

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

**IRAN ON FIRE
FOR THE WORKING
CLASS:
SEE PAGE 5**



Above: Students at the University of Science and Technology, Tehran, October 2022



Left: Iranian oil workers on strike, October 2022

Communist Ideas Must Become Mass Ideas

TRANSIT WORKERS CONFRONT SUPERVISORS, FEEL THE STRENGTH OF THE WORKING CLASS

LOS ANGELES (USA), October 25—“A recent confrontation between workers and supervisors of the MTA (public transit) impressed me very much. It has given me more confidence that we can win the working class to fight for communism,” commented a comrade mechanic.

There is a meeting every morning at his workplace. All the mechanics, service attendants, supervisors, and occasionally the managers, participate. His section is multi-racial, with Latinx, Black, Asian, and white workers. He told this story:

There has always been a struggle between the supervisors and the mechanics. In one meeting, some supervisors began to say that we should do more work since we are not doing enough, that we can do much more. They said that during breaks we take more time than allowed, that we should not take advantage of the breaks.

Then they said that we should not use our cell phones during work time. They claimed that many mechanics are refusing to do the work that is assigned to them and that they are going to start to control all this and will start giving warning notes of bad behavior.

Some workers said, “You supervisors are always talking on your cell phones.”

They answered, “We have permission. You do not.”

All the workers started to laugh, and this made the supervisors angry. A mechanic said, “If you want us not to use our cell phones, you should set an example.”

All the mechanics and the others around us

See [TRANSIT WORKERS](#), page 4

GARMENT WORKERS UNITE WITH ICWP ACROSS THE BOSSES' BORDERS

BENGALURU (India), October 23—*Four garment worker comrades of ICWP in Bengaluru met virtually with three Red Flag readers in the Free Trade Zone (FTZ) near Colombo, Sri Lanka. These are excerpts of a two-hour conversation.*

Manju: Welcome to the comrades joining our conversation from Sri Lanka today. We have faced many difficulties: power outages, load shedding, and long hours in sweatshops. I work in a garment factory. I am a member of ICWP. I am 25 years old.

After reading Red Flag for over three years, I am convinced that every aspect of our life is controlled by our oppressors. I am committed to ending this, and I want to encourage all of you to join our struggle. We want to know our comrades better.

Sakani: I am from a garment factory in FTZ. I am 36 years old. I am Geetha's neighbor, but we work in different factories. We have been friends for over six years, but I am not sure. I got *Red Flag* from her during some violent demonstra-

tions. We joined the protest because many women have no contract.

We all live in these slums of FTZ that are owned by garment bosses. They can fire us at any time for not meeting our quota. You must work like an animal to meet this target. If you are sick, you fall behind. They don't care even if you are dying. They take your money for a whole month and at the end of our pay period, you are fired.

Now you have no money, you are homeless, and half your income is spent on food. So now you are going to starve. Many times, our neighbors take us in and give us shelter and food even though they are extremely poor.

When demonstrations were going on, many women lost their fear because everybody was in the street. I said to myself and others that this is a revolution. Things will change. This is when Geetha gave me *Red Flag*. I began to understand that we need to get rid of the capitalists and build the ICWP. Only then we will see a revolution.

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Elections in Italy:

ONLY COMMUNISM CAN FINALLY DEFEAT FASCISM EVERYWHERE

October 21—Almost exactly 100 years after Mussolini's March on Rome brought his Fascists to power in 1922, Giorgia Meloni became Italy's new prime minister.

Meloni is Mussolini's direct political descendant. She and other "Brothers of Italy" leaders came from the National Alliance (AN). The AN succeeded the Italian Social Movement, formed in 1945 by members of two banned Fascist parties.

There were many repressive governments and authoritarian movements before Mussolini. But we can learn much from Fascism's particular history. Most importantly, Fascism arose in direct contradiction to communist internationalism.

The Italian Socialist Party was the only one in western Europe to oppose the first imperialist world war. It expelled Mussolini, a former leader, in 1914 for advocating Italian military intervention.

Mussolini fought in the Italian army. Afterward, the British MI5 paid him £100 per week to publish pro-war propaganda. Imperialists wanted to discourage the massive anti-war protests that had rocked Italy since 1914. Mussolini started a newspaper, *Il Popolo d'Italia*, in 1917.

The Italian government had discovered that many rural and urban workers and artisans "lacked the sense of belonging to the homeland." Anti-war forces defied repression by writing on walls and organizing demonstrations. They leafleted, petitioned, and went on strike for "bread, land, work, and peace." They fought in street battles and local insurrections. These peaked in the summer of 1917 after the overthrow of the Russian tsar.

Russian Revolution Sparks Class Struggle Worldwide

In August 1917, a protest erupted in Turin (Italy's industrial center) against food rationing. It spiraled into a general strike and then an insurrection. Armed workers defended barricades, fighting to seize power from the capitalists.

But, unlike Russia six months earlier, the troops sent against them had not been organized by communists to side with the revolutionary workers. Instead the rebellion was drowned in blood.

Il Popolo d'Italia denounced socialism, egalitarianism, and class struggle. Mussolini patched together a new "Fascist" ideology based on militant and expansionist nationalism, opposing working-class internationalism. It promoted class collaboration (the "corporate state") in place of class struggle. Trust in a "strong man" instead of the masses.

Two years later he organized the paramilitary Italian Fasces of Combat.

