

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY  WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG



FIGHT! WIN! POWER TO THE WORKERS! LONG LIVE COMMUNISM!

SAN SALVADOR, May 1st— “Workers’ struggles have no borders! Let’s fight for a world without racism!” Workers shouted these and other slogans with the strength imparted by the struggle for a communist world, in the march for May Day, international workers’ day.

Red flags waved through the streets of the Salvadoran capital as a sign of the power of the working class organized in the International Communist Workers’ Party. One thousand *Red Flag* newspapers reached the eager hands of the working class.

Comrades from east to west marched for communism. Workers from several factories made the decision with determination to participate in this working-class activity, along with farmworkers, students, teachers, and healthcare workers.

“The purpose of my participation is to unify efforts with the other workers to learn about how to open the way for the liberation of the working class and stop the abuses by the system here and throughout the whole world,” said a worker who has recently been reading *Red Flag*.

The workers who participated with their families are showing their children the way forward to fight for a world without classes, racism, sexism, or wage slavery.

“Communist revolution will free the working class from wage slavery!” read the main banner. This is a necessity for the exploited class; we will fight until we achieve it. The working class must take matters into our own hands. By abolishing money we will put an end to the material basis for class division, exploitation, and the

labor market.

We overcame the obstacles imposed by the government’s repressive regime, which placed checkpoints on the highways to prevent massive anti-government protests. Comrades travelling from one area were taken off the bus and questioned about the reason for their trip. The young people who are usually chosen for such interrogation knew what to answer! The group continued to the march.

These were tense moments, but we overcame them with security measures agreed in the collectives beforehand. Others traveled a day earlier to guarantee their participation.

Red Flag was quickly distributed to workers who were forced by capitalist slavery to work that day but came out to see the marchers, to motorists who lowered their windows for it, and among the march participants. The comrades who distributed the paper were surrounded by people trying to get it who asked for more copies.

“Communism Is Coming and No One Can Stop It”

This activity is very important. We are building the basis of communist relations with the workers, marching and meeting with workers from other parts of the country. We are coordinating a meeting of an emerging new collective. Expanding the work with industrial workers is key to the communist revolution.

“I am marching with ICWP for the first time,” said a worker from the new collective. “It gives me great pleasure to see how comrades of all

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MAY DAY 2023 AND BEYOND: WINNING THE COMMUNIST WORLD WE NEED

Millions of us worldwide celebrated May Day – the international Labour Day – by protesting massively against the attacks on our working class by imperialists and other capitalists.

Amidst sharpening economic crisis and growing imperialist conflict, many marches were the largest in years. A comrade in Los Angeles (US) reports, “The masses were more political than in previous years and wide open to our communist ideas.”

Inflation sparked anger from Japan and South Korea to Lebanon, France, and Spain. “The price of everything has increased except for our wages. Increase our minimum wages!” shouted an activist in Seoul. But capitalists from the US to Japan intentionally use inflation to make the working class pay for their global economic crisis.

As Marx said in 1865, “Instead of the conservative motto, ‘A fair day’s wage for a fair day’s work!’ they ought to inscribe on their banner the revolutionary watchword, ‘Abolition of the wages system!’”

Comrades in South Africa explain, “We fight for communism to end exploitation, mass starvation, crime, violence, wars, disasters, and poverty that are ensured by the continued existence of capitalism.”

Immigrant workers and supporters from Beirut to Los Angeles marched against super-exploitation. In Indonesia, marchers demanded repeal of a job creation law that would benefit businesses at the expense of workers and the environment. In cities across France, hundreds of thousands marched against anti-worker “pension reform.” Many fought cops in Toulouse, Lyon, and Nantes.

Capitalist governments banned or restricted – but could not stop — May Day protests in Pakistan, Turkey, El Salvador, and elsewhere. The Russian rulers cancelled the traditional parade in Moscow.

But rulers elsewhere counted on trade union officials and opposition party politicians to di-

vert the masses’ anger into a reformist rut. Union officials in Spain threw *Red Flag* distributors out of one march, but not before many workers eagerly took copies.

ICWP comrades in India report that “among several dozen trade unions, we were the only party openly calling for communism as the only solution to capitalist elections, wage slavery, communalism, casteism, and attacks on women.”

Everywhere that ICWP comrades went, we found workers and youth in large numbers ready and eager to break the economic and ideological chains of capitalism. Ready and eager for serious discussion of why we mobilize for communism – and only communism.

As the May Day report from Seattle stresses, the potential exists everywhere for significant growth of one International Communist Workers’ Party in the coming year.

