. Some workers have not been paid for months. US sanctions (supposedly “humanitarian”) contributed significantly to a drop in Iran’s production and the loss of workers’ purchasing power (including for food and medicines).

Young people are increasingly desperate. Masses are enraged that the Iranian ruling class lives even more lavishly than the hated Shah they kicked out in 1979.

The US and other imperialists want to misdirect the masses into fighting for a pro-US government. The Biden administration hypocritically cheers Iranian women while supporting anti-women regimes in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and elsewhere. The US ruling class cynically promotes mass anti-Iran demonstrations to serve its own imperialist interests.

Down with the Islamic Republic and All Capitalists!

Masses want fundamental change, and it wouldn’t come from an independent Kurdistan. Nor from a secular capitalist democracy – look at the oppression of women in the US today!

Capitalist democracy is the dictatorship of capital. Capitalism cannot meet workers’ needs nor end exploitation. Its wage slavery is the material basis of capitalism’s poisonous sexism,



Istanbul, Turkey, October 1—Youth Protest murder of Mahsa Amini

racism, and xenophobia that keep us divided, exploited, enslaved.

The courageous masses need communist revolution: “from each according to commitment and ability, to each according to need.” In communist society, without money or exchange, we’ll work and share what we produce.

Communism can end imperialist wars and start to reverse environmental catastrophe. It can overcome divisions within the working class. No borders, no nations, no sexism or racism or religious hate!

When the masses – especially workers and soldiers – embrace communism, nothing can stop them.

Learning from Revolutionary History

Many people in this movement, especially youth, don’t want to be under anybody’s banners. Like many activists elsewhere, they are skeptical of older-generation revolutionaries. They believe that the 20th century movements screwed up.

They have a point. Leaders of the People’s Mujahadin Organization of Iran (PMOI) renounced armed struggle in favor of reform agitation. They negotiated secretly with the Ayatollah Khomeini’s Islamic-fascist capitalist faction. They formed a “united front” against the pro-US Shah. This unprincipled strategy mobilized

masses to overthrow the Shah in 1979.

Immediately the new Islamic Republic began arresting and killing leftists and restricting women. It smashed the far left— but isolated — Peykar. The reformist pro-Soviet Tudeh supported the new regime.

But we still need to raise the banners of communist revolution! Capitalists everywhere are few, weak, and – as in Iran – terrified of the masses. They rule over our huge powerful working class because they are organized, and we are not. Without an organized mass struggle for communism, they control us ideologically.

The International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) has learned crucial lessons from the workers’ heroic struggles, including those of the Iranian masses. We now fight directly for communism, not for reforms or “stages” (national liberation, socialism). There are no “lesser-evil” capitalists. We must not ally with any of them.

Instead of old-style parties of “professional revolutionaries,” ICWP aims to build a mass party. We welcome everyone who will help build communism. Our manifesto “Mobilize the Masses for Communism” (available at icwpredflag.org) explains more about this.

Let’s join and build communist ICWP collectives everywhere to mobilize the masses for revolution and communist society. Read, write for, and distribute our *Red Flag* newspaper! Help translate ICWP literature into Farsi and other languages if you can.



Tehran, Iran: Mass protests and riots against the regime

FROM Teheran
to Los Angeles-
END RACIST
PATRIARCHAL
CAPITALISM with
Communist ★
Revolution!
JOIN ICWP!
WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG

LOS ANGELES (USA), October 1— Thousands marched here against the hated Islamic Republic and in support of the continuing mass rebellion in Iran. Three ICWP comrades carried this sign while distributing *Red Flag* and our communist leaflet. Many marchers welcomed us, furious with the capitalists’ attacks and inspired by the mass struggle. When one anti-communist loudly refused our literature, another woman called out even more loudly, “Give that to me. I’m for revolution!”

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ADVANCES IN BUILDING CLOSER COMMUNIST SOCIAL RELATIONS

LOS ANGELES (USA), October 3—“Capitalism hates communism and communism hates capitalism,” said a friend who was participating for the first time in a social/political meeting of the Los Angeles industrial collective of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP). His wife and their two teenage daughters came with him.

The opening remarks began a broader explanation of why the bosses hate communism and why we need to fight directly for a communist society.

Twenty-eight people participated, almost all of them immigrant workers from Mexico and Central America, and their families. Twelve learned for the first time about the Party and our communist newspaper *Red Flag*. It was a great advance for the Party since it had not been possible to conduct an activity like this here during the pandemic.

After we enjoyed a delicious meal, a young comrade explained that ICWP is an international party fighting for a communist world without borders, without money, without racism. She invited everyone to take and read *Red Flag*.

She also spoke about the attacks on the Ayotzinapa students, the situation in Sri Lanka, the war in Ukraine and the current struggle of women in Iran. She explained that the Party is responding to these organized attacks on the working class in places like South Africa, India, El Salvador, Mexico, and the United States to fight directly for a communist revolution.

Comrades were inspired by seeing the people there listening attentively to our ideas. One work-

ing woman from Mexico commented, “I like what is being said about communism. I believe that we are all like siblings regardless of where we are from or our skin color.”

A *Red Flag* reader came with her husband, a veteran of the 1970 student struggles in El Salvador. Two Honduran Garífuna women (of mixed Indigenous and African ancestry) came with them. They welcomed the paper and asked us to invite them when we have these kinds of meetings. In conversing about dances (cumbia and punta) we found that one was the ex-wife of a former reader and friend of the Party who lived here almost 25 years ago. This helped to create more trust and solidify the new relationship.