The war's end in 1919 brought a wave of unemployment and economic hardship. That provoked the Biennio Rosso ("Two Red Years") of intense class struggle.

Industrial workers in Turin and Milan,

led by socialists and anarchists, formed factory councils similar to Russia's soviets. Over a million workers went on strike in 1919. A two-day general strike expressed solidarity with the Russian revolution. Now some soldiers refused to attack the working class.

But without strong Bolshevik leadership, this movement didn't fight for power. Instead it featured factory occupations and demands for official recognition of the factory councils.

When the Communist Party of Italy split from the Socialist Party in 1921, the opportunity for communist revolution had been squandered.

Still, King Victor Emmanuel III feared revolution. So did the industrial capitalists and rural landowners behind him.

Mussolini had reorganized his forces as the National Fascist Party. The rulers chose to use these "Black Shirts" to violently suppress the mass movement. They took advantage of Mussolini's 30,000-strong "March on Rome" on October 27-28, 1922, to appoint him Prime Minister and let him form a Fascist government.

Repression intensified and Mussolini implemented the imperialist ambitions of Italian capitalism, seizing control of Libya, Albania, and later Ethiopia.

Fascism celebrates the worst of capitalism's ugly nature.

Capitalists embrace fascism when it suits their needs. We see this today in Meloni's electoral coalition with Berlusconi's Forza Italia. In US President Biden's criticism of the Proud Boys but not of Ukrainian military units that just as openly flaunt fascist insignia.

Fascism comes to power through the capitalist state's political structures. Some capitalist



Communist partisans, Italy, during World War II

politicians embrace Fascism. Others beg us to "defend democracy." But capitalism's roots in wage slavery bear its fruits of nationalism, racism and xenophobia, sexism, repression of workers' struggles, and war for profit.

"Fascist" isn't just an insult or an epithet. But it's not mainly a revolting ideology either. It's capitalist dictatorship revealing its essential nature: the divisive and violent suppression of the working class.

The real fight against fascism is the revolutionary class struggle for communism.

Faced with the rise of Fascism, the Communist International decided in 1935 that the main contradiction was between fascism and democracy. They abandoned revolution against capitalism for unity with supposedly "lesser-evil" imperialists. Those included the British, who had covertly launched Mussolini!

They were wrong. The main contradiction was then – and is now – between fascism and communism. Between the open dictatorship of Capital over the masses and the open dictatorship of the communist-led masses over Capital.

Communist partisans executed Mussolini in 1945. But it remains to us to fight for and build the communist world we need.



Communist partisans, Italy, during World War II

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COMRADELY STRUGGLE DEFEATS BOSSES' DIVISIVE TACTICS

EL SALVADOR, October 25—To speed up production and make workers put pressure on each other, the maquila (sweatshop) bosses use the “modules” method to finish a piece, and there is a quota of pieces that each module must finish each day.

I work in a module that is made up of fourteen people: thirteen machine operators and one inspector.

They recently hired a new person to complete the module. She has a lot of experience on the job, as she previously worked in another factory. There they did not demand quantity but quality in the product.

As I have been working in the maquilas for more than twenty years, I know that they test new workers to see how fast they make the product.

I took it upon myself to explain to the new worker what the job was like. Then my machine broke down and I had to go in earlier to be able to do the accumulated work. That meant she had double work to do, and she got angry.

So she called the team leader of another area to tell him that I was giving her a lot of work and that she wanted to go with him instead. This team leader is part of the party collective, so he told her that he was going to talk to me, and he did.

He began a political and comradely struggle with me, making me see that it is in this type of situation that we must put the party's line into practice.

He stressed to me a lot that as an ICWP mem-



El Salvador, May Day, 2013—Achieve your dream! Let's Destroy Capitalism and Build Communism! ICWP

ber, I had to act like one: leading a comradely relationship with co-workers. We have enough to deal with that the bosses screw us. He suggested that I talk with her so we could develop a good working relationship.

This is how this comrade struggled with me to come to my senses and understand that our co-workers are also our class sisters and brothers, that we must struggle against all the attitudes that

the bosses instill in us to keep us divided.

I spoke with my new fellow-worker. Things cleared up, leaving an open door for future talks with her.

Only in this way, by putting the party line into practice, will we be able to mobilize the masses for communism.

—Comrade in the maquilas

COMMUNISM WILL PREVAIL OVER ALL DIFFICULTIES

SOUTH AFRICA, October 23—We live in a society which follows the capitalist economic and political structure. We, here in South Africa, face all the problems of capitalism. In some instances, we have it more severe than others, given South Africa's historical record.

We live in a society full of inequality, joblessness, exploitation, crime, poverty, corruption, and other violence experienced by the masses in general. South Africa has the highest unemployment rate in the world. Youth unemployment stands at approximately 50%.

The ones who work are super exploited. More than 60% of them earn less than R4 000 (US\$217) per month. Most must support their families with these salaries, and on average they spend 60% of it on transportation and food.

Most of our comrades are young Black males who grew up and reside in townships. They face this brutality head on every day.

This grim reality of capitalism is not unique to South Africa. Everywhere in the capitalist world the masses face the same atrocities. In El Salvador, USA, India, Mexico, and all other corners of the world, the masses are suffering and looking for a way out.

In El Salvador they face a neo-military dictatorship at the hands of capitalist lackeys. Despite intimidation and threats, comrades there are organizing factory workers for communism, distributing our literature, and holding communist meetings to grow our party and our line. We are inspired by their work and take great lessons.