Our world is growing more dangerous by the day. War in Sudan and Ukraine, sharpening imperialist currency conflicts, mass shootings in the US, rising seas, violent racism and sexism... all are direct or indirect results of the global capitalist crisis.

The stakes are high. Our only hope is the growth of ICWP internationally into a party that can lead revolution and build a new communist society on the rubble of capitalist destruction.

That requires close relationships with co-workers, classmates, family, old friends and new. Relationships that build trust and allow for sharp political struggle over communist ideas and ways of living.

Relationships that flourish and grow as we immerse ourselves in mass struggles – as comrades in India are showing the way.



Relationships that continually enlarge the circles of *Red Flag* readers and activists. That spark the growth of existing communist collectives and establish new ones.

Communist relationships, especially, with industrial workers and soldiers who are key to communist armed revolution.

The network of communist relationships we build today will become the fabric of communist society.

Everyone who reads this has a part to play in winning the communist world we desperately need and richly deserve. Talk to a friend, or discuss in a collective, what more you can contribute!

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ages gather and to see how people receive the *Red Flag*. It motivates me to go forward and say, “Communism is coming, and no one can stop it!”

A comrade took the phone number of a worker who joined our group on the march and wants to stay in contact with ICWP.

We finished the march in the central plaza, joining all the workers who marched. Then we went to have our customary get-together and share a delicious snack with comrades. It was a good time to talk with two new workers and neighbors who had been invited by a comrade after meeting up in the march.

We explained that we are an international party that fights directly for Communism, a world without money. That we need to organize more industrial workers who are key to the rev-

olutionary process.

That we fight for a classless society, where production and all aspects of life will be collective. To massify these ideas we have the *Red Flag* newspaper. We invited them to read it and continue to meet with us.

They said that they have always participated in the May Day march because they identify with leftist ideas. They were glad to meet us this time and receive *Red Flag* and committed to keep in touch.



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Join the International Communist Workers’ Party
www.icwpredflag.org — Twitter @RedFlagBandera
E-mail: icwp@nym.hush.com
Instagram: @icwprf Facebook: icwpredflag
Phone: (323) 315-8884
Write to: P.M.B. 362
3006 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90007, USA



Los Angeles: Liberal Rulers Organize Mass May Day

YOUNG MARCHERS “WIDE OPEN” TO COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES (US), May 1— May Day here is a mass event organized by the liberal rulers and their organizations, community groups and unions. This year an enthusiastic group of at least two thousand, led by young workers and students, Latino/a, white, Black, Asian, immigrant and native born, marched down the almost-empty streets of a gentrified downtown to City Hall.

The International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) contingent raised red flags with the slogan “Mobilize the Masses for Communism.”

Comrades were inspired, seeing that the masses were more political than in previous years and were wide open to our communist ideas. We distributed 900 newspapers (all we had!) and 200 pamphlets “Fight for The Day When No Worker Will Be Called Foreigner.”

A young comrade offered the pamphlet to a worker wearing a “Destroy the Borders” T-shirt. She told him, “We will destroy the borders with communist revolution.” At first the worker said he didn’t want the pamphlet, but he finally took it home to read.

At the beginning of the march, we practiced the chants we had prepared, including the main point of struggle: “We will have a Communist World! A world without borders, without sexism, racism, money, cops, bosses!” A comrade who helped lead the chants said, “Our slogans were different from the rest because we are international communist revolutionaries.”

Several comrades, women and men, led chants and gave short speeches throughout the march. Some young people affiliated with the (non-revolutionary) “Communist” Party USA



were surprised by our communist slogans. We had a good conversation with them about why we fight directly for communism. They said they would check out our website.

A comrade said, “I really felt proud to march with my comrades. It reminded me of the May Day marches I attended when I was in high school. But this time I felt the urgency to be there, amid various political groups. As I gave short speeches on the need to overthrow capitalism, people listened and nodded in agreement.

“The slogan ‘!Este puño si se ve, los obreros al poder!’ (This fist you can see, workers to power!) made our contingent stand out by our call for communism instead of reform,” he concluded.

A young comrade added, “Every year the ruling class sanctions workers’ agitation through the May Day March, as long as we are organized on the basis of particular interests, such as race, gender identity, immigration status, or better working conditions.

“As I distributed *Red Flag*, I discussed nationalism and how identity politics will not lead to a real revolution,” he reported. “The ICWP works to unite the working class to abolish the capitalist system that oppresses us all. Many workers enthusiastically took our newspaper as they saw we want unity, not division.”

