

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



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SOUTH AFRICA: RED FLAG STUDY GROUP MOBILISES FOR COMMUNISM

GQEBERHA (South Africa), 7 January – “It is the bosses’ modus operandi to pit workers against one another using sometimes racism, sometimes sexism to stop them from uniting and working as a collective,” a comrade said.

Our collective held the first meeting of the year of our *Red Flag* study group. We discussed a few articles from Vol. 13 #16, focusing on the article from India, “The fight for communism unites us all.” Comrades took turns reading paragraphs to encourage comrades to read *Red Flag*, as reading is intrinsically linked to writing. This is something we are striving for, especially from the new comrades in our collective.

The comrades in India write about the racism, sexism, and xenophobia they face and that they have to overcome. Their struggles resonate with the struggles our comrades face in South Africa. One comrade wrote about how she faces sexism both at work and at home, even from family members. This is the same sexism some of our members here face.

Comrade Q commented that “this sexism is everywhere in society and in our homes. The comrade’s story is similar to my experience”. She works in a factory in Port Elizabeth. “Both

me and my boyfriend work,” she explained. “We go to work every day to meet our needs, we both contribute financially at home, we both come home tired, but I face this sexism as I am expected to cook and clean for him every day just because I am a woman and society expects that women cook and clean for their men.

“At work we face the same sexism,” Comrade Q continued, “as sometimes our male co-workers earn more than us because we are females. And sometimes at work we would be discussing what needs to be done to complete a task, but our suggestions are dismissed, not because they are wrong, but because we are women, and a man has spoken. We really need to stop and overcome this. How can we do that?”

We discussed that we need to support comrades in their personal space and encourage them to struggle with their partners to join communism and to overcome the ideology of capitalism which perpetuates sexism and racism. Other comrades in the collective also need to build ties with the partners and help with this struggle.

During discussions at work and in meetings, all comrades should speak up to support women who are trying to make themselves heard. As for

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INDIA: WORKERS USE COMMUNIST PHILOSOPHY IN THE FIGHT TO END CAPITALISM

INDIA, January 20— “I used to think that my life was horrible, it was never going to change. I hated the system, but I saw no way out,” said Neelam. “But it made me very angry. When I saw *Red Flag*, I read that people just like me were trying to destroy the system and build a communist society without the capitalists. I saw hope. Rather than feeling a victim, I saw there are tens of millions of workers like me. If we are united, change will come fast.”

Neelam and dozens of other comrades from Bengaluru, Delhi, and Chennai met virtually to read and discuss *Red Flag*. Comrades made a special effort to bring new comrades. They had followed the recent international party conference in El Salvador and wanted to continue the struggle.

“If we understand laws of dialectical materialism, we will be able to counter capitalist rulers’ ideology that their system of wage slavery is going to last forever,” Neelam continued. “Everything in nature and society changes because of internal contradictions. Today, we are going to

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discuss how this helps in our struggle for a communist society.”

Neelam recently joined ICWP in a Bengaluru garment factory where she received *Red Flag* from another worker. Like many others, she faces many obstacles to attending a communist meeting. She rises at 4:00 am to get ready for work. It takes her about 90 minutes to go to the factory where she works a 12-hour shift. She arrives home exhausted, and immediately her other (unpaid) job starts: cleaning, cooking, and child-care.

With all this, Neelam made the time to come to a communist meeting. She saw the need to change the world. Now attending communist meetings is the most exciting thing in her life, not a sacrifice. Her introduction encouraged other comrades to participate in our dialectical materialism meeting.

Analyzing Internal Contradictions

Amit is an unemployed worker in Delhi. He joined the party during the tumultuous struggles against massacres of Muslim workers. He experienced firsthand the struggle for oxygen during the Covid times. He was involved in the Shaheen Bagh movement and the farmers' agitation.

“We all know that when sowing seeds, we must bury them deep in the soil,” Amit said. “With some water, the seed transforms into a shoot that becomes a tree. If you take a stone and bury it underground for millions of years, it will remain a stone. The seed and the stone have the same external conditions, but their internal contradictions are different.”

Another Delhi comrade said, “The profit system that we live in creates an internal contradiction. It puts the working class in direct conflict with our capitalist rulers. They use casteism and religion to divide us. They think that by intense fascism they can continue to win some workers and keep their profits flowing. We saw in Shaheen Bagh, in Hathras, that whenever they suppress workers based on religion and caste, it gives us opportunities to win workers to communism.”

Another worker said, “I did not know what dialectical materialism was. I thought

that philosophy was for some smart people. But today I saw that not only can we understand the laws of dialectics, but we can build for the communist revolution. We, the workers create everything. Why can't we create a communist society without money? Capitalists want us to think like them. They want us to fight and die for money. We want to fight for a communist revolution that will create a society for the masses, not the capitalists.”

Red Flag Unites Comrades Worldwide

Ramesh has worked in the auto industry in Chennai for over twenty years. He said, “When I read about the struggle of our comrades hundreds of miles away in Delhi, fighting against fascist Modi and his attacks on Muslims, it inspires me. My comrades at work talk about it.

“Then I read in *Red Flag* about the conditions of super-exploited workers in South Africa, the garment workers in El Salvador, the MTA workers in Los Angeles, the Boeing workers, and the garment workers in Colombo and Bengaluru,” Ramesh continued. “I think we are more alike than different. We may speak different languages, and we may come from different countries, but what unites us all is that we face the same capitalists. In India, five super-rich capitalists control eighty percent of the wealth. It is the same in other countries.