Four young people (between 12 and 22 years old) who attended took the *Red Flag*. Although they didn’t say anything, we will continue discussions with them. After the presentation, a young woman told a comrade that she would have liked to speak and will do so at the next opportunity.

A Guatemalan worker told us about how his brother’s hospitalization is affecting him and his wife and children in Guatemala. We made suggestions about how his wife can come to Los Angeles and be with him, since the doctors say

the situation is serious. We will continue to look for ways to help.

Some families and comrades from the collective could not attend, for varied reasons, but we will continue the struggle with them. We are forming a plan on how to continue building these political relationships with everyone we know. New opportunities for Party growth continue to open.

We need to build this kind of communist political unity and struggle among our friends, comrades, and neighbors to strengthen the Party and advance toward our goal of mobilizing the masses for communism.



Mexico City, October 2—Thousands of protestors took to the streets to remember and repudiate the massacre of hundreds of students on October 2, 1968. The murderous government of Mexico tried to silence the voices that called for a better world. This mass murder relied on the moral support of the US government and the directors of the Olympic Games, which took place shortly afterward. “I was there in 1968 and now I’m in ICWP,” said a comrade.

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Communism, where we workers will produce for the needs of humanity. We fight for a society free of exploitation. Many of us who work in the maquilas are part of that fight.

Workers in the September 15 march also received the flyer well. We distributed 800 flyers during the march, denouncing the horrific practices of the capitalist bosses. The flyer also called on the workers to organize themselves in ICWP and fight for communism. This was a way that ICWP showed solidarity and struggle with the working class.

Other workers marched mainly to protest the

emergency regime, demanding freedom for political prisoners. It is the workers’ blood that is being spilled, workers tortured to death in prisons or disappeared and then killed by gangs allied with the capitalist “government of new ideas.”

The harsh economic crisis hitting the working class was another reason for the protest.

They also marched against the re-election of the president, who announced that day that he will run for the presidency again. This is just one of the many tricks of this new capitalist warlord. He is using the entire apparatus of the state for the benefit of a few and to maximize his profits. But the workers have a choice: to fight for their lives and their human dignity by organizing for Communism.

Our struggle takes place under fascist conditions imposed by the government, such as the exceptional regime, where denouncing or criticizing becomes a crime. In the face of these attacks, we are doing the work of publicizing and denouncing the situation that the working class is currently experiencing.

The ICWP fights directly for Communism. A change of president is useless if the working class remains under the capitalist yoke. We struggle to recruit young workers and soldiers to become part of the party and join our communist cells.

We fight collectively to organize workers and develop communist leaders to make our ICWP great. We invite you to read and distribute this *Red Flag* newspaper.

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

“Humanization of Health”: Bosses Blame Workers for the Precarity of the Health System

The El Salvador Social Security Institute (ISSS) recently held a workshop on the “humanization of health.” Its General Director of Insurance was in charge of blaming the workers for the shortcomings of the health system.

She declared: “You must put yourself in the patients’ place. The complaints of ill-treatment are due to some of your colleagues. Starting today, think about how to change your job. You must do your part, we as an institution already trained them. Now it depends on you.”

This attack seeks to transfer blame for the structural failures of the health system to the individual level. It seeks to implant guilt in the health worker. The number of health workers is insufficient to cover the demand. This causes fatigue and physical and mental exhaustion in the workers.

“We live in a problematic situation,” an obstetrician mentioned. “Government propaganda

makes workers believe that the work we do every day is accomplished by the first lady of the republic and the president.”

“We are all afraid of being sued. The government blames us for the lack of personnel and the lack of medicines and medical equipment needed to care for patients,” added another worker.

A health system must have universal coverage, be equitable, and be consistent with scientific and technical quality. Public health research reveals the need for a health system based on primary care that meets the basic and elementary needs of the population. We need referral hospitals that have the technology needed to attend to more complex pathologies.

Nations like Cuba and some former Soviet republics were characterized by a robust primary care structure, based on health centers spread throughout their territory. They promoted preventive health and a more active life for health care workers. But this is a threat to pharmaceutical companies, health insurance consortia, and

other companies that monopolize workers’ health.

Even such systems will never be able to develop their full potential, as it represents a threat to capital. Not to mention that in these nations the capitalist socio-economic structure was left intact with the wage system. And the divisions between doctors, nurses, health service assistants, and other health workers, which promotes elitism in the medical and nursing professions.

Only by changing the social system from capitalist to communist will workers be able to opt for a health system that truly puts human health at its center and reason for being.

It is therefore necessary to unite the health workers with the workers in the factories and the countryside to fight against the true enemy, the bourgeois state. Let’s organize more health and maquila workers to fight for communism and build a health system based on universal, free, equitable and comprehensive primary health care.

—Red Doctor

FROM INDIA TO IRAN: CONFRONT FASCIST SEXISM BY MOBILIZING FOR COMMUNISM

DELHI (India), October 3— “I was born in a conservative Muslim family in North India,” writes comrade Nadia, “People like me wore hijab. Traditions of the past, not laws, compelled us to wear hijab. I don’t wear a hijab now.