A veteran comrade said, “I had tons of political conversations and struggles about communism. About socialism not being the solution since it kept money and it is in essence state capitalism. That money is the chain that binds us to the capitalists and must be eliminated to end forever capitalism’s wage slavery: the material basis that perpetuates racism, sexism, xenophobia, and all the poisonous ideas that weaken, divide, and keep us enslaved.

“About the need to destroy capitalism worldwide to have an environmentally healthy world without borders or nations,” he continued. “About the need for an armed revolution led by communist workers, soldiers and youth.”

It bodes well for the revolutionary future of our class that so many marchers gladly took communist literature. Organizing for next year’s May Day march begins now, with plans in every party club and concentration for everyone who marched with us and our wider circles of friends.

With a more intentional collective plan, we can turn this enthusiastic response into a larger and more committed International Communist Workers’ Party, which can truly mobilize the masses for communism.

Capitalism has nothing to offer our class but misery, exploitation, and war. We will have a communist world if we fight for it.

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

No More Illusions! Fight for a Communist World!

Over forty thousand people are currently waiting at the US-Mexico border to cross legally into the US through a temporary political asylum permit. Hundreds more are transiting Mexico.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people are deported every day by plane to Latin America. Their hands and feet are shackled as if they were criminals.

The Trump-era Title 42, blocking immigrants from seeking asylum at the US-Mexican border during Covid 19, ends this May 11. Many have the illusion that political asylum and working legally in the US will become easier. Unfortunately, this is only an illusion.

Biden’s Homeland Security Chief, Alejandro Mayorkas, said, “We will implement Title 8,” which is also used to immediately deport immigrants seeking political asylum. It prohibits an immigrant from entering the US for 5 years the first time they’re caught, and 10 years the second time, with possible jail time.

The Biden administration also plans to

send 1,500 active-duty troops to the border as “administrative support,” added to 2,500 National Guard troops supporting the border patrol. During the Trump administration, 5,000 soldiers were sent to the border to do the same thing.

Millions of our class internationally migrate from one place to another in search of a job to survive. They are fleeing poverty and war caused by capitalism’s exploitation and competition. The current crisis and imperialist struggle between the US/NATO and Russia-China has forced more workers to migrate in search of safety and work.

In communism, there will be no borders. There will be no need to go out in search of being exploited in order to survive. Society will collectively produce and distribute according to each person’s needs. This fight is worth dedicating our lives to!

The system of immigration laws is one more way to terrorize and exploit the working class. We cannot depend on capitalist politicians or illusions about reforming this system of oppression. The bosses and liberal politi-

cians are asking the same oppressors to legalize immigrants. They want to divert us from the communist revolution we need to end their racist terror.

Hundreds, mainly Latino/a immigrants working in the garment, construction, cleaning, hotels, and other industries, demonstrated here on May Day against the US bosses’ racist immigration policies. Along with them were hundreds of white, Black, and Asian native-born workers, many of them young.

Hundreds of workers in the garment industry already receive *Red Flag*. We plan to redouble our efforts to reach out to more workers in the factories and mass organizations.

The potential shown in the march and previous activities shows that many of these workers can become leaders of the working masses with a vision of a communist world without borders.

—Immigrant Comrade in Los Angeles (US)

Seattle May Day:

OLD FRIENDS AND NEW BRING COMMUNISM TO THE FORE

SEATTLE (US), May 1— “How are workers responding to the direct fight for communism?” inquired a Filipino-American May Day marcher. A comrade answered him by describing when he, friends, and comrades shut down production at Boeing to discuss family separations at the US-Mexico border.

“The sight of hundreds of industrial workers debating communist ideas about a world without borders was one of the more inspirational events of my life,” said the ex-Boeing worker.

Similar questions came up repeatedly at the downtown May Day march, the preceding high school rally, and the ICWP potluck the week before. There were more discussions about ICWP’s work than usual, many of them long and intense.

Over the last year, new friends and recruits developed their own *Red Flag* distribution networks, Communist discussions spread among friends of friends. On May Day, comrades had advanced discussions about communism because of the relationships they had built earlier.

Comrades distribute 200-300 *Red Flags* each issue to students and staff at three multi-racial high schools with large immigrant populations. A staff member at Franklin HS came to the ICWP May Day potluck. She understood that socialism is just another form of capitalism. She agreed with the communist ideas of “no money, no wage slavery, and collective production for need rather than profit.” She wants to learn more about communism and our party.