“Today's meeting gives me ammunition to recruit more,” he concluded.

With this encouragement from comrades (women and men) joining the party, we are in a better position to mobilize our forces for communism on May Day and intensify our struggle to recruit the masses to ICWP. Communism is the future!



New Delhi, India, April 22, 2022

MOBILISING FOR COMMUNISM AMONG FACTORY WORKERS

GQEBERHA (South Africa), January 24— We recently visited the factory where comrade “Q” works. They make gas tanks for gas-exporting companies, including some that trade in gas from Russia. As result of the capitalist-imperialist proxy war in Ukraine, the company they work for is losing profits. It is attempting to increase them by retrenching and firing workers.

The comrade explained that almost all the workers she started with are gone. Most workers are anxious about their jobs. The capitalist bosses are increasing their workload by reducing their number. They are hoarding the surplus value they create. This is what capitalists always do. Our solution for the workers is to organise for communism to be built on capitalism's ruins.

We gave this message to the workers by distributing the *Red Flag* during their shift change. We distributed over 120 copies in an hour and talked to some workers who took the paper and were curious as to what it was about.

One woman worker is close to comrade Q inside the factory. She asked, “What is this paper about? Comrade Q, you know that I don't like to read newspapers”. The comrade explained that *Red Flag* contains the struggles of workers around the world united in trying to mobilise for

communism.

The worker said, “That sounds serious. Comrade Q should tell me more about the party in future since I am rushing to catch my transport home”. Comrade Q promised to do this.

Many workers promised to read the paper once they get home. Our comrade in the factory took an additional twenty papers to give to her colleagues on the transport she uses. Another three were for workers in her neighbourhood, who have received the *Red Flag* before.

Our collective plans to visit those three workers regularly. We plan to have meetings and discussions with them consistently. We can develop these into communist relations to advance the struggle against exploitation and fight for a communist world free of capitalist exploitation. Where the future of the working class should be free of production for the profit of the few bosses.

This is the communist future we are fighting and mobilising for. As we approach May Day, we will be visiting all the industrial areas around the city, distributing the *Red Flag*, and advancing the working class against capitalism.

Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth),
South Africa, 2017: Mobilising for a
communist May Day



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

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



CONSISTENT **RED FLAG** DISTRIBUTION TO LOS ANGELES TRANSIT WORKERS CREATES A POLITICAL BASE FOR ICWP

LOS ANGELES (USA), January 20— “I just want to tell you – although I don’t agree with everything you guys stand for – I really, really appreciate your being out here throughout the years,” said an older Black bus operator at Division 18.

Red Flag readership is growing again at this and other transit divisions after the pandemic temporarily shut down most outside distributions. At Division 18, about 40 workers take around 65 papers (including extras for friends) each issue. That’s about one-third of all those who enter or leave the parking lot during a two-hour period.

At Division 20, about 40% of the 60-70 train operators and mechanics take the paper in a 45-minute period. “You guys have a following here,” commented a security guard. “Some people always take your paper.”

Comrades have distributed *Red Flag* at Division 3 since 2011 (with a pandemic break). Some regular readers have retired or transferred, but about 40 workers now take some 50 papers. Over the years we have distributed the paper at nine other divisions; some have since closed or downsized.

Conversations with Division 15 Workers

Comrades distributed 84 papers outside Division 15 last week. We spoke with mechanics, drivers, and service attendants: women and men, Black, Latinx, Asian, and white.

“Give me two. One for my co-worker. She really loves it,” said a Black driver.

“Please tell her to get in touch with us,” replied a comrade.

“Yes. I will,” he answered.

An Eastern European worker who hadn’t seen *Red Flag* before said, “Thanks. I want to read this!”

“Give me one,” said a young Latina driver. “I got one at the other end, but I need one for a co-worker.”

A Latino driver donated \$5 while reaching out

for his paper.

“Give me four. I want them for my co-workers,” said another driver.

“Yes, I will take one,” said another Latino driver when offered a revolutionary communist newspaper. “And no, I am not new here. Been here eight years. I have seen you guys around.”

“Yes, about 13 years,” a comrade replied. “MTA workers know us more than they know their union president.”

“The union is useless” agreed the driver. “They are raising our dues because they want more money, despite their big salaries and perks. We need a strike, but they won’t organize one. Orange County MTA workers went on strike briefly and won their demands. We are lacking the leadership and the unity.”

“It is good to fight,” said the comrade. “But it is better to fight for the right thing. MTA workers have gone on strike before. They know that they can shut down LA public transportation and cause businesses to lose over \$100 million a day. But whatever gains they win are always taken away. Inflation eats up any wage increases.

“Maybe some are seriously considering our position that the only way to make permanent gains is to destroy the wage system with a communist revolution.”

The Struggle Between Capitalist and Communist Ideology

A Latino bus operator at Division 18 took two papers, as he has for several years. Then he said, “People are desensitized. People are very much into themselves and their problems or pursuing their dreams. They don’t care about other people or about what’s happening in the world.

“I have seen you guys come for years,”

he continued. “Most people won’t take your newspaper. Some don’t even acknowledge your presence. They don’t speak to you or even look at you.”

“I think there is some truth in what you say,” the comrade replied. “But not everyone is like that. We have some loyal readers like you. We need a lot more.

“The struggle is communist ideology versus capitalist ideology,” he continued. “Collectivism to organize to destroy this inhumane system that desensitizes some workers and wins them to the dog-eat-dog capitalist mentality. It is up to us, including you, to sensitize them again.”