“Last year I joined ICWP. I was a student in Delhi. I participated in several mass demonstrations in Shaheen Bagh to protest the brutal beatings of several students at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), where the fascist BJP and their paramilitary forces were systematically attacking Muslim students.”

Thousands of Hindu and Muslim students and workers came to occupy Shaheen Bagh against state-sponsored fascist attacks. The Shaheen Bagh protest lasted several months. Thousands of people camped on massive freeways. Food, medicine, and even schooling of children were contributed by tens of thousands of people from all over India.

“At this moment, several ICWP comrades asked me to read *Red Flag*,” Nadia continued. “I liked the article that asked the masses to reject nationalism and fight for a system without money. The protest was already running without money, and it was feeding, housing, and schooling thousands of people. But it was also very nationalist. The line of the mass movement was that they can defeat fascist Modi if we can strengthen the unity of Hindus and Muslims and fight as one for India.

“Our comrades who stayed for the whole protest started study groups. I was one of those who joined. Every day we talked about communism, how it will work, how to destroy capitalism, and what is the process of building a mass party for communism.

“The first obstacle we faced was that many people believed that India could become secular democracy. ICWP comrades explained that democracy is another form of class dictatorship. The rich capitalists force the working class to be wage slaves and they must compete against other capitalists to maximize profit.

“In our study groups, we talked about imperialism and its history of wars for profit. We looked at the Russian and Chinese revolutions that put the working class in power and inspired the masses all over the world. And we are still learning from them.”

Our party has learned that socialism and nationalism can never free workers from wage slavery. Mass communist parties like ours will eradicate capitalism from its roots.

“As I was getting more convinced about com-



This iconic image from Delhi, India, in December 2019, of four women protecting a fallen male comrade showed that women can fearlessly defend working-class brothers and sisters.

munism, I joined ICWP,” writes Nadia. “I saw no need to wear a hijab. I identify myself as a member of the international working class.

“But in India, many courageous women wear hijab defiantly to protest the fascist forces of the BJP, who are banning the hijab. We must win these women to our party. They display hijab to defy the male chauvinism of the BJP.

“We must struggle with these women to show that the best way to combat male chauvinism is to eradicate sexism with communism. By making the hijab acceptable to all Muslim women, they are inadvertently falling into the same trap that Muslim clerics advocate.”

Masses Confront Fascism and Imperialism Worldwide

Ironically, the fascist BJP media are not covering the violent demonstrations in Iran. They attack the hijab in India, but they don’t say a word when Iranian women and men are protesting. To read about the mass demonstrations in Iran, if you are in India, you must go to the US and European channels.

This shows the imperialist nature of the struggle all over the world. The US imperialists rejoice in the Iranian protests because it weakens the anti-US Iranian fascists. The Indian capitalist rulers want to continue getting cheap oil from Iran and build the strategic Chabahar port in Iran.

Iranian fascists have amassed the second-largest and most potent military in the Middle East, but their dreams of confronting the US are ruined by the mass uprising.

From Shaheen Bagh to Tehran, the masses are confronting fascist forces. We must not be swayed by any nationalists, or imperialists into taking sides of the competing forces. The workers everywhere have one goal: to eradicate the horrors of male chauvinism, sexism, racism, nationalism, xenophobia, and casteism with communist revolution.

Read our pamphlet:
*The Communist Fight
Against Sexism*
available at
icwpredflag.org/sexel/

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and hatred for the bosses. They told us proudly that Covid has diminished in India because they reached out to every village and vaccinated the workers even while their family members were dying.

They told us about people infected with TB who smell so bad that nobody goes near them. The ASHA worker cares for them, takes samples, and gives them medicine and hope.

“When we get a phone call at midnight that a woman is in labour, we rush out of the door,” said one worker. “We leave behind our family and our small children. When we meet pregnant women, we are with them every second.

“We establish a tremendous bond with them. Four days later, when we go, we feel like we are leaving behind family. We remember every woman who has given birth. We never forget them. And the bosses treat us like dirt. We have

not gotten any pay raise since 2016.”

Another worker described how women feel about going to hospitals for delivery. “We don’t trust those doctors,” she said. “They read and learn from books. If women enter hospital, they will pay for it their whole life.

“We learn from our experience,” she continued. “Women feel comfortable with us right away. They are all very poor, just like us. Many times, we end up giving them money even though we don’t have any.” So many women told us that they have stayed connected with these women for over sixteen years.

The ASHA workers’ experience shows that the main aspect of health care is not “expertise” but commitment to the health of the masses. Workers like them will help develop our understanding and practice of communist health care.

We spent hours talking about the criminal

atrocities of the capitalists who profit from the labor of these workers. Every ASHA worker agreed that things must change. However, many thought that if we fight for more wages, it will help improve their conditions.

An ICWP member said, “The bosses may give more money, but inflation will eat away any gain we make. We will always be wage slaves. We invite you to join our party that wants to end wage slavery.”

The battle to win these workers has just begun. They have tremendous empathy for the workers they serve. They have built incredible long-term relationships with women and fought for life-saving vaccines and sanitation.

We gave each one copies of our leaflet and *Red Flag*. We know that they will spread our ideas. And just as they do with the women they help, we will keep in constant contact with them with an outlook to form communist collectives.