She invited us to the morning May Day rally outside the school. The ICWP contingent joined about 30 staff and some young Filipinos who had attended a farmworkers’ May Day march the day before.

APEC Meetings: US Rulers Prepare for Trade Wars and Shooting Wars

The Biden administration is hosting APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) May trade negotiations in Detroit, August ministerial meetings in Seattle, and November summits in San Francisco.

These negotiations aim to develop a new Indo-Pacific Economic Framework to counter spreading Chinese trade pacts throughout Asia. Participants are not allowed to reveal what they have discussed for five years!

As inter-imperialist rivalry intensifies, mass demonstrations and disruptions are planned against this capitalist attack on the global working class. In Seattle, counterdemonstrations and summits will occur on July 29-30.

“Free Trade” or “Fair Trade,” all market relations rest on extracting surplus value from the working class. Whether organized by Chinese or

The discussion that began at the potluck continued, this time influenced by school cutbacks and staff firings. Filipino activists spoke about the diversion of funds to inter-imperialist rivalry, the trade wars represented by the August Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Seattle and the associated danger of shooting wars.

Two friends distributed *Red Flag* for the first time. They helped sharpen the discussion. Some educators still think they can win more for their students by cajoling the school board. Our advocacy of communist revolution offered a clear alternative.

One International Working Class, One International Party

The largest and most spirited contingent at the downtown march were Filipino activists. Some had previously participated with ICWP or had met comrades at the school rally. They took extra *Red Flags* and immigration pamphlets to distribute at the march and at their worksites.

An Uber driver, who is trying to organize Uber and Lyft drivers, was particularly receptive. He moved here from Kenya and has been taken aback by how little money he makes. He said because he is Black, Muslim, and an immigrant, he is very discriminated against. We discussed communism and the idea of a society without money, and he liked those ideas.

A Marxist machinist remembered us from last year’s May Day march. “You guys always have stimulating ideas about communism,” he remarked. After reading the May Day *Red Flag* he admitted, “I hadn’t thought of building one international party. I always thought you build revolution country by country. I like the

by US imperialists, they are always part of capitalist exploitation and war.

Only communist revolution will end trade wars and the inevitable imperialist shooting wars.

international idea.”

A retired Boeing worker agreed. “So, the ICWP is all around the world, not just in the US. That’s really good.”

Two young marchers grilled a comrade about organizing in the army. Others invited comrades to prepare a forum on the lessons of the World Trade Organization demonstrations for the APEC counter summit.

Turn Potential into Reality

Seattle comrades must double down on our communist political work to realize this obvious potential for party growth. The friends and recruits we brought to the school rally, the ex-Boeing workers who came to the potluck, and the group of young activists among whom we have made inroads are just the start.

The party will advance by intentionally focusing on getting to know the newer friends, spending time with them both politically and socially. They see communism as the only possible solution to the horrors of capitalism, and our lives must be interwoven with theirs.

Building on our collective struggle against capitalism, comrades and friends can work though the contradictions that impede party growth. Ideological roadblocks like nationalism, racism, sexism, xenophobia and a fear of boldly fighting for communism hold us back. The stronger the ties with the growing number of potential recruits, the more we will be able to identify and overcome obstacles.

Our plans for the year ahead must answer the question, “How are workers responding to the direct fight for communism?” with significant growth of the ICWP.

May Day, Manila, The Philippines: Cops block marchers trying to reach the US Embassy



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Communist Solidarity with Seattle Educators

I joined several comrades at Franklin High School for a May Day action. I had no idea what to expect. The issues facing educators are many and interconnected. I was so impressed to meet and speak with several of the 30+ educators as well as passing out copies of *Red Flag*. There is exactly one counselor for a population of several hundred students. All present wore red shirts with Seattle Education Association logos. Today’s May Day coincided with educator cuts: in Franklin’s case, at least four. I came away energized to witness their solidarity. There is much work to be done.

—Seattle Comrade

What Will It Take to Meet Students’ Needs?

On May Day, I went to a rally at a Seattle high school with friends and comrades of ICWP. The educators there have a rally every Tuesday morning before school, to protest the lack of staff and the misspent school funds that are not going to help educate the kids.

One speaker talked about the school district plan to cut Filipino history classes. Another challenged us to come up with ideas of what would benefit our community and students. Some written down were mental health support, green spaces, and urban farms.

I really enjoyed being there. They were very welcoming to us, and I appreciated the soli-

arity that was shown. I expected to see more people there, but I understand that it might be hard for them to be outside their workplace.