The expression on the driver’s face showed that he was thinking seriously about this as he drove away because cars were lining up behind his.

Fight Cynicism by Building Communist Collectives

Cynicism is an important part of capitalist ideology. We absorb it from music, movies and TV, mass media and social media. The bosses tell us “don’t trust other workers,” especially workers of a different gender, “race” or ethnicity.

ICWP chose to build a concentration in MTA partly due to its diverse work force. Our readers include workers of every description.

Comrades have done this work for years, inside as well as outside the Divisions, and workers are responding. The urgent task now is to consolidate this emerging political base by building and expanding communist collectives.



FIGHTING FOR COMMUNISM IS FIGHTING FOR LIFE



“Life is worth more than gold” reads a mural made by the residents of the Cabañas department of El Salvador, reflecting the historical resistance against mining.

The thirst for profit of the capitalists, and the desire to win elections on the part of the Bukele government, combine to increase the danger for the residents of the Santa Marta community once again. The International Communist Workers’ Party does not want a transition of power from one capitalist to another. We fight to eliminate everything that capitalism has created.

This historic community is composed of ex-combatants and people who returned from refuges in Honduras in the 1980s and 1990s, when the guerrillas and the government signed agreements to end the civil war. It’s a community with organizing and fighting experience.

They currently face the capture of six community leaders, members of the Association for Economic and Social Development (ADES) who are accused of an alleged crime during the armed conflict.

Their capture coincides with the reopening of exploitative mining there. The government has integrated El Salvador into the group of countries that carry out this exploitation. It is allowing the Australian company Ocean Gold (formerly Pacific Rim) to continue operations that contaminate the water and sicken area inhabitants.

“I think it is an affront to the opposition, leaving key people in these struggles imprisoned and avoiding any movement that tarnishes these businesses and Bukele’s re-election as president. This is the beginning of things to come,” said a worker.

Organized women and ADES were key in the fight against metal mining several years ago. They carried out a large mobilization at the national level, achieving a reform of the mining law to prohibit metal mining in El Salvador.

Clearly, a law is no guarantee to end this environmental crime. Fighting for communism, where the priority is workers’ lives, can change the course of history.

A reform doesn’t end the dangers that capitalism poses to the inhabitants everywhere there are gold, silver, and other metals. The capitalist system exploits regardless of the damage that it will cause to the workers and to the general communities. To capitalists, gold is worth more than life.

Workers know that capitalism will not stop exploiting these mines, which sicken and kill by contaminating their water. They need to fight for communism, a system that uses resources to improve workers’ lives, not to line the pockets of some exploiter.

There is no safety under capitalism. The fight is to the death. Only the communist system will end everything that means environmental deterioration that directly affects workers’ lives.

Under the communist system there will be no business of any kind. Nothing will be bought or sold. Any metal necessary for the advancement of science will be mined in a way that does not endanger anyone’s life.

—Comrades in El Salvador

ANGRY PERUVIAN MASSES NEED TO FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

January 24— “We have criminal ministers, murderous presidents, and we live like animals in the midst of so much abundance that they steal every day,” said a farmer organizer from the Cusco area of Peru.

On December 7, the liberal former president Pedro Castillo, the Agrarian and Rural Front, and the National Assembly of the People organized a march that they called “Take Over Lima.” They demanded the closure of congress and support for the president’s call for a new constitution.

The most right-wing opposition, which controls the Constitutional Court, declared the president’s demand null and void. The armed forces supported the court, removing and arresting him. Vice President Dina Boluarte was appointed the new president.

It is a furious struggle between bosses for state power. That means control of natural resources and of the working masses for some bosses’ benefit. In the last six years, five presidents have passed through power.

The massive workers’ demonstrations are struggling to defend themselves from the constant aggression of the exploiting class in power. It is a fight against the racism and exploitation that the government and big business promote every day to keep millions of farmworkers, miners, and urban workers in misery.

Thousands of farmworkers, including many indigenous people, recently arrived in Lima to protest government repression, including the murder of over sixty protesters. Thousands of workers and students joined massive and violent protests against the police and the government.

Indigenous communities in Peru have a long history of leading struggles on the streets and in

the mines. These working masses inspire other workers to fight against the oppressing class. They have closed airports, blocked main roads, burned down police posts, and violently confronted the police in the streets.

The working masses are fed up with the racism and misery to which the bosses have subjected them for centuries. But for a real change, they need the communist ideas of the International Communist Workers’ Party. No more boss politicians who promise to improve capitalism! We need a communist society based on meeting the needs of the working class, not the pockets of the bosses.

US and Chinese Imperialists Are In This Bosses’ Fight

Behind every government in the world there is an imperialist with the military and economic power to impose a president and government that works for their benefit. Although Castillo appeared to represent the poor, farmworkers and indigenous people, the power structure is already organized to benefit the bosses.

Of the 500 largest companies in Peru, two dozen are dedicated to extracting oil and gas. Approximately 48 are dedicated to mining. Here, as elsewhere in the world, there are energy resources that both competitors can extract to power their factories and weapons. There are close to 200 Chinese capitalist enterprises in Peru, including mining companies such as Shougang, Chinalco and Las Bambas. Peru is China’s largest supplier of copper.

On June 10, 2022, then-President Pedro Castillo participated in the IX Summit of the Americas, in Los Angeles, USA. Another Peruvian representative said that more U.S. compa-



Peru, January 2023

nies were willing to work there. The US ambassador to Peru, Lisa Kenna, has been a CIA agent and worked for the Pentagon. Kenna met with the Peruvian defense minister one day before Castillo’s coup and arrest.