Learning Requires Real-World Struggle:

ADD NEW VOICES TO OUR BATTLE FOR COMMUNISM

SEATTLE (USA), October 3— Educators on strike here last month responded to communism with unprecedented enthusiasm. This reflects how the conditions of our struggle have changed. Since 2020, the pandemic and the massive demonstrations against racism, sexism and xenophobia have profoundly affected the strikers, students, and our working-class friends in general. Meanwhile, many strikers worried about the “fascist backlash.”

This called us to focus even more than previously, in all our literature and conversations, on the need for communism and communist education. We distributed a well-received leaflet entitled, “ICWP Stands with Educators and Students—ICWP Stands for Communism to Give Our Students the Education They Deserve.” It emphasized that only communist society can provide such an education.

Build The Party to Advance Our Communist Line in Practice

Many questioned whether such a communist society is possible. These doubts lead many educators and other friends to settle begrudgingly for reforms. One of the best ways to fight for our communist line—as opposed to settling for reforms—is to mobilize new revolutionary forces.

Building the party helps to show that communist revolution is achievable. Leaflets, pamphlets, and *Red Flag*, while critical, are only the start. Long-term relationships with educators and other workers opened the door to dozens of extended discussions about communism and preparing for communist revolution.

During and immediately after the strike, four potential new ICWP members attended meetings of our collective. Some were connected to the strike through relatives and children, others work in completely different areas. Each came with their own contradictions. Their input was invaluable.

One recalled how a comrade convinced her 33 years ago to help with a summer project. “The relationships I developed with the volunteers from Haiti who stayed at my house is why I am here today,” she said. She concluded that nurturing communist relationships is key to building the party.

Struggles with our friends around communist theory and practice continue at a higher level and involve more people than before the strike. Two additional industrial workers want to attend our meetings as we concentrate on making sure the collective is multi-racial and of all genders.

Now more than ever, we must concen-

trate on adding many new voices to the battle for communism.

Doing Better: Start Earlier and Follow Up

Educator comrades and friends did not anticipate that a strike would happen. Self-critically, we should have published a leaflet on communist education anyway and an article in *Red Flag*. We need such literature for the start of every school year—strike or no strike.

When the schools reopened, comrades went to four high schools to distributed hundreds of Red Flags with a front-page article on the strikers’ response to our communist line. We know teachers and students at three of them. Students inquired after comrades they knew from last year. We ran out of papers at all three.

Thousands of working-class students of all races and genders attend these schools. These students, like the school staff, show exciting potential. We must also add their voices to the battle.

Communist Organizers for Our Global Family

Comrades and friends had many debates with strikers about how capitalist schooling recreates the worst aspects of capitalist exploitation and prepares students to accept it. We estimate that near a thousand educators, students, and other workers in the area have read the party’s literature on communist education.

The Party collective’s struggle during and after the strike is an example of communist education. The conflict between reforming the schools or building the revolutionary force necessary to create communist education for a classless society was in our face 24/7. Real-world struggle helped us, and the masses, see the contradiction.

We didn’t anticipate that so many strikers would be equally concerned with what a communist system would bring to all aspects of society. Friends who do not work for the school district also read the party literature. Their interest in the strike also generated debates about ICWP’s communist politics that brought some closer to the party.

We see the potential to recruit more communist organizers. It is our responsibility to turn this potential into actual party growth.

“THE BEST ANSWER TO ANTI-COMMUNISM IS MORE COMMUNISM”

When Seattle schools reopened, comrades distributed hundreds of Red Flags and ICWP leaflets about communist education at high schools. By the time comrades reached the final school, the news had spread. The school district prepped two students to launch an anti-communist confrontation.

Under the vice-principal’s watchful eyes, these students complained that we were distributing communist literature to minors without permission of the school district. When that didn’t stop us, they started the anti-communist attack.

“Communism was a dictatorship where the rich stayed rich and the poor stayed poor,” they asserted.

“Sounds more like the US,” a comrade answered. Even the students who had been prepped had to nod in agreement.

Other students gathered around, listening to the debate. From then on, the prepped students prefixed all their remarks with something like, “As I was taught about communism...”

The conversation expanded into the difference between socialism (which maintains wage slavery) and communism, which will end wage slavery and the whole superstructure that supports exploitation.

The discussion lasted until the final bell rang, about fifteen minutes. The two students who started it took our communist literature and gave it to the vice-principal. Other students took extra copies to read and give to their friends.

District administrators thought anti-communism would win the day. It’s a weapon that the ruling class has employed for decades. But now, more than ever, it can be defeated. As another comrade said, “The best answer to anti-communism is more communism.”

Read our pamphlet:
**Communist Education for a
Classless Society**
available at
icwpredflag.org/epe.pdf



PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO
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After the Picket Lines, What’s Next?

B is a long-term friend who was a leader in the recent Seattle educators’ strike. He wants to continue to fight racism and fascism. In particular, he wants to end Trump and his following.

He had many conversations with comrades. In one, he asked why Trump had been so successful. A comrade suggested that Trump’s emergence was related to the U.S. being a declining imperialist power. The U.S. ruling class was finding it difficult to rule in the same way it did when it was the world’s dominant power.

But the capitalists won’t just surrender. The bosses have decided that fascism is on the table and with it the violence every capitalist government is capable of. This is true whether it is the

Democrats or Republicans in power.

Meanwhile, the working class can’t live in the old way. Foreign Affairs, the mouthpiece of the U.S. Council of Foreign Relations (CFR), calls this the “age of uncertainty.”