I was not able to get out a lot of *Red Flags*, but I think that the more we are there and talk with people, the more likely people will want to read the paper. I would like to have known more about their thoughts on better meeting the needs of students and educators. There were lots of ideas about what should happen, but not enough about how to make it happen.

If my work schedule allows, I will try to go with comrades when they distribute papers to the students before school.

Another Seattle Comrade

WORKERS WELCOME COMMUNIST IDEAS: UNION OFFICIALS FEAR THEM

SPAIN, 1 May— Once again we took to the streets with the working class to celebrate May Day! We must fulfill the real need of workers for communist ideas to allow us to get rid of the capitalist system.

We went to the streets to distribute a thousand copies of *Red Flag*. As in previous years, they were well received. Many workers asked for it, eager to know our ideas. Perhaps some had seen it before.

We went to three marches. In the first, the “Workers’ Union” (USO) march, union officials pulled out their claws and blocked us because we were distributing the newspaper. They told us we couldn’t distribute *Red Flag* to their ranks.

We asked why not. A young man who served as security said they only allowed their own literature.

We insisted that distributing our newspaper was not prohibited and that we were not the enemy. We said that we need to end the bloodthirsty capitalism that exploits the working class. But a union official came to tell us that they had called the march and they were the only ones re-

sponsible for the flyers and information that their ranks would receive.

Seeing that we were engaged in a sterile fight, we decided to withdraw, but not before making a quick maneuver and distributing more newspapers on the way out. The working masses don’t agree with these union leaders.

The Unions know of our existence, and they know we are exposing them as SELL-OUTS! They are afraid of us and don’t want workers to know that they’re the bosses’ lackeys. And that there is a communist alternative to end wage slavery and exploitation.

The working class must know that the dialectical materialism taught by the International Communist Workers’ Party shows how to defeat the lies that these union leaders give workers. But what’s most important is to see that as an international working class we can defeat capitalism and build a new communist society.

Encouraged, we went to two other union marches, where we distributed many *Red Flags*. We fulfilled the goal of bringing the ICWP po-



litical line to the masses, and we hope to have more members join our party.

We gave some marchers the party’s email and encouraged them to join the red army. An army that will really fight for the workers and a communist system that will meet workers’ needs; not give us the crumbs the unions sell workers to calm their anger at the capitalist bosses.

We will continue spreading communist ideas and building the ICWP all over the world.

LONG LIVE ICWP! LONG LIVE MAY DAY! LONG LIVE COMMUNISM!

SOUTH AFRICA MAY DAY MEETING: ANSWERING QUESTIONS, MAKING PLANS

GQEBERHA (South Africa)—We celebrated May Day with a political get-together with more than ten comrades, some new to the organization. We explained what ICWP is and why we fight for communism. We fight for communism to end exploitation, mass starvation, crime, violence, wars, disasters, and poverty that are ensured by the continued existence of capitalism.

ICWP rejects elections; we don’t want to run for office. We want a communist revolution that will overthrow the system, not just one parliamentary party.

We explained that reforms and changing of political parties in parliament don’t change any-

thing meaningful for the masses. For example, Gqeberha has had more than three mayors belonging to different parties over the last eight years. But nothing has changed materially for the workers and the masses in general.

The new comrades got the message. They were impressed and vowed to come back to future meetings.

The rest of the discussion was more targeted to comrades who have been around the party for a long time. We tried to answer critical questions while making plans. Some questions were: Why do we think communism can win? What is the role of communists at this current time?



Red Flag in South Africa

We fight for communism because capitalism kills, makes wars, starves, creates inequality and poverty. Only communism will end all of this. Communists in this current time need to be communists when we are with friends and family, 24 hours a day, talking about communism, and not just at meetings.

What is the role of *Red Flag*? *Red Flag* is critical because it connects party members and workers all around the world and shows their struggles. It helps us recruit

because workers see that other workers are facing similar problems all over the world. So, it’s not something unique to them, which the bosses try to perpetuate.

The *Red Flag* is critical to growing the party. We use it to recruit new members and bring them to the collectives. We struggle and discuss the articles in *Red Flag*, which helps us to read and to write for the party.

We discussed what communist relationships we can build and how they differ from capitalist relationships. What internal and external obstacles are primary and how can we resolve them? How are we recruiting new comrades and bringing them to the collectives?

Why are women comrades critical to our party? We should strive, especially here in Gqeberha, to recruit more of them. The few we have are not enough. We need to identify obstacles internal to the party and how to resolve them.