Workers have nothing to gain from this fight between local bosses and imperialists. But their massive demonstrations have the potential to make them the gravediggers of all exploiters and builders of a new communist world.

Only in communism will the masses have control of our lives and produce what we need, since there will be no wage slavery, nor the money that gives banks and businessmen the power to destroy the lives of millions of workers.

We must look for ways to bring our communist ideas to the Peruvian masses. Any comrade or friend can help contact people and send them *Red Flag* or put them in contact with us.

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pay differences between men and women, our communist fight is to end the wage system altogether.

Communism Will End Capitalism’s Racism and Xenophobia

A new comrade, M, picked up on the remarks from comrades in India on how the fascist bosses there use racism and xenophobia to exploit and divide the workers. In India it’s anti-Muslim racism and the caste system.

“At work we too face racism, as Black workers are often paid less than the white workers,” M said, “and as a result, we don’t like one another. White people sit alone, and Black people sit alone during break, and this will never end”.

Another comrade answered, “The bosses are counting on this divide-and-conquer technique which results in the working-class cynicism that things will never change. However, things change, and we have to work together and dismantle capitalism. As long as this system exists, these issues will not change. That’s why we are organising to dismantle capitalism and usher in a new society that will be based on meeting our

needs, not profit. Profit necessitates the racism the bosses use to further exploit us and make sure that we focus on one another as enemies and ignore the bosses as the real enemies”.

We agreed that we can win, and we will win, if we focus on recruiting and uniting the workers regardless of “race”, gender, or religion. We have one common enemy (the bosses), and we are more alike than we are different.

We then agreed to struggle with those close to us— family, friends, and co-workers— especially as we head toward May Day. We agreed to meet every two weeks to do *Red Flag* reading in between mobilising and recruiting for communism. We plan to distribute the *Red Flag* in the coming weeks to all the industrial areas in Port Elizabeth. We will focus on keeping contact and building and sustaining communist relations with the work-

ers that are interested in joining the Party.

Comrade Q took fifty copies of *Red Flag* to distribute to her co-workers. This encouraged everyone to similar struggles at their workplaces and neighbourhoods. *Aluta continua!*

Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), South Africa, 2019 Mobilising for communism



Fighting Sexism: Communist Criticism and Self-Criticism

I have been reading *Red Flag* consistently for about six months, and I have also come to a number of collective meetings. I am interested in the politics, although not yet ready to become a member.

Recently, comrade L, who introduced me to the Party (we used to work together) sent me the draft of the article from South Africa and asked me if we could have a discussion about sexism.

We talked about sexism on our way home

from a collective meeting. The comrade called me the next day to talk some more about it and during that conversation, I mentioned a concern about the meeting.

I told L that I was concerned that the men were doing most of the talking. Also, as the newest person, I was unclear about some of the things that were being discussed. I had only a little background in some of it.

L explained to me that the (male) comrade who joined us on Zoom hadn’t been to a meeting in a long, long time. Others were very excited to hear from him. However, she said that

my critique of the sexism of the meeting was accurate and that one way we could fight this was by the women taking more leadership, including setting the agenda for the next meeting.

L told the collective leader what we had decided, and he agreed this was a good idea. This means I will need to take more leadership and will become closer to the Party.

I am glad that people were open to discussing the sexism, and it makes me feel hopeful about the work ahead.

—Friend in Seattle (USA)

Damar Hamlin and the NFL Bosses:

CAPITALISM'S PROFIT-HUNGRY RACISM DESTROYS WORKERS' LIVES

RICHMOND, CA (USA), January 22—On January 2, while millions watched on television, National Football League (NFL) player Damar Hamlin (age 24) collapsed and went into cardiac arrest after making a routine tackle. He received CPR for nine minutes on the field before being rushed to the hospital.

After Hamlin was taken away, players were given five minutes to warm up and resume play. They refused. An hour later, NFL Commissioner Goodell announced that the game would be postponed. Some sports writers have called for Goodell's firing. This won't stop capitalism's crimes against NFL workers.

The NFL is a racist, anti-working class, patriotic, and militaristic political tool of capitalism and among the world's richest sporting leagues. Its thirty-two teams are owned by white male and female billionaires and millionaires and one Pakistani billionaire.

NFL football is a gladiator sport dependent on Black players' bodies and minds. Seventy percent of the players are Black. Almost all players are from working-class or poor families.

The average NFL career is 3 1/2 years. If you are an NFL player for 3 1/2 years, right now you'll make considerable money; but at what cost now and in your future?

NFL players have ten times more chronic encephalopathy (CTE) than the general population. This degenerative brain disease is caused by repeated hits to the head. The longer one plays football, the more head and brain injuries one suffers. Autopsies have found CTE in more than 300 former NFL players.

NFL players, compared to the general population, also have three times the rate of arthritis before age forty, are three times more likely to die

from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and are ten times more likely to be diagnosed with early dementia.

Once the dangers of CTE were exposed, the NFL (and youth teams) were forced to institute a few new rules about player safety. This has done very little to make the game safer.

NFL games are capitalist worksites. As elsewhere, workers (players) are injured and sometimes die where they work (play). An ambulance may be called, but the work must go on.

A few meaningless safety rules did not prevent 4,764 fatal work injuries in the US in 2020 alone. Just like other bosses don't care about workers, NFL team owners don't care about players. The bottom line is getting the job done; profits must be made. NFL's media partners collectively pay around \$12 billion a season to show games because they bring in huge audiences and ad revenues.