Another comrade said, “This hastens the moment when communist revolution is possible.”

This was the first time B had heard this analysis. He thought about it as we unloaded supplies from his van for the strike rally.

CFR president Richard Haass wrote an influential article admitting that U.S. hegemony no longer exists. He sees no way for U.S. imperialism to manage world chaos, given the country’s divisions. He calls on educators to help bind the country’s political splits.

A third comrade, who lives near the elementary school where B works, often talks to him. In our next conversation, we will delve more deeply into the question that is so much on the ruling class’s mind, “What are schools for?” The working class must not accept capitalism’s agenda: to use educators to restore the violent reign of U.S. imperialism.

What started as a discussion about how to continue the fight against Trump-style racism and fascism expanded to the necessity of building an international communist movement and the ICWP.

—Seattle comrades

We need communist teachers who live and breathe the community

DEFEAT THE SNEAK ATTACK ON MR. P

“Mr. P was my teacher in high school and a positive male role model in my life,” said a young teacher. “Although we teach different subjects, his example was a lot of the reason I became a teacher. Mr. P always has been a comrade to me and all his students.”

Mr. P is under attack for building working-class solidarity with his students!

He was sent home under investigation in April. Finally in September, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) interrogated him. They asked him if he knew about *Red Flag* – of course! Everybody at Washington Prep knows about *Red Flag*. If he had recruited a specific student and, if not, why this student called him a comrade?

Why would a student call their teacher “comrade?” Because that’s who he is...a comrade and a committed member of the community.

Throughout over thirty years at Washington, Mr. P, like other Party teachers, has been committed to his students. He has fought against racism and anti-worker ideology in the schools. He has joined May Day marches and protests against deportations, imperialist war, and racist police murder. He maintains close relationships with alumni and their families, serving as godfather for several. He’s played soccer for years on community teams with parents and students.

This unity of teachers and the working-class community is the opposite of capitalist schooling.

This comrade is under attack because the administration has felt the threat of communist truth. Our comrade is not staying “in line.”

LAUSD is desperately trying to identify (or invent) some “inappropriate behavior” on his part. After interrogating students, all they came up with is getting a ride from students to pick up his car from the shop after school and giving them gas money for it—and vague unsupported allegations of “hugging” and saying “inappropriate” things.

“All this ‘inappropriate behavior’ is slander and would not be accepted by anyone who has known Mr. P. We should all be enraged! We will not accept it with folded arms!” said one parent.

“My daughter and two of my sons were his students. My son and I have played on a soccer team with him for years. We have marched with him on May Day. I consider him my comrade and a man committed to the good of all workers.”

The unsubstantial allegations against Mr. P indicate how ignorant and threatened the bosses are. Communist teachers build trusting and solid relationships with students. We break the division that capitalism imposes on us.

The system separates us from each other so we will not see that what hurts the students also hurts the teachers. Communist teachers fight for working class unity to build a successful revolution and set up a communist society.

“When a high school teacher opens the classroom door, there are about thirty students at different emotional states, different mindsets, different personal home situations, and different educational levels,” said another comrade teacher. “This happens again and again every hour or hour and a half. That is life in capitalism: instability working against factory-like conditions.”

The capitalist “educational standards” that teachers are ordered to teach contradict the truth that students are living. Economics classes require the children of garment workers to create “entrepreneurship models” for how best to exploit garment workers. Children who experience racism every day are taught to pledge allegiance to a nation “with liberty and justice for all.” Our students want and need the truth, and that is when communist teachers step in.

Attacks like the one on Mr. P are attempts to bully other teachers who refuse to stay in line with the capitalist lies or who want to build solidarity with the

community.

Capitalist schools use teachers much like capitalist armies use soldiers. Both are in the thick of capitalist ideology. A soldier must march to its cadence. When soldiers question the system and refuse to follow the drumbeat, the bosses are threatened. Just like factories: when workers speak up to expose exploitative conditions, the bosses get scared.

Capitalist schools control the cadence of teachers to keep them “in line” with capitalist ideology. Well, communist teachers refuse to stay “in line!” And when we engage our students with the truth, the bosses hate it.

Let’s unite to fight this attack on Mr. P!

But come what may, communist teachers, students, parents, and other workers will continue to tell the truth and to build relationships of solidarity.

Organizing in the schools, the factories, and most importantly in the barracks, we will build an International Communist Workers’ Party capable of mobilizing the masses for revolution. We will build the communist society where we teach the truth and share the fruits of our labor—COMRADES ALL!



Mr. P in action on his own time

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

A Million Questions about Communism

X, an industrial worker, had “a million questions.” After attending a Seattle party collective meeting during the educators’ strike, he had “a million more.”

ICWP literature emphasizes that only a communist society can provide the education that students deserve. But X’s concerns go beyond communist education. He questions the very nature of that society.

He was uneasy about the merging of “mental” and “manual” labor in a communist society. He criticized a sentence in the education pamphlet: “The agronomist and the farmworker, the engineer and the construction worker, the molecular biologist and the nurse will be the same person.” To him, it sounded magical.

X thought specialization was inevitable. We all have a limited time to learn.

The party collective agreed that no individual can know everything. That is why the communist slogan is: from each according to their commitment and ability, to each according to their needs.

X argued that even a society without social

classes would still need specialization. “We will need people who are at the top of their game if humans are to survive pressing threats,” he said. “Never trust a mediocre rocket scientist.”