How do we fight individualism and liberalism? How do we grow from a small collective into disciplined communists who can inspire hundreds more workers to join the party?

We can start by mobilizing and winning over those already close to us. This can create opportunities and conditions for us to grow exponentially among factory workers and others.

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India: “Count on Me, Recruit Many”

Today was my first May Day with comrades from ICWP. I have always participated in May Day since I was 18. This May Day opened my eyes and demolished so many illusions I had.

I used to participate in mass organizations with my trade unions. They were massive: just seeing hundreds of thousands of people in the street would send goose bumps. I always wanted to take the next step of fighting the capitalists. I was not alone. Everyone felt the same way. We wanted to eliminate the capitalists.

I found after years of hard struggle that it was the trade unions who were the problems.

They would give rousing speeches and mobilize the masses, but in the end they always chose a path of compromise and betrayal.

Being with ICWP was a breath of fresh air. It cleared my lungs, and I can see what I have always dreamed of: COMMUNISM. Nothing but communism can solve our problems. So many parties around me have given up on communism even though they call themselves communists.

When I met ICWP some months ago, I had very serious doubts about the party because my enthusiasm had always met with betrayal. I started reading *Red Flag* and it instantly made a huge impression on me. The tipping

point in my journey to being a member of ICWP was the persistence of a comrade who kept in touch with me. That is why I am here today, and I have joined ICWP.

Today we don’t have millions with us. But if we persist and follow what we say what we are going to do, we will have those millions with us. I clearly see that the capitalists have nothing to offer to us, the working class. They peddle communalism, casteism, super-exploitation of women, and wars for profit. Count on me, recruit many.

—New comrade in India

COMMUNISM: THE ANSWER FOR ANTI-CAPITALIST MASSES WORLDWIDE

CALIFORNIA (USA)—“We know that capitalism is creating disasters for the masses,” said comrade A at our pre-May Day dinner. “Comrade B discussed the climate crisis. We could also discuss the migration crisis, the economic crisis, intensifying racism and sexism, growing wars and more. I think we would all prefer to live in a communist world without borders or money. We all donate time and resources to help individuals and causes. We may not be so sure how we can mobilize masses for that.”

“Look how we organized this dinner,” she continued. “Everybody helped to plan, everybody contributed, everybody shared. We only needed money to get stuff from the market. In communism, when we need to get supplies from wherever they are stored, the workers there won’t ask for money. They will show us what fresh, locally sourced, minimally processed foods are available. And maybe suggest ways to prepare them.”

C jumped in. “My family in Utah is very conservative, but in their small town everybody helps, and everybody shares,” she said. “Maybe if we called it ‘community’ instead of ‘communism’ they would support it.”

Others questioned this. “We would get attacked more sharply for trying to hide that we’re communists,” one answered. “Your family are good people, but probably not the ones who will lead the revolution. That’s why we say industrial workers and soldiers, especially the most exploited, are key to mobilizing masses.”

But everyone agreed with D that we must do better at explaining how communism will work

and why we think it’s possible.

J brought up CECOSOLA, a non-hierarchical solidarity association of cooperatives in Venezuela founded in 1967. They provide food, health care, and more at below-market cost to 55,000 people. Coop workers get paid double the government-set minimum wage, and the amounts are based on needs – more for those with children.

We agreed that this money-based system is not communism. “But it shows how people can cooperate without bosses,” J emphasized.

F had visited the rural, mainly indigenous Zapatista-controlled area in Chiapas, Mexico. Originally Zapatistas waged armed struggle against the Mexican capitalists, hoping to spark a revolution against neoliberalism. Meanwhile, however, they raised reform demands.

“They gave up armed struggle because they knew they’d be wiped out,” F said.

“That’s a problem with their nationalist ideology,” A commented. “It can’t mobilize the whole working class – including soldiers – the way communist working-class internationalism can.”

“That’s true,” F agreed. What impressed her was their collectivity in work and, even more, their broad political education. “I was able to attend a mass meeting where they discussed world events, first in the Indigenous language and then



Los Angeles, USA, May Day 2023

in Spanish,” she said.

Both examples show that masses of people are already struggling to create alternatives to capitalism. M concluded by inviting everyone to march with ICWP on May Day to help spread our ideas about why that alternative must be communism and nothing less. Everyone said they planned to come.

In the end, only the ICWP members marched; others couldn’t get off work or had last-minute family obligations. But everyone took extra copies of *Red Flag*, and we all look forward to our next dinner event.