"This advertising money was the only reason the cameras were still rolling," admitted a New York Times columnist. "We were watching a young man's near-death be commodified in real time."

Communists — like most people — look to sports to celebrate the powers of the body, not to systematically destroy them. Capitalism, however, sees sports as an entertainment business—a way to profit from working-class athletes while distracting the masses from the problems of capitalism.

Communism and Sports

Communism will unleash the creativity of the masses to organize athletics which promote physical, mental, and social health for all. Sports and exercise will be part of community life. They will emphasize collectivity, not competition. They

It's Not Just the NFL

Youth worldwide, especially Black and working-class youth, are left with broken bodies from pursuing the almost impossible dreams of becoming rich and famous professional athletes. In the US it's football, basketball, and baseball. Elsewhere it's soccer and cricket. Everywhere the capitalists are making money from these sports, while the players suffer.

The greatest damage that capitalist sports inflict on the working class is diverting the anger of millions away from the oppressive racist conditions imposed by capitalism. Instead of rebelling and seeking a revolutionary communist alternative, they spend their energy and creativity pursuing the illusion of a professional sports career.

Team sports can help young people learn cooperation and collectivity, but they often promote competitiveness and individualism.

Athletes and spectators take the "us against them" mentality that competition creates to the workplace and the barracks. It becomes an obstacle to organizing on a class-conscious basis for communist revolution.

—Not a Fan of Pro Sports

will be for fun, to keep in shape, help build comradeship, and to prepare people to fight when needed.

Communists today can encourage each other to participate in exercise that emphasizes collectivity and allows everyone to participate according to their ability. We can also deepen our discussions among friends and family members who participate in organized sports and who watch athletic competition at all levels. Let's write up these discussions for *Red Flag*.

THREE POLICE MURDERS IN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS SHOW NEED TO END RACIST CAPITALISM

LOS ANGELES (USA), January 3— "They're trying to George Floyd me!" yelled Keenan Anderson as Los Angeles police officers cold-bloodedly tased him to death.

Keenan was a 31-year-old Black high school English teacher in Washington, DC, and father of a six-year-old son. He was visiting family in Los Angeles.

The cops stopped him in the Venice neighborhood after a traffic accident. They held him down and electrocuted him five times in 42 seconds, sending 50,000 watts of electricity through his body each time—once for 30 seconds without stopping. Four and a half hours later, Keenan died of a heart attack.

Keenan Anderson was a much-loved and well-respected teacher and mentor to his students. His cousin, Patrise Cullors, was a co-founder of Black Lives Matter. There have been several demonstrations and press conferences, some in the pouring rain, against this racist murder.

In the same 48-hour period, the LAPD also killed Takar Smith and Oscar Sanchez. Shamika, Takar's wife, called for help because he (a father of six) was in a mental health crisis. The police tased him and then shot and killed him.

Oscar Sanchez was also in a mental health crisis when police found him in an abandoned building where they shot and killed him. The US racist cops kill an average of three people every day!

Cullors and others call for having other agencies and not the police respond to traffic accidents and mental health crises. But these racist murders call for communist revolution to get rid of the

wage system and the capitalists' oppressive rule and exploitation of the masses..

As capitalist crisis and war intensify, so do racism and police terror. The police exist to enforce capitalists' domination over the masses of workers and guarantee the bosses' profits. They try to make sure the masses don't rebel and especially that we don't organize for communist revolution.

We need to mobilize for communism. We need to get *Red Flag* into the hands of more families

so that workers fight racist police terror with a vision of a communist world.

At work sites, schools, barracks, and demonstrations, we should call for meetings and work stoppages against racist capitalism and for communism. We must organize ICWP collectives to lead this struggle.

Communism won't have police or police terror. The masses, through ICWP, will guarantee the well-being and safety of all.



Los Angeles (USA), January 2023: Keenan Anderson's sister and cousin lead press conference denouncing his execution by LA police

US Bosses Sacrifice Colleges on the Altar of Profits

COMMUNIST EDUCATION STARTS NOW IN REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE

CALIFORNIA (USA), January 20—Even before Covid disrupted community colleges here, California’s capitalist rulers were planning even more profound disruptions.

Now, systematic cuts are slamming the door on working-class students who left high school lacking critical skills. A new funding formula will soon drive many colleges into even deeper cuts. Already, many part-time instructors are losing their jobs. Full-timers will likely follow.

California is run by Democrats. This is not Texas or Florida, where the attacks on education are openly racist and often support organized religion. But the Democratic Party is just as money-oriented as the Republicans. Its new policies are just as racist.

“We have to look at the big picture,” a comrade teacher explained in a meeting of co-workers. “The global capitalist economy is in crisis. That’s why the California legislature – advised by its corporate partners—is cutting spending on community colleges.”

Schools in Capitalism Serve Capitalist Interests

US community colleges mushroomed in the 1960s. Baby-boomers entered the workforce just as automation was transforming it. No longer could white men drop out of high school into unionized jobs that could support their families. National liberation movements from Algeria to Vietnam shook imperialists and inspired masses. The US civil rights movement exploded into urban rebellions.

Community colleges served US capitalism by drawing unemployed youth from urban streets into classrooms where some learned skills for new technical jobs. These colleges fostered the myth of the “American Dream” that anyone could “make it” if they worked hard enough. They offered a cheaper way for the state to expand college enrollments.

Times have changed. Now, amidst the general capitalist crisis, California’s young-adult population is declining. The capitalists need to push young adults into the workforce faster so that labor surpluses will drive down wages.