The fascist Modi government in India is not deterring our comrades' efforts in organizing for communism.

Despite the difficulties, challenges and internal contradictions facing the comrades in South Africa, we are still recruiting and organizing workers for communism in industrial areas.

We fight for a world without exploitation and private ownership of means of production to make profit for capitalist bosses. We mobilize the

masses against racism and sexism. We particularly focus on recruiting female comrades to take leadership in the party and put our fight against sexism into practice.

A female industrial comrade in South Africa has been working to recruit five female co-workers into the party. The plan is for them to lead the industrial work of the party and recruit tens, hundreds, and eventually thousands of workers to the International Communist Workers' Party.

Despite shortcomings and internal contradictions, we continue to strive to build the mass communist party under the banner of mobilizing for communism. Comrades overcome contradictions and challenges by having comradely criticism and self-criticism of their work and behaviour.

Accepting criticism and offering it where necessary allows comrades to overcome weaknesses individually as well as collectively. This enables us to combat liberalism and put the collective and the party first. Doing this ensures that the communist work continues whatever external or internal challenge that comrades face.

One struggle we have is for all comrades to do party work out of commitment to the collective, not for personal gain. That is the core of communism now and in the future.

Our weekly meetings discuss the *Red Flag* and problems affecting the comrades and the collective. We find solutions and carry on the work of the party with confidence and dedication.

Solidarity with our comrades around the world reassures us that communism will prevail with dedication, commitment and the correct attitude



Organizing for May Day, 2013: “Workers of the World Unite for Communist Revolution”

and party's line.

The workers are rejecting the political bosses, seeing that they will not solve their problems. Dismantling capitalism through a communist revolution and ushering in a world free of exploitation and money will eliminate most of the problems the masses face.

This is our message to all the workers we recruit; to all the workers who get the *Red Flag*. We will face challenges big and small. However, if we collectively struggle to overcome those challenges and contradictions, communism will prevail.

GARMENT WORKERS' CONVERSATION CROSSES BORDERS from page 1

Angie: I am also a garment worker, 21 years old. My family is very poor. I agree that we need a new system. The bosses are trying to divide us. I am not a permanent worker and I have no contract. I am just a number. I am chasing after the number. I must meet quota, more production. No matter what I do, I will have a target to meet. They bribe some women by giving them contract work. But they still must meet the target and they want us to feel inferior for a few rupees.

But look at the inflation. Every month food and transport are taking most of our money. The bosses are making fortunes while we starve. I am angry and fed up.

Geetha: I am so glad to meet you all, and wonderful comrades in Bengaluru. I was inspired during the protest movement in Sri Lanka. I started reading *Red Flag* that a worker in Chennai (India) sent me. The comrades constantly kept in touch. I work long hours. But they gave me hope and encouraged me to bring other women.

I am still thinking of ICWP. Comrades have asked me to join and organize for revolution. It sounds good but I must admit, I am fearful. I can't afford to lose my job. For now, I will continue to spread *Red Flag* to my neighbors like Angie and Sakani.

Swapna: We must continue to meet regularly.

As a member of ICWP, welcome comrades! You are the future. What unites us is that we are all workers facing bosses who only care about how to exploit us. We need to end their game.

Last month we met amazing women workers of ASHA, and they expressed the same desire for change. Looking around the world, workers in different countries have more in common. They face the same brutality of the class enemy. This is why we are building the international communist movement.

We have a small base in India. We distribute about two thousand copies of *Red Flag* and reach out to the masses. Each reader can become a member. We can do it in Sri Lanka and other places.

Next time we meet, we will send a message of solidarity to the comrades in El Salvador. We will find some way to be part of their December conference.

Long live communism! Join ICWP and distribute *Red Flag*!



Strike in Bengaluru, 2016: Garment workers in South Asia have a long history of militant struggle

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started laughing in a way the supervisors considered disrespectful. They got even angrier and said, "Keep laughing and you will see. If we catch any of you sitting down or on the cell phone, we are going to give you a warning and you will be disciplined."

This made all of us who were there laugh even more. Some began to make fun of the supervisors, saying we do enough and do our assigned work. And all the workers started to get closer to them and the supervisors felt more afraid and frustrated and they backed into the office and closed the doors.

All of us stayed there and some mechanics started saying, "Maybe they were afraid, they thought we were going to lynch them or something."

"I realized that the truth is that we

are the majority and the truth is that the bosses' control everything because we are not united, but this action shows the strength that the working class has," said a mechanic.

In this MTA division, several workers read *Red Flag* and are ICWP members. There are good possibilities of advancing the communist work here and in other divisions where many workers have read *Red Flag* loyally for years.

They see us with respect and seriousness. Many spread communist ideas by taking an additional paper for a co-worker, friend or relative.

Recently, a comrade distributing the paper asked a Black driver at a different division if she wanted one extra paper. She responded, "Can I have four?" Of course! The comrade said, "You and any other worker can have as many as needed."

Contact ICWP (information on page 2) if you want more copies of *Red Flag* to circulate!

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Our Problem Is Capitalist Wage Slavery

Capitalism is a great con game. Let us not talk about conspiracies. Regardless of all the atrocities committed to get us where we are, our official leaders do not care to even demonstrate that they have our welfare in mind. Selfishness is the norm nowadays.