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The Working Class Has No Borders

Today, May 1st, International Workers’ Day, I came to celebrate another year with the International Communist Workers’ Party. Many comrades welcomed me, and, you know, I felt like I was home again. After so many years I have returned. I never forget the teachings of my comrades.

I took the microphone and was nervous, but I began to organize with a comrade, with what slogan we were going to start, and we started, “See this fist, Workers to Power!” After a few chants I gained more strength and continued as other workers followed us and repeated our chants.

Today was a very good day. Surprised people turned around to look at us when we shouted that workers’ struggles have no borders. At the end, a comrade gave a speech, and we sang the Internationale. Then we said goodbye.

When I got home, my wife asked me how it went. I told her that some comrades sent her greetings. My son asked, “Dad, how did it go with your comrades?” I told him it went well and that they sent him greetings. I know he felt good.

More than 20 years ago, the comrades were analyzing a confrontation between the US and China and today that analysis is being fulfilled. I want to be in the right place in my life.

I am not just one more comrade. I am part of an international family of workers who feel and fight together for a road to communism.

—Rejuvenated Comrade in Los Angeles (US)

My First May Day March

Greetings to all comrades of the International Communist Workers’ Party, on this May 1, the day of the international working class.

This May 1 was different from the previous ones, as I prepared to attend my first May Day march.

This day was one of denunciation of all the evils of capitalism, including the mistreatment and exploitation that we maquila workers go through.

Attending with my family and meeting more people who are organized in the ICWP was a very nice experience. I could see how the people who received the *Red Flag* newspaper were interested in obtaining it. I saw them surround a comrade who distributed it. That encouraged me to continue in this struggle.

At first, we were a little afraid because of the emergency regime implemented by the government, but when I arrived at the meeting place, I felt calmer; everything went well.

It was a rewarding experience as a working class.

—Young worker in El Salvador

A Great May Day

On May 1, the working class organized in the International Communist Workers’ Party marched with colorful T-shirts and red flags through the streets of San Salvador. The effort made by some maquila workers who had to move the day before this great day showed the discontent with this capitalist system.

“Fight! Win! Workers to Power!!!” This was one of the slogans that resounded at the beginning of the march.

The unity of workers from four factories, farmworkers, teachers, doctors, and students showed that the struggle for Communism is urgent.

Red Flag was an effective tool to organize before and during this activity.

We closed with a get-together to share with workers and their families, since for some it was their first participation in the communist struggle.

For the interests of the working class! We will win!

—Enthusiastic comrade in El Salvador



Jakarta, Indonesia
May Day
2023

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO
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Thinking about Racism and May Day as a Communist

Red Salute! One of the biggest days I celebrate back in India is Labour Day (May Day), working class struggle day, a day for the working class, as we all celebrate being a worker in this world.

After reaching the US, I thought about how I can contribute on this May Day. Two campus groups led a solidarity march with the workers in our small university town. I left class and went to the march for a little while to give my solidarity to the working class in one way or another.

After class, walking around, I saw a janitor who's a good friend of mine; we have regular conversations. She's a Black American lady who is pretty experienced, older, and has good knowledge about world society. As she was cleaning, she found a flyer in the hallway about the protest march. She was about to throw it away. I greeted her and we talked about racism and how she sees it.

She talked about how the Black Panther movement gave the struggle structure on the policy level. This was interesting. She talked about the Black Panther movement, revolution, civil society, and lots of things. I told her "Happy Labour Day!" She kind of knew that May 1st is known as Labour Day, the workers' day.

She called two other co-workers over and we had a conversation about May Day and the reasons we celebrate it. Then I distributed our *Red Flag* to them. I asked my friend to read and go through it and let me know what she thinks about it, or if she wants to do a story later, we can do that.

It was interesting for me as a Dalit person who came all the way from an unknown place, to see myself in this world. Here I am trying to build up a community, a movement. Being from a particular caste, how I'm seeing caste and race as one thing—how I'm not approaching this as an identity thing or one country thing, but as a concept of one world, as communist revolution does. It's a great conversation.

My contribution can be very small, but it has impacted me in a very interesting way to think in a communist perspective.

—A Comrade

Comrades Discuss Questions about Racism

Racism is the ideology that a group of people think another group is "inferior" or should be judged based on their skin color. Clear divisions into various "races" definitely came from capitalism. Capitalists defined "races" and then had to establish laws to enforce their racist divisions as this did not come "naturally." Capitalists pushed racist eugenics propaganda (that

they called science) to rationalize the poor treatment and super-exploitation of "inferior races."