Yet even the production of rockets requires many brains and hands.

Other comrades argued that much of what X calls specialization, we call stratification. Capitalism requires stratification to maximize profits and maintain a superstructure that justifies exploitation, racism, sexism, xenophobia and more.

Communist collectivity will unleash the creativity and potential of the whole working class. Breaking down the division between mental and manual labor is not only possible in a communist society but will lead to great advances in education, healthcare, and all aspects of society.

X has since asked new questions that he thinks are more urgent: How would one mobilize the masses? Is it even possible? What would motivate the working class? To justify the costs, the future “state” would have to be much better—and obviously so—than current conditions.

X takes the struggle for a new communist society seriously. This makes discussions of our collective more useful. We especially welcome

Red Flag readers’ thoughts on these questions.

As the meeting ended, we suggested that once he has read and discussed more of our literature, X should join ICWP.

“Yes, let’s make it official!” X replied.

—Comrades in Seattle (USA)



**Read our manifesto: *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*
Available at icwpredflag.org/mmce.pdf**

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Communism Now!

Crises in capitalism are inevitable. Every few years there is a major crisis facing capitalist economies, which always leads to major suffering of the working class.

The capitalist world is currently facing a major crisis. Capitalists are scrambling for dominance as their profits fall. Wars are being fought which threaten a world war between the USA-led West and the Chinese-led bloc that includes Russia.

Poverty, suffering is on the rise, caused by high energy prices. All of us are affected by these capitalist wars and crises. In South Africa, capitalist forces are fighting for the control of the country.

The western-made and -backed billionaire president Ramaphosa and his faction are trying to align and give greater control to the West, especially through the control of the energy supply in South Africa. However, as the capitalist crises increase, the workers are starting to reject Ramaphosa and to an extent his African National Congress (ANC).

Ramaphosa has a reputation of being a "workers' guy" given his history within the unionist movement. This has always given him some political leverage. However, this no longer works. Workers in the country are rejecting him, seeing him as the source of their suffering.

These are not just workers but workers that are led by the ANC trade-union allies in COSATU. Politicians of the ANC, including another unionist Gwede, have all faced rejection at different political rallies as the workers increasingly see them for what they are (capitalist lackeys).

The rejection of these political lackeys is a positive step towards the fight for communism. Although workers are increasingly rejecting these figures, as we concluded in one of our meetings, this does not automatically mean they will be for communism.

The end of capitalism, or capitalism as we know it now, is almost set in history. However, for communism to emerge amid capitalist ruins, we must actively work for that eventuality.

Mobilizing for communism now is our rallying cry as we recruit the workers who reject capitalist lackeys. Communism now! is our cry as we live our daily lives as communists, not only becoming communists in meetings and mobilizing rallies.

We must actively use our literature for educa-

tion as we are attempting to do to create communist consciousness of the working class. Comrades agree that to consolidate the workers who show interest in our party, we must have political classes for theoretical understanding as well as having the practical experience of recruiting and mobilizing for communism.

Therefore, with dedication and commitment, we regard a communist future would not be in a distant epoch. Rather, we will realize communism now!

—Comrades in South Africa

Learn from History: Social Imperialism Is Not Communism

Comrades reported that a worker from Eritrea told them, "The communists were terrible in my country," referring to the Soviet-backed Derg (1974-1991). Eritrea, formerly part of Ethiopia and now an independent country, fought a war of secession during the Derg regime.

A popular movement rose against King Haile Selassie in 1974 with a mutiny of rank-and-file soldiers in several provinces. The Derg, a military junta, took advantage of the instability, suppressed the popular movements, and took power.

Their power rested on organizing peasant associations against the feudal landlords and organizing and arming the lumpen proletariat of urban Addis Ababa to attack the popular movement and shoot down anyone who opposed the junta.

Ethiopia had been a US client during Selassie's reign, and the Soviet Union and China were the first countries to recognize the Derg government. Ethiopian Marxists were aghast! The USSR was a state socialist system, not a communist state. In relation to Ethiopia it was social imperialist.

The last conference of the Confederation of Ethiopian Labour Unions, (CELU), held in September 1975, called for the restoration of all civil rights and for the formation of a proletarian political party. When CELU members distributed leaflets at the airport, Derg security forces attacked them and gunned down seven of them. The Derg outlawed CELU in 1977, imprisoned the union leaders, and formed their own All Ethiopia Trade Union.

The Derg was a military dictatorship. It nationalized financial institutions and 72 factories

while crushing workers organizations. That doesn't make a regime communist or even socialist. It's a fascist-corporate state.