Healthy food costs more than junk food? A selected few individuals (electoral college) elect the president, not millions of citizens?

Capitalism has succeeded in turning us, the working class, into consumerists. That ends up turning us into work-slaves. It has turned soci-

ety into thinking and acting with individualism instead of the natural human collectivism. It has the nice premise that if you work hard, be smart or educate yourself, you will get ahead in life. Yet, the working class is just surviving and a lot of us cannot handle the rat race anymore.

As humans we have basic "needs," yet capitalism is about "wants." Most adults realize too late in life that having enslaved their lives and health for money was not worth it and they regret it.

MTA is modeling capitalism's tactics. All the rules on the book benefit MTA. This creates a hostile work environment. Works the bus oper-

ator to death. In case you hope to make it to retirement, just in case you make it, you will not be able to retire because you will not have benefits. I suggest that MTA operators get ahold of the union's contract or download it from the Internet. They should also save up to prepare for the next strike.

The problem is capitalism, and the question of slave work remains unresolved. But for them to visualize something bigger, they would have to accomplish something together to be able to develop the confidence in themselves.

—Retired MTA Bus Operator in Los Angeles (USA)

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Iran on Fire for the Working Class

MASSES NEED COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, NOT “REGIME CHANGE”

October 23—Iranian schoolgirls are bravely protesting the fascist Islamic Republic regime. Viral videos show classrooms of them waving hi-jabs in the air, taking down pictures of Iran’s supreme leaders, and shouting anti-regime slogans.

When security forces raided one school on October 13, a group of girls refused orders to sing a pro-regime song. They were brutally beaten, and 16-year-old Asra Panahi died.

Courage is stronger than fear. The deaths of Panahi and two other schoolgirls have inspired more to join the protests. “We never knew we were so united,” one said, “across the Baloch regions as well as the Kurdish regions. This is no longer a protest – we are calling for a revolution.”

Generations have suffered from repression. They see the working masses struggling for survival, while things improve only for a handful of rulers.

The capitalist theocracy mandates the oppression of women. Its racism targets ethnic groups like the Kurds and Baluch.

Like all capitalist countries, it maintains wage slavery at all costs. The rulers’ attacks come from their fear of the masses who produce all the wealth that they steal.

Covid and the Ukraine war, along with the US-led sanctions, have made life miserable for the masses. College students especially face chronic unemployment. Mahsa Amini’s murder triggered a bomb waiting to explode.

The Iranian masses are fed up with the intense factional fight within the Iranian ruling class. This fight plays out in Iran’s relations to Syria, Turkey, the European Union, the UK, China, Russia, and the US. In Iran’s interior, it pits Islamic conservatives like Khamenei against liberal reformists like Khatami who proclaim political and social freedom to coopt the youth and prevent revolution. None of these capitalist rulers, including the liberal capitalists, represent the workers’ interests.

US imperialism sees this as another opportunity for regime change after two previous attempts failed. The CIA and British intelligence, alongside Soros and his Open Society, are working to divert genuine discontent into a force to install a pro-US regime.

“The Iranian masses need to reject factional fights as well as the imperialists (US, China, Russia),” says M, a *Red Flag* reader in Iran.

The masses need communist revolution, not a new set of capitalist exploiters.

D, another *Red Flag* reader in Iran, has not seen any oil workers at all the demonstrations he attends. However, many refinery workers have gone on strike. D says the movement will not go far unless the Iranian workers join it massively. He needs *Red Flag* in Farsi for oil workers he knows.

An ICWP comrade in the US attended a Zoom forum supporting the Iran protests, posting *Red Flag* in the “chat.”

Someone denounced the Iranian mullahs as terrorists (which they are). The comrade commented that US imperialism is the biggest terrorist. That in Iran and everywhere what’s needed is not “regime change” but social revolution. Several people agreed that the US created the situation that allowed



September 21, 2022. Protests rock the streets of every city in Iran.



October 26, 2022 Protests on the 40th day after the death of Mahsa Amini

the mullahs to take power.

The US CIA and UK MI6 launched “Operation Ajax” in 1953 to overthrow the government of Iranian Prime Minister Mossadegh, restore the pro-Western Shah Reza Pahlavi to power, and stop the nationalization of Iran’s oil.

In 1979, oil and gas refinery strikes played a vital role in the overthrow of the hated Shah, which opened the doors to Khomeini’s Islamic Republic regime. This oil-rich region remains an area of struggle among imperialists (US, Russia, China, UK) for control of the petroleum wealth. The pro-Soviet Tudeh party backed Khomeini, and today’ protesters are still angry. It followed the cynical Cold War calculations of the Soviet Union, which had already been capitalist for decades. The fight against Soviet and Chinese revisionism isn’t some obscure political quarrel. We can’t win communism without defeating it.

A friend in Iran reports that there are numerous clandestine organizations, all revisionist. The intense fascism will make it hard to build ICWP there. But comrades in India and elsewhere are

learning and teaching how to do communist work in similar conditions.

A *Red Flag* reader from Tehran, now in Germany, attended a huge demonstration in Berlin supporting the Iranian protests. He thinks he can distribute *Red Flag* to Iranians and Germans. “Germany is ripe for revolution,” he says, “and without ICWP it will become fascist.”

Iranian Masses: Nothing in Common with Their Exploiters, Everything in Common with Workers Around the World

Real communists fight for real communism: A world where we labor to meet the needs of the masses without wages or markets. Where the workers will decide how to organize society. Where we erase all borders and the poisonous ideologies that divide us.