To speed up the assembly-line, California politicians promote “dual-enrollment.” Students take college classes in their high schools for both

high school and college credit. State officials ask why students should have to take a college course that they’ve “already had” in high school. They are really asking why the state should pay for it. Everyone knows that returning to a subject lets us learn and understand more about it.

High school and college precalculus don’t have the same curriculum. College US History classes critically examine primary documents because most students learned the basic outline of events in high school. The capitalists are glad to avoid the risk that young adults will hear radical anti-critiques in college that are blocked from high school classes. For them, colleges exist to credential people with degrees and certificates, not to educate them.

In Capitalism, Bosses Decide – In Communism, Workers Decide

“Whoever controls the data, controls the story,” said a statistics instructor. “There are big problems with their data. When we suggest better data and measures, they shut us down.”

California capitalists and their paid politicians control more than data. They control the state: cops and jails, courts and legislature, public schools and more.

College faculty are discovering this. Through unions and professional organizations, they meet with politicians and bureaucrats. They believe that their better data, their classroom experience, and their reasoned arguments will sway them. The big shots brush them off.

Some see organizing students as key to “getting them to listen.” But teachers and students need to organize for revolution to destroy the capitalist state and fight for communist power. It’s impossible to make capitalist politicians work for us.

“If you think that the people who do the work can and should

make the decisions,” a comrade college teacher said in a different meeting, “that is a really radical position.”

The Big Picture: Mobilizing for a Communist World

The International Communist Workers’ Party invites all who do communist work today to participate in our decision-making. That’s how communist society will function.

Communist education starts now. In conferences and meetings. Reading, discussing, and writing for *Red Flag*. Reflecting on our practice and learning to use communist theory to analyze and improve it.

When we’re involved in a struggle – like fights against racist cutbacks – it’s easy to lose sight of the larger picture. Then we get discouraged or bogged down in reformism.

Communist analysis helps us connect our particular situations with the general world situation. That enables us to unite particular groups (like community college teachers and students, or factory workers) in the general revolutionary struggle.

That’s one of the main ways that communists participate in working-class struggles, big and small: building communist relationships that make communist ideas real to our friends and encourage them to join ICWP.



San Francisco Community College (California, USA) students protest pay hikes for administrators amidst class cutbacks, 2019

Ukrainian Refugee in England: More the Same Than Different

A friend from Ukraine moved to Cambridge, England due to continuing problems of war. She received refugee status along with her two children and grandparents.

In November she was in Kyiv. The Russian military had just started attacking the power infrastructure. The winter was setting in. No heat, no job, just uncertainty... she decided to seek refuge in England.

After settling into a working-class neighborhood, she realized that the tiny apartment would cost £400 a month in electricity. As a refugee, she can’t work. The cost of daycare for her children was staggering. Because of that, and language barriers, and since her stay was temporary, she decided to keep her children home.

During her first month in the apartment, she got an intimidating letter demanding immediate payment of license fees for using a TV. It threatened that she would end up in court. She thought it was a scam, but it was an authenticated letter from the government. British taxpayers must pay a yearly license fee for each device to subsidize the BBC.

She was astonished, because the same BBC program in the Ukrainian language is available for free in Kyiv, and all around the world in various languages. While living in Kyiv, she regarded BBC as an objective source of news. But coming to England, she has found that it is a very carefully created propaganda, all paid for by British taxpayers.

She finds herself in Cambridge with hungry children, no food, no job, and an uncertain future— not unlike Kyiv. She sees hungry, unemployed people in the streets and there is a surge in strike activity everywhere. That reminds her of the situation in Ukraine before the war: strikes, hunger, and unemployment.

Back in Kyiv, Zelenskyy’s propaganda is just like BBC. They are spreading lies about the war. They are telling the masses that Ukraine is going to win with the help of NATO and the US. People are told that after the war, Ukraine will rebuild everything like Germany after World War II. That people must endure war and suffering, but these are temporary.

Our friend reported that every soldier who is recruited in Ukraine must pay for everything related to war. People are funding soldiers to pay

for uniforms, food, boots, and small weapons. She also said that thousands of wounded soldiers are coming home with severe trauma. Many people have told her that tuberculosis is rampant in the Ukrainian army.

Braving bitter cold winter, demobilized soldiers are attempting to carry out demonstrations. They are quickly suppressed by police, but more and more soldiers are demonstrating.

Her story reminds us that, no matter where workers are, we will all face the brutality of wars, sooner or later. The communist revolution looks distant and at present impossible. But the capitalists are providing opportunities for us to see that we are more alike.

And we are many. We have a communist world to win.

—Comrade with Connections

Read our pamphlet:

**Fight For the Day When
No Worker Will be Called
Foreigner**

Available at: icwpredflag.org/ffde.pdf

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

A door opens so we can continue weaving and transforming across any borders:**THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATING IN THE ICWP INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST CONFERENCE**

This was a very valuable experience. What we have woven collectively will contribute to our lives and struggles in Costa Rica.

We are united by living in capitalist, neoliberal, authoritarian states. We also have the conviction that there can be something better for our daughters, our sons, families, and the international working class.

It strengthens us to meet and share with people from other countries, in addition to El Salvador. And to have a broader and more comprehensive vision connecting our problems, dreams, practices, and path traveled.

We became even more convinced of the need to recognize what we have in common, with deep respect for divergences.

Some strengths: We are grateful to know that we are not alone, that there are many more people with the same ideal. Also, that there can be no sensible theory if it does not start from our daily lives. Our life stories are vital for analyzing and understanding reality and the path to follow.