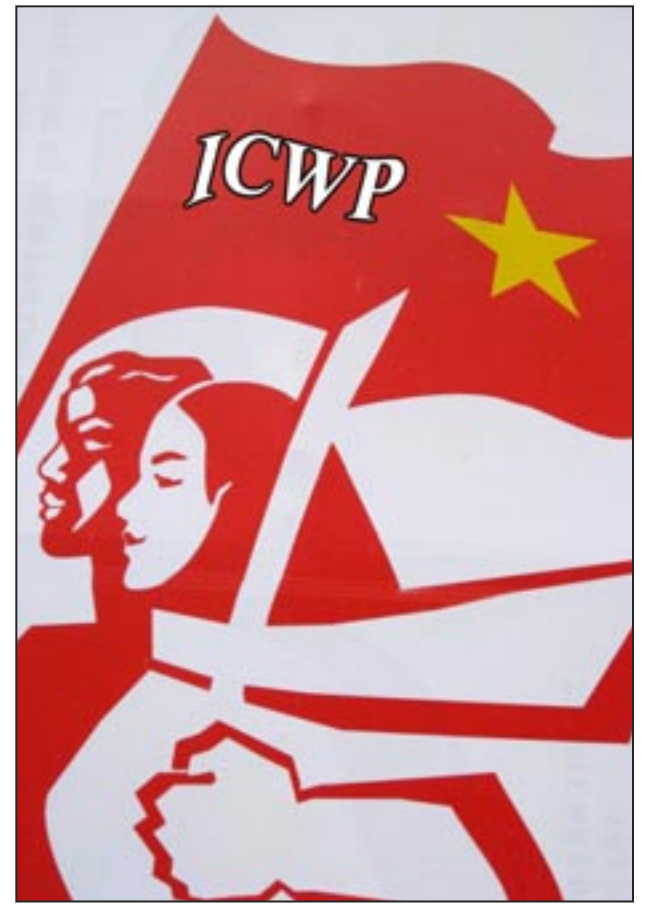
The Derg's land reform made residential rentals state property and put large agricultural estates in the hands of ostensibly peasant-run collectives. This attack on the feudal remnants kept power in the hands of a fascist military junta serving the interests of the corporate state.

During the Cold War, the Soviet Union used the Derg, and, more crucially, the Cuban military, to conceal its social-imperialist character. Castro himself visited Ethiopia and sent 13,000 soldiers to support the Derg in its war against the US client in Somalia, against the secessionist movement in Eritrea, and against domestic opposition.

The Derg's slogans were "Ethiopia First" and "Ethiopian Socialism." These are fascist slogans. The Derg declared "red terror." They called Marxist or Maoist or radical movements "CIA agents" who should be shot on the spot. These Marxists, Maoists, and radicals fought for reform, not for revolution. There was never a communist party organizing workers to take power in Ethiopia.

Someday there will be.

—Comrade who escaped the Derg



PUERTO RICO from page 8

communism. Who maintain that the only true independence for Puerto Rico is communism. And who stand firm against attacks from local politicians and nationalists.

Puerto Rico – like many other places – is experiencing a pre-revolutionary situation

The masses have suffered for centuries from the racism, sexism, exploitation, harassment, humiliation, and more imposed first by Spanish imperialists, now by Creole capitalists and US imperialists.

Fiona's disaster resulted directly from that vile capitalist-imperialist exploitation. So were Irma and María, gigantic hurricanes which devastated Puerto Rico in 2017.

They left a macabre trail of deaths (5,000), houses (700,000), schools, clinics, hospitals, bridges, and roads destroyed and millions without electricity for months. Help from the US government was little or non-existent.

The racist neo-fascist Trump, then president, visited the island, showing his contempt and hatred for the Puerto Rican working class by throwing paper towel rolls at them.

Five years later, reconstruction has been minimal and preparation for future hurricanes even less. Fiona has increased the destruction and plunged the Puerto Rican working class deeper into misery. Almost half of them live below the official poverty level.

Emperor Biden - as racist as Trump - approved a "Critical Needs Assistance" program that will give households up to \$700 each or \$270 per person. If this pitiful sum weren't so tragic it would be laughable.

When Biden was vice-president, President Obama created an agency to force Puerto Rican workers to pay \$70 billion to Wall Street bondholders. Each Puerto Rican woman, man, and child is \$58,000 in debt. With the collaboration of the governor of Puerto Rico, workers' pensions were stolen. Schools and other government prop-

erties went up for sale, including electricity.

The workers' hatred of capitalism-imperialism, stoked by these inhuman conditions, is boiling lava from a volcano ready to erupt. It erupted in 2017, when the Puerto Rican working class took to the streets with massive militant demonstrations that forced the then-Governor Ricardo Roselló to resign.

On September 1, two weeks before Fiona, the masses returned to the streets protesting the hated austerity measures and LUMA, the private company that was given the electric power system to administer and profit from, without investing a penny. LUMA didn't fix the dilapidated system but raised the prices seven times since.

More rebellions will happen. A pre-revolutionary situation demands a communist party that will lead to the only solution to the disaster of capitalism: communist revolution. Let's fight to build ICWP everywhere.

Russian Imperialist Expansion in Ukraine Heightens Threat of Open War with US & NATO

WORKERS HAVE NO COUNTRY! FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD WITHOUT NATIONS OR BORDERS!

October 3— Does anything surpass the hypocrisy of US imperialist complaints about the Russian imperialist annexation of eastern Ukraine? The entire USA exists on territory grabbed from Indigenous people or bought from European powers that had stolen it first!

Compare Russia's recent territorial grab with the US annexation of Texas in 1845, consolidated after defeating Mexico in war. Or with the US forcible annexation of the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1898.

No workers should side with any capitalist-imperialist power in the proxy war in Ukraine. Instead, organize the international working class for communist revolution.

Empires existed before capitalism. But the emergence of merchant capitalism and banking in 16th-century Europe changed things qualitatively. Capitalism's "grow or die" imperative launched European rulers into a fierce competition to control the world's labor, resources, and markets. Their trade in African lives underpinned an increasingly integrated world economy. With that arose an international working class.