We can run society without any capitalist bosses. But they are organized. We must be organized.

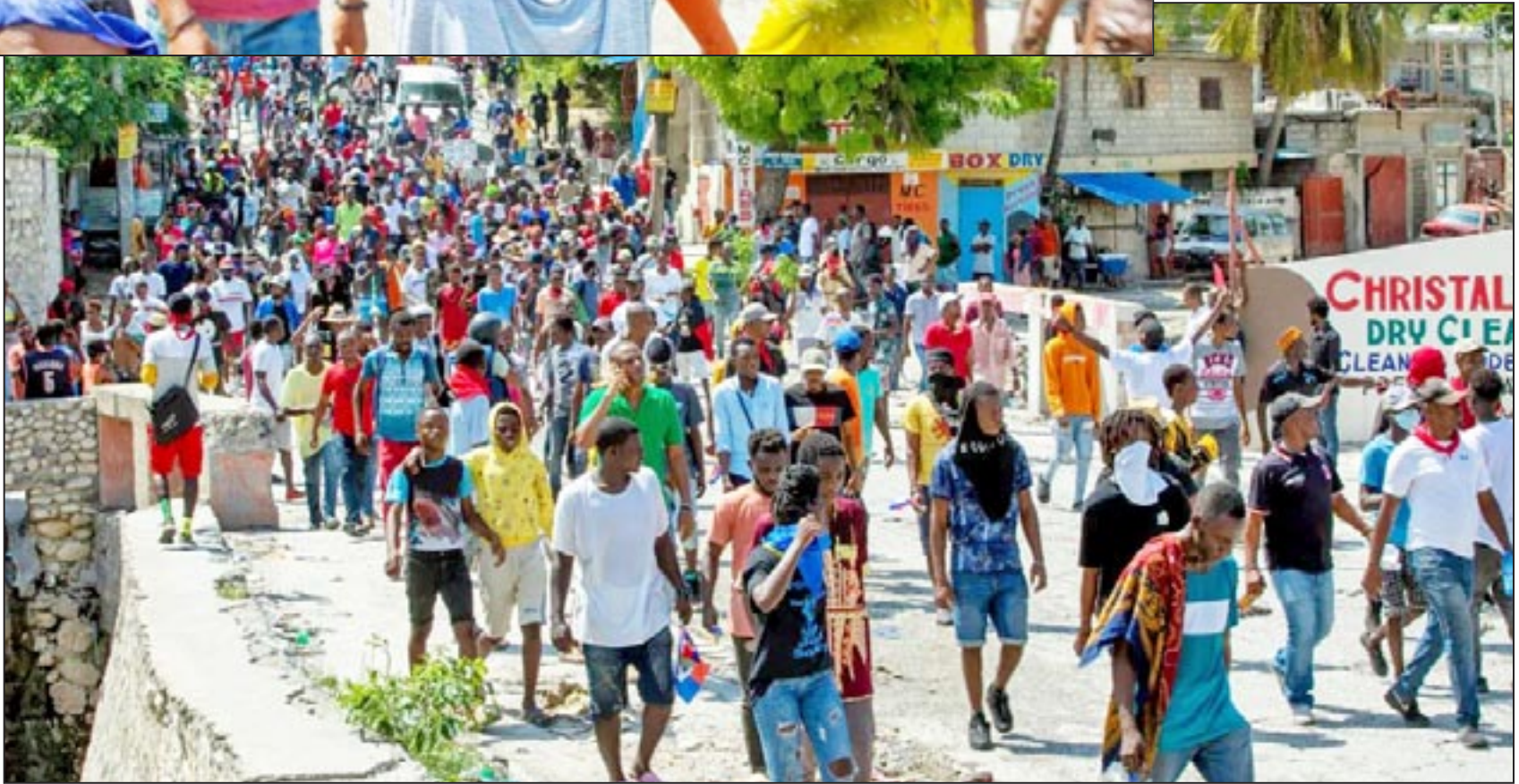
We need a mass communist party, the ICWP, that knows no borders and fights for communism and nothing less.



Berlin, Germany: Protesters support uprising in Iran



October 21— Haitian workers are rebelling against unbearable living conditions, including the worst poverty and shortest life expectancy in the Americas. Their long, inspiring history of fighting back includes the successful slave rebellion of 1791-1804. Since then, Haiti has constantly been battered by the US and other capitalists. It's time to organize the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) to mobilize the masses for communism and nothing less.



HAITI: A HISTORY OF STRUGGLE

Before Columbus, a million Arawak/Taino people lived on an island of abundance they called Haiti (land of mountains). Everyone, including chiefs, helped to hunt and fish, to gather, plant, and harvest. The Taino were committed to feeding everyone—even the Spanish invaders.

This cooperative production and sharing was an early form of communism. It left ample time for cultural life and for collective problem solving. Even some of the Spaniards were impressed.

The Europeans quickly wiped out Taino society through disease, brutal greed and outright genocide. The French replaced the Spanish. The island was still rich, but its riches benefited France's rising capitalist class. They continued to force enslaved Africans to produce cash crops, subjected to torture and under conditions so horrible that few survived for long.

By the French Revolution, Saint-Domingue (Haiti) accounted for a third of the Atlantic slave trade. It was called the "Pearl of the Antilles:" France's most profitable colony, the world's largest exporter of tropical products, and the second-largest trading partner of the United States.