Together with comrades from India, El Salvador, the United States, Mexico, and Africa, we approach elements of the context and of our actions. We strengthen our capacities to continue articulating our struggles.

Some lessons: Learning with maquila workers in El Salvador, victims of human rights abuses by the Salvadoran state.

Sharing with valuable farmworkers, who gave their youthful years to the struggle for popular liberation and today continue to contribute to the profound and radical transformation of society.

Experiencing that, although borders have historically been

invented to divide us, as workers we are united by too many dreams that strengthen our struggles and transgress them.

Problematizing the disastrous and inhuman impact of the capitalist, patriarchal, colonialist system that prevailed in our working class and the different ways in which it is expressed in the organizational field, in our subjectivities (emotions) and in our lives.

Identifying obstacles and fears, objective and subjective factors produced by the ideological machinery. Where the rogue media feeds the collective subconscious, delegitimizing popular action, while legal mechanisms and “national and military security” are perfected to repress, restrict and stop the popular, student, union, feminist, indigenous, anti-colonialist, and other movements

Growing individually and collectively from the teachings and learning that we exchange with a correct methodology, where the word of each and every one is equally important and necessary.

Deconstructing and relearning from a dialectical approach to history where we recognize ourselves from the specificities of our spaces and

biographies. This opens possibilities to get to know each other better, unlearn and learn reciprocally. The dialectical materialist theme of contradictions was highly significant.

Understanding the importance of having an internationalist newspaper as a strategic tool for information, political training, and popular organization.

Key points that unite us amid differentiated contexts: Assuming the strategic task of dismantling patriarchal schemes and relationships and discrimination in all areas of our lives.

Taking great steps as a working class implies seeing our struggles from an internationalist perspective.

Considering as key actors the farmworkers and the labor sector, along with public and private employees.

We are grateful for having been invited to this event where affection, knowledge, and experience come together as a crucial engine for the profound transformation of our lives and society. Thus, sharing everything learned in different spaces of our actions.

—Movement of Workers and Farmworkers (MTC), Costa Rica

**Base Growing for Communist Revolution**

EL SALVADOR, January 15— “Let’s all raise the *Red Flag* newspaper high!” said a worker who attended the International Communist Workers’ Party international conference in December. This began her participation in a factory collective meeting.

“It has been my first experience. When I heard the reports given by workers from various countries and learned that the working class lives in situations of exploitation and misery throughout the world, it motivates me to organize myself in this effort,” she concluded.

We started this meeting by distributing our *Red Flag* newspaper, which was received with great enthusiasm. Time for our meetings is short, but we make the most of the advances in party recruitment. These have been focused on sharing experiences from the conference.

We have also discussed that, under this system’s regime, the bosses will continue to exploit the working class. They will continue to exploit our labor to enrich the bourgeoisie. But the struggle that we are carrying out, organized in the ICWP, represents the hope of change. We are taking a giant step for the working class throughout the world.

There is a base within which the communist revolution is brewing, and this needs the incorporation into the party of more women and men

workers willing to fight. Nothing is eternal, everything changes, and for that it is necessary to organize in the International Communist Workers’ Party.

In the conference workshops, the farmworker comrades shared clear examples of their incorporation into the armed struggle with the FMLN as a clear sign that nothing can be achieved peacefully. For this reason a call was made to our class not to give up until reason triumphs. For this they continue to fight as part of ICWP for the communist system.

A cordial greeting to all the comrades of our ICWP and Red Flag party!

First, I want to share my joy in belonging to the Party. I am proud to be part of the fight for communism.

I would like to share my experience from when I dedicated myself to be part of the party. At the beginning it was a bit difficult since some people are not used to talking about communism. Capitalism has instilled in us since childhood that it is a wonderful system that is the only one that can work today. But we know that this system only favors a small group of people and that most of us are workers who are exploited by the capitalist system. That is why I made the decision to join the party to make the fight to change the system.

When I started, there was a bit of fear. At first, they shared the *Red Flag* newspaper with us secretly. Little by little we grew as a group within the factory and with more confidence we formed a group. We met to share the newspaper and talk about everything we encountered daily. We realized how the same injustices happen to the working class all over the world.

Little by little more comrades have been incorporated and confidence is growing. I share with you my experience that as a party member I incorporated my son into the Party. He is a newer member, and together we attended our first conference at the end of December.

It was a very nice experience in which we shared topics of great interest to us as members of the Party. Issues that will help us to integrate more people into our party and thus be able to fight together for communism. These gatherings are important because they help us to know the work that goes on in other countries. They also fight against the system. We learn from them.

It’s important to read our newspaper, to know about the world struggle and to be able to recruit more people to join the fight for communism because only communism will save the working class. This is my experience.

Long live communism!

Long live *Red Flag*!

—Factory worker in El Salvador

PHILIPPINE BATTLES: HOW COMMUNIST SOLDIERS CAN DESTROY THE IMPERIALISTS' ARMED MIGHT

The US-Philippine war (1899-1902) erased any questions about US imperialist ambitions. President McKinley promised independence, but double-crossed Filipinos who had sided with the US to defeat the Spanish imperialists. His administration was determined to dominate the islands at any cost.

This bloody war, which heralded the age of US imperialism, cost the lives of 250,000 Filipinos, and the decade-long fight against Spain another 600,000. "It amounted to genocide," said a US marine veteran who organized among US troops during the Vietnam War.