By the 20th century, few Indigenous societies anywhere escaped this imperialist system. Imperialists could now only expand by grabbing from one another. World wars became inevitable. A rising communist-led movement struggled to prepare soldiers, sailors, and industrial workers to turn imperialist war into revolution.

But twentieth-century communists – including the Russian Bolsheviks—made some bad choices. Their Socialist republics kept core elements of a capitalist economy – notably, wage labor and markets. The party bureaucrats who managed this system became a new capitalist class.

During World War II, the Soviet-led movement didn't urge workers again to communist revolution. Instead, it built illusions in "lesser-evil" imperialists. Those included British rulers whose wartime colonial policies caused the 1943 Bengal famine. And US rulers who segregated their military and did nothing to prevent the lynching of returning Black soldiers.

After the war, the capitalist Soviet Union became a rising imperial power. Today Putin openly works to restore the "Imperial Russia" of the tsars.

There are no "lesser-evil" imperialists or capitalists.

Every ruling class uses nationalism (patriotism) to persuade the workers it exploits to support their oppressors. Politicians wave national flags, schools play national anthems, clergy pray for "our country."

Zelenskyy urges the Ukrainian masses to "defend our borders." Putin tells Russian workers and youth to "defend our motherland." In the US, Republicans want to "Make America Great Again" and Democrats beg us daily to "protect our democracy."

But workers have no country! None of that is ours!

Our international working class has a common interest in overthrowing capitalist wage slavery everywhere. We will live "in communism," not in some country with borders. All will contribute as they can and will. Together we will meet the needs of all. Everyone will be welcome everywhere.

The International Communist Workers' Party today struggles to break the chains of nationalism, racism, sexism, and xenophobia. To prepare soldiers, sailors, and industrial workers to turn imperialist war into communist revolution.

Drumbeats of Widening War

Russia announced its annexation of four Ukrainian provinces after a "referendum" supervised by armed soldiers. They collected ballots door to door from people already under bombardment. Russia is drafting "Ukrainians" who are now "Russians" into the Russian army. Whether Russia can hold the annexed land will be decided on the battlefield.

The US and Albania proposed a UN Security Council resolution condemning the annexation. It was vetoed by Russia, while Russia's sometime allies (Brazil, China, India) abstained. But head-on imperialist collisions can't be avoided through diplomacy.

The US military is organizing a new command to lead its proxy war in Ukraine. Ukraine's pro-US government petitioned to accelerate the process of joining NATO. This would put NATO weaponry on Russia's doorstep. The Chinese imperialists have warned the US of the danger in this.

On September 30, two explosions sabotaged the Russian-controlled Nord Stream gas pipelines supplying Europe. Whoever did it, this is a clear escalation that is increasing fears in western Europe.

Russia is conscripting hundreds of thousands of troops, mainly from rural ethnic-minority areas but also anti-war protesters in the cities. Putin pointedly mentioned the nuclear bombs the US dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Japan) to justify Russia's potential use of its nuclear arsenal in a broader war.

In Russia (and probably Ukraine) both opposition to the war and open patriotism have grown. But neither draft-dodging nor pacifist protests can end imperialist war. And patriotic rallies can't solve the economic crisis that is hitting Russian workers hard.

Some Russian soldiers in Ukraine are disgruntled, according to phone conversations intercepted by Ukrainian intelligence. They are exposing command failures and disputing official propaganda. In this situation, revolutionary communists inside the military would have a huge opportunity to recruit others to fight for the working class, not for the brass,

That happened in Russia in 1917. Bolshevik soldiers and sailors won masses of their comrades to ally with workers in armed revolutionary struggle. But there is no party in Ukraine or Russia today to lead communist revolution, the only force that can defeat capitalist imperialism. We must do everything in our power to build that party everywhere.



Read our pamphlet:

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

available at: icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf

Puerto Rico:

THE DISASTER IS CAPITALISM, THE SOLUTION IS COMMUNISM

October 5— Hurricane Fiona hit Puerto Rico, leaving in its wake a bleak picture of destruction and death. We could paint a hellish picture with images and statistics. We must do this to sharpen the class struggle and forge the solidarity of the international proletariat.

But this is just interpreting the world. "The point, however," as the communist leader Karl Marx wrote, "is to change it."

To transform the world, we need to find the root of the problem. Comrades in Puerto Rico clearly identified it with a sign hung on a highway bridge: "Capitalism the Root of Disaster."

What then is the solution? Our comrades' banner put it subtly by signing their banner with the "Hammer and Sickle," symbol of the international communist movement. We would have put it more directly: "Capitalism the Root of Disas-

ter, Let's Destroy It with Communist Revolution!"

What is needed to achieve a communist revolution? We need to organize ourselves into a Communist Party. Without a communist party there can be no communist revolution. Comrades in the US, El Salvador, India, South Africa, Mexico, Spain, and elsewhere have organized ourselves in the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). Our motto is: One working class, one red flag, one political line, one communist party!

Comrades in Puerto Rico fight directly for communism and nothing less. They reject the fight for reforms. But they differ from us about being part of a single world Communist Party. We respect their opinion, but we will continue



struggling with them to change it.

We are inspired by the Puerto Rican students, workers and intellectuals, mostly young people, who are struggling to mobilize the masses for

See [PUERTO RICO](#), page 7