Thousands freed themselves, escaping into the mountains and forming "maroon" communities. A massive and ultimately successful revolt of the enslaved workers in 1791 took the French Revolution to a whole new level. The rebels' pledge to "live free or die" resounded across the Atlantic. Those who survived won their legal emancipation – but not freedom from exploitation.

In 1802, Napoleon sent a massive invasion force to tighten France's grip and restore racist slavery. But an army of former slaves again rocked the world by defeating his best fighting units and winning independence. We can learn a lot from the decades of struggle that followed.

Then in 1825, France threatened another invasion. The French capitalists forced Haiti to pay 150 million gold francs (later re-

duced to 90 million) to "compensate" plantation owners for the loss of the property they'd extorted from enslaved labor. That would be some US\$40 billion today!

This is the true source of the impoverishment of the Haitian masses. They had to pay down that debt over the course of more than a century. Meanwhile, they continued to fight back and rebel and revolt.

The US invasion of 1915 – in the interest of US banks trying to collect on still more debts – provoked the unsuccessful "Caco" uprising of 1919-20. By then, the flames of communist revolution were already burning in the hearts of masses in Haiti and around the world.

Reprinted from *Red Flag* v. 10 #15



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Racist LA City Council: Part of Corrupt Capitalist System

"I hope I don't offend anyone," said Diana, "but it seems to me that it makes as little sense to believe in politicians as it does to believe in god. We don't have any evidence that we can count on either."

We were in a book club Zoom and had gone from the discussion of the cross-border unity of workers in Los Angeles before the Mexican Revolution, to talk about the protests at the recent Los Angeles City Council meeting.

A leaked audio recording had revealed Mexican-American politicians and a union official sharing racist, anti-black, antisemitic, anti-indigenous and homophobic comments in the context of schemes to redraw the lines for city council electoral districts.

Angry protestors filled the city council chambers.

Some speakers called these comments "disappointing and disheartening," coming from those "we have looked up to...[who] had stood with the community time and time again." They characterized these officials as "a few bad apples."

Others were unsurprised by the comments which provide "further insight into why Black and brown residents of Los Angeles are dissatisfied with city leadership and labor leaders."

All the speakers called for the resignation of



LA City Council, October 12, 2022

those caught on tape. Some called for an investigation of the redistricting process. None of them raised larger issues about the legitimacy of the electoral process itself.

In the past two weeks we've talked with many friends who are angry but not surprised. A comrade and a colleague decided to investigate how much city councilors are paid.

"These city council people are paid \$200,000 a year to be racist," concluded a comrade. "It just shows that the system itself is corrupt and the people who are elected to run it are corrupt. It's the system itself."

It's time to face something we've known for years. The City Council is just one more example of a governmental structure that functions for the capitalists, not for the working class. We need to build international solidarity, not small issues of reform. Politicians always exist to perpetuate racism in our society. It's time to topple this system to the ground and build a new one so we can run this society.

—Comrades in Los Angeles (USA)

Racist Anti-Immigrant Propaganda Serves Capitalist Bosses

Recently, a few comrades – Boeing coworkers – were watching a baseball playoff game together and were disgusted and angered by a racist and xenophobic commercial.

A fascist group, led by former president

Trump's speechwriter and policy advisor and some of his former aides, has run these inflammatory ads. They assert that "over 5 million illegal immigrants" have entered the country during the current Democratic Party presidency. They claim that undocumented workers "are draining your paychecks, wrecking your schools, ruining your hospitals, threatening your family" and that "mixed among the masses are drug dealers, sex traffickers, and violent predators."

What a load of lies! It is the profit-hungry bosses who cut the funding to schools and hospitals and flood neighborhoods with both illegal and prescription drugs so they can fill their for-profit prisons.

This sparked an exchange wherein one friend expressed that "the Republicans will say anything now. They used to try to sneak in their racism. Now, the fascism is right in your face."

Clearly, the commercials are meant to feed the fires of racism by exploiting the fear and anger many US-born people feel today as the ruling class seeks to right its sinking capitalist ship by throwing workers overboard. Marginalizing and attacking groups of people is an easy way to reassure their base and it allows the true criminals – the capitalist bosses – to dodge responsibility. This is not a new tactic.

Rulers have blamed so-called "foreigners" for societal or systemic problems time and again in world history to explain losses in war, weak economies, social ills, epidemics of disease, the growth of rebellion, and the development of revolutionary movements.

The worker continued, "The Democrats are no better. They bring a knife to a gun fight because they don't really want to win against fascism, just to get elected."

Democrats and Republicans are two sides of the same coin. Both represent the interests of the ruling class. The only difference between them is the tactics and rhetoric they use to keep us producing, despite our exploitation.

We know that capitalism is in crisis worldwide and it is growing to the point of world war. We can choose to be afraid, or we can choose to lay the groundwork for the world we want and deserve. We must take it as our historical role to turn capitalist war into communist revolution. We can – and will – build a world where we will live by the principle "from each according to ability and commitment, to each according to need."

—Comrade in the USA

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with gold. It had wasted its gold reserves in its war on Vietnam. The dollar was forced off the gold standard and left to fall freely. It quickly lost 10% of its value. The dollar's future looked even bleaker with the Arab oil embargo of 1973.