"The conflict between these two world powers, and social upheaval in Europe, set the stage for war over colonies globally. Whenever this happens, the opportunity presents itself for communists who have prepared carefully through their work in the military to organize workers to take control.

"It could easily happen now, paving the way for communist revolution," he concluded.

Internal Vulnerability of Imperialist Armies

The US army brought more than advanced weapons and 125,000 troops to the Philippines. It also brought virulent racism.

While war raged in the Philippines, racist murder spiked in the US. On April 22, 1899, a white mob tortured and lynched Sam Hose, a Black worker, in Georgia.

The seven thousand Black soldiers who fought in the US-Filipino war knew about Sam Hose. The racist propaganda directed at Filipinos to justify US imperialism was like the racist lies used to justify torture and lynching of Black people in the US.

Black soldier David Fagen had enough. He deserted and joined the Filipino army of liberation, leading guerrilla attacks on US imperialists. He had many sympathizers among Black soldiers stationed in the Philippines. His actions were hotly debated throughout the US, particularly in the socialist and Black presses. Many white soldiers and workers were also disgusted by the US government's racist war.

Even before the Bolshevik revolution in Russia sparked the massive growth of communist parties worldwide, the racism that accompanied imperialism was the most vulnerable point of capitalist/imperialist armies.

Communists Lead Multi-Racial Fights against US Imperialists' Plans

After World War II, the US army leadership—blessed by the Roosevelt/Truman administrations—prepared to attack their Filipino allies again. The US aimed to crush the Filipino communist-led Hukbalahap army (Huks) that had fought Japanese imperialism. (See box) But this time they couldn't mobilize the troops to do it.

Over 20,000 U.S. soldiers marched in Manila, demanding to return home. Another 20,000 demonstrated in Honolulu. Three thousand joined them in Korea, and 5,000 in Kolkata. In Guam, 3,500 Air Force troops staged a hunger strike.

The US armed forces were still segregated. All 250 members of the all-Black 823rd Engineer Aviation Battalion wrote to tell President

Truman they were "disgusted with American foreign policy" and did not want to "take the field in league with rulers who were against the freedom revolts of oppressed peoples."

Erwin Marquit, a white communist sailor, recounted proudly in his memoir how "The Communists and those allied with them helped guide the GI outburst into a powerful, well-organized movement." Its goal was to resist "the overtly imperialist ambitions latent in the new US role in the postwar world."

Toby Schwartz, another communist, remembered two demonstrations in Manila. During the first, he was elected to a small delegation that presented the soldiers' demands. It told the general staff that the US troops would not fight against their Filipino allies. The general staff threatened to charge the whole delegation with mutiny.

The soldiers answered with another demonstration. This time they brought their tanks. The general staff dropped the threats and abandoned plans to crush the Huks.

Turn the Guns Around

The ICWP rejects reform campaigns to "bring the troops home." We aim to build a communist base in all capitalist armies. History has taught us that there can be no communist revolution without winning the soldiers.

Imperialist armies portray themselves as all-powerful. Filipino activists and veterans of the US Army and Marines, members or friends of ICWP, discussed whether this is true. We had all previously accepted the propaganda that weapons and money determine who will win militarily. Afterward, we changed our minds. Internal contradictions in the armed forces—such as racism vs. anti-racism—are what primarily determine who wins wars.

Capitalist/imperialist armies are not invincible monoliths. The communist class fight against racism, sexism, nationalism, and casteism opens the door to our goal of turning the guns around. The ICWP has and will continue to organize in the bosses' armed forces. This time we will settle for nothing less than global communism.

Read our pamphlet:
**Soldiers, Sailors, Marines:
Crucial for a Communist
Workers' Revolution**

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf

The Philippine Huk Insurgency and the Failed "United Front" Strategy

The Hukbalahap was organized in the Philippines in 1942 to fight Japanese imperialism. This guerrilla army had strongholds in Luzon, based on earlier peasant movements. They fought, sometimes with and sometimes against, anti-Japanese guerrilla units organized by the US Army and the Philippine colonial armed forces.

This was the international communist movement's general strategy: the United Front Against Fascism. Communists in Japanese-occupied colonies including Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia as well as in China formed united-front resistance armies. They halted the class struggle in the countryside during the fight against Japanese occupation. Communists allied with the supposedly "progressive national bourgeoisie" and "lesser-evil" imperialists. After the war, they said, the guerrilla armies would lead revolutions to fight for power.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (PKP) followed this strategy. After the war, however, PKP leaders continued their united front, participating in national elections, while Huk peasant units continued the class war against the landlords.

Mass resistance among US troops temporarily prevented the US government from smashing the Huks. But the US government coordinated counterinsurgency with the Philippine colonial government and, after 1946, with the US-backed Philippine government.

By 1949, the PKP had abandoned elections and was engaged in armed insurgency. Within a year, fifteen thousand armed Huks were fighting a civil war.

US President Truman ordered all-out military and financial aid to the Philippine Army's anti-insurgency campaign in 1950. By the end of 1954, the Huks' armed struggle was effectively over.

Winning a national liberation struggle does not mean a victory for the masses. Communists in Vietnam, for example, put off fighting for communism to fight the Japanese, the French, and finally the US. By then, they were no longer committed to fighting for communism. Vietnam is now a capitalist paradise where masses of workers produce clothes and other commodities for the global market.

Even when national liberation movements "win" a battle, they lose the war for the liberation of the working class.

US Army Sgt. George Black addresses US troops in front of the US Embassy in Paris, France, January 1946, amidst massive global protests against counterinsurgency operations in the Philippines