But the US bosses had gained control of the oil rich Persian Gulf region after World War II, displacing British and French imperialism. They were able to force Saudi Arabia, then the biggest oil producer and exporter, to sell its oil in dollars only. By 1975, most oil-producing countries followed Saudi Arabia's lead. Thus was born the petrodollar. This made control of the Gulf region – which had been the basis of world domination since the first world war – even more crucial.

Petrodollars enhanced US influence and world domination tremendously. They allowed US imperialism to control the world's main financial and diplomatic institutions (like the IMF and the UN). It allowed the US to become the biggest debtor in history, to the tune of \$31 trillion on a GDP of \$23 trillion.

Petrodollars gave the US bosses a free lunch. They printed dollars at little or no cost and received trillions of dollars' worth in other countries' currencies. They used these to demand goods in return. The oil producing Arab bosses

were also forced to recycle their fabulous petrodollar profits back to the US: investing in US Treasury Bonds, real estate and expensive weapons.

But the world has changed. The US has lost control of the Gulf region to China and Russia. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates recently refused Biden's request to produce more oil, which would have hurt the Russian capitalist rulers.

Saudi Arabia and Russia have deepened their economic and military relation. Saudi Arabia is China's major oil exporter. It plays a key role in China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Iran, where the US lost its influence in 1979, is now part of an alliance with China and Russia challenging US imperialism for world domination.

US imperialists dread the day when China will demand that the Saudis accept their yuan for oil. That will mean the end of the petrodollar and the total collapse of the US economy and its global hegemony. Backed against the wall, they will drown the world in workers' blood.

And Ukraine? It has little directly to do with the Gulf region. But it is a battlefield where US and NATO are fighting Russia to the last Ukrain-

ian. They hope to accomplish two things: regime change in Russia and the destruction of Russia as military superpower. This would break the China-Russia-Iran alliance, giving the US imperialists a better chance to win a war with China.

Whichever imperialists win or lose, we workers always lose. Our goal must be to organize and mobilize the masses of youth, industrial workers, and soldiers for armed communist revolution before or during World War III.



BUILDING A BASE IN THE MILITARY: KEY TO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION (PART I)

“The Bolsheviks were able to assume power due to the special effort which the party devoted to winning the support of military troops in the rear and in the front. Only the Bolsheviks perceived the necessary crucial significance of the armed forces in the struggle for power.” —*The Bolsheviks Come to Power, Alexander Rabinowitch*

October 25—Western media predict that Putin’s draft will lead to the collapse of Russia’s military campaign in Ukraine. If NATO propaganda is to be believed, draft-dodgers may even sink the Russian government.

The tactic of draft resistance will never lead to revolution or the ending of imperialist war. It certainly is not the strategy that can lead us to communist revolution. That requires, as the Bolsheviks learned, communist organizing inside the military.

Resistance and other forms of avoiding military service reached massive proportions in the US during the Vietnam War. It didn’t stop U. imperialism. The Vietnamese armed struggle did that.

By then, nearly half the US troops had engaged “in organized resistance or outright rebellion” according to the Pentagon. US Army Chief of Staff General Westmoreland, the former US commander in Vietnam, argued in secret White House meetings to end the war before “we lose the army.”

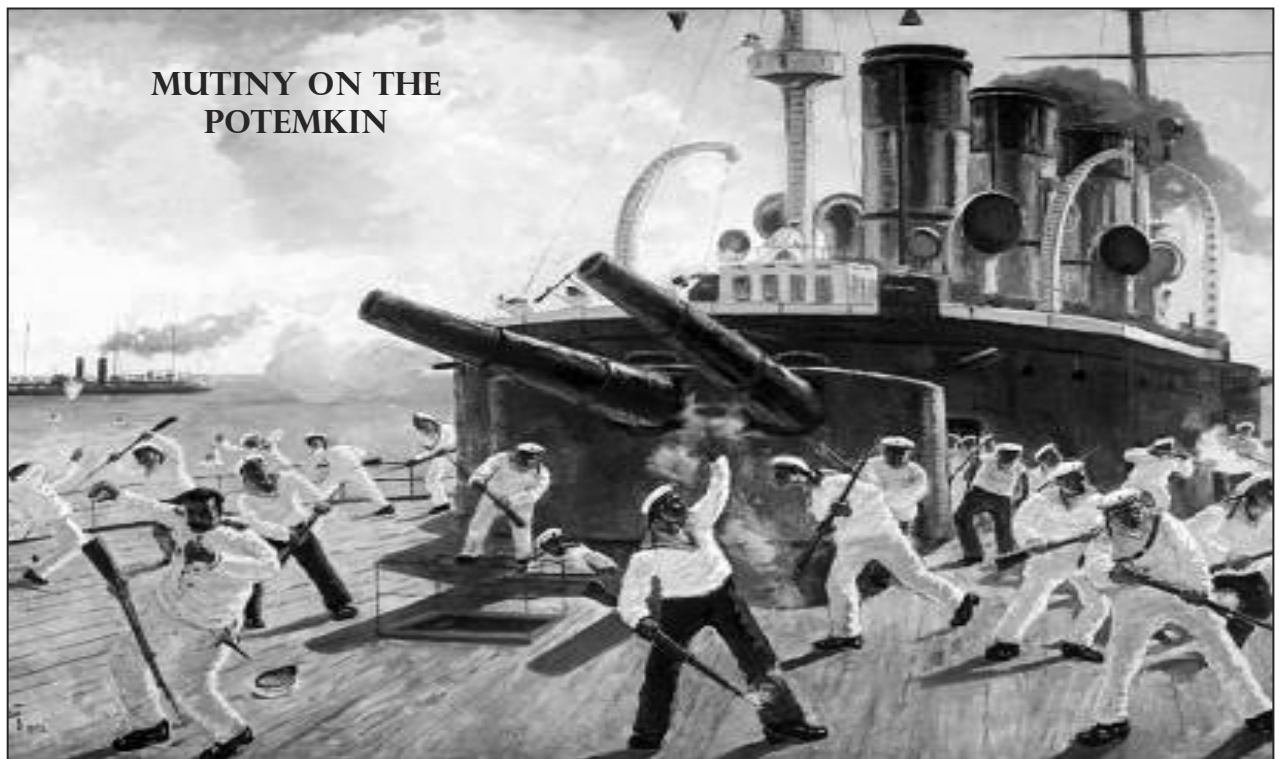
The US retreated to an air war before being forced to withdraw from Vietnam. The level of communist organizing in the US military never approached what was required to make a revolution. Still, lessons learned during the intense struggle in the US Armed Forces remain invaluable.

Soldiers and sailors have revolted many times against capitalist regimes around the world. Our goal is to turn revolt into communist revolution. Nothing less will free us from the deadly chains of capitalism.

The First Revolt of the Black Sea Fleet

The Bolsheviks’ “special effort” to win the support of the military troops started almost twenty years before their 1917 revolution, even before the formation of the Bolshevik Party.

In 1904, the Tsar declared war on Japan, in part to quell revolutionary fervor among Russian workers and peasants. The revolutionary movement grew among the Army and Navy regiments which had the most contact with the revolutionary propaganda and agitation that was sweeping



the country.

The most significant revolt occurred a year later, on the battleship Potemkin. The Bolshevik torpedo quartermaster, Afansy Mantushenko, was a courageous leader of that mutiny. He described it as “one of the object lessons of the revolutionary struggle in which the broad masses of workers and particularly the sailors and soldiers learned the lesson of revolutionary struggle and the concrete tactics of armed revolt.”

When the mutiny began, Captain Golikov ordered Mantushenko to drop his weapon. “I will drop my weapon when I am no longer a living being but a corpse,” Mantushenko replied. “Get off the ship! This is the peoples’ ship and not yours.”

The arrogant Captain refused. The sailors threw his corpse overboard.

The rebellion spread to other ships in the Baltic Fleet and the city of Odessa. To halt the growing unity between Odessa workers and Baltic Fleet sailors, the police started an anti-Jewish pogrom. The port was set on fire. Over two thousand people died in the overnight battle.

The Bolsheviks were not ready for armed insurrection. They did not even set up a center to lead the military work.

The left coalition in Odessa took the initiative to direct activity from the shore. A crucial mistake was to free the Navy officers for humanitarian reasons. During two days of debate, the freed officers helped organize bourgeois conciliators to infiltrate these meetings, derailing revolutionary

activity.

Key Bolshevik leaders were in exile during this period. The party sent some cadre to Odessa to bolster the party presence there and in the Baltic fleet. By the time they arrived, the tide had turned against the rebels.

The Lessons of the Potemkin Mutiny

The Bolsheviks recognized the tremendous significance of the Potemkin mutiny and the mass support in Odessa. For the first time, a large part of the tsarist military forces came over to the side of revolution.

The party formed detachments of the revolutionary army among the troops. It learned that these detachments must give military leadership to the masses, form base points for wider open struggle, and develop the creative efforts of the rank-and-file workers, soldiers, and sailors.

The Potemkin rebellion was the first step in converting the Russian revolution into an international force, bringing it face to face with Europe. Fraternalization with “enemy” rank-and-file soldiers emerged as a political/military weapon.

A revolutionary army is necessary because Great historical conflicts can only be settled by force. That requires a revolutionary army. Building a base in the military was then, and is now, the necessary strategy for communist revolution.

Part 2: How the Russian communists learned from and built on of the Potemkin rebellion, leading to their 1917 Socialist revolution and the rejection of pacifism by the international communist movement.

WAR IN UKRAINE AND THE DEATH OF THE PETRODOLLAR: PRELUDES TO WORLD WAR III

October 25—US imperialism just deployed its 101st Airborne Division to Romania just six miles from the Ukrainian border. This is not to help the Ukrainian masses, who suffer and die more and more as the US-Russia war continues. It is to position US imperialism for a major escalation, bringing the world closer to World War III. Why are they willing to risk nuclear war with Russia over Ukraine?

In the capitalist-imperialist world we live in, Ukraine has become the battlefield where US imperialism is fighting for its survival as the world’s dominant imperialist power. One of its main contenders is Russia (allied with China).

In a communist world, Ukraine would be just another place where some of our human family live. Communism will have no borders, nations, money, or markets. There will be no need for

genocidal wars like the one ravaging Ukraine today because in communism we will share the world’s resources to collectively produce and distribute everything according to need.

Under capitalism this is impossible. Competition is built into a system that reduces most of humanity to wage slaves and elevates money above everything. Money rules the world. And since the end of World War II, the US dollar enabled US imperialists to displace the British imperialists and rule most of the world.

However, in 1971 the US was unable to back all the dollars in circulation
See DEATH OF THE PETRODOLLAR, page 7