Discrimination is the liberal legal term used by capitalists to supposedly "outlaw" racism. Capitalists provide lip service for the goal of eliminating racism and outlawing discrimination because people would otherwise see capitalism for what it is, an exploitative profit-driven system not worth keeping.

Racism, sexism, and other biases are learned behaviors and not something a child is born with. For capitalism it is essential to keep the masses divided in as many ways as possible, such as sexism, ageism, ableism, and racism. A system that thrives because of these divisions will not eliminate them.

While capitalism is still intact, we cannot hope to achieve 0% racism. So, what do we do to address racism within our party under capitalism?

Some things: Translating *Red Flag* into different languages based on our abilities. Focusing on the international level, not just workers within the USA. Leadership by all is encouraged. All, regardless of race, are provided access to the party, party meetings, party literature, and party resources. Our main concentrations in Los Angeles are in MTA, where there are many Black workers, and garment, where there are many immigrant workers from Central America. And we frequently ask ourselves how we can do more to be more inclusive.

There are more questions to ask and problems to be resolved. Capitalism has ingrained so much division between us in so many ways. It will take time to help people get rid of the racist ideology that capitalism has implanted. How will we structure a communist society differently to eliminate racism? How will we handle the transition from capitalism to communism when it comes to all the "isms"?

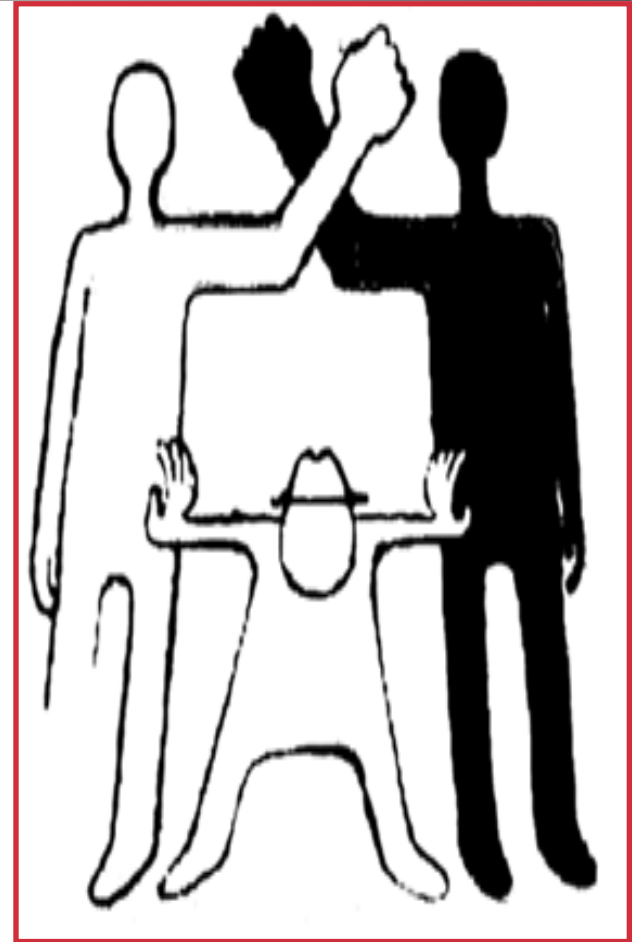
We look forward to the new ICWP anti-racism pamphlet. We hope it will further lay out how we fight racism within and outside the party and our plans for a racism-free society in the communist future.

—Two comrades in California (USA)

Pakistan: Crisis Increases Need for ICWP

It was very exciting to be with *Red Flag* readers on the May Day March in Lahore, Karachi. International greetings and comradely warm welcome to you all! I have been receiving *Red Flag* for several years. I share it electronically among several left-leaning friends.

May Day is traditionally a big event in Pakistan. This year it was much larger. That is understandable because Pakistan is going



Read our pamphlet:

TO END RACISM, MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/rpe.pdf

through a crisis unheard of for the last 30 years. Inflation is so severe that it eats away the most basic necessities of the masses. Added to the long lines of unemployed people, it makes an explosive mix. There is no prospect of things getting better.

We have a new colonial ruler, China. The much talked-about multibillion dollar China-financed China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has created massive infrastructure projects. However, the masses get nothing in return, only mountains of debts we are required to pay.

Our political parties are corrupt to the core, and they are incapable of solving any problems. The trade unions and different socialist parties have nothing to offer either. We need radical change. That is why I am here with some friends. It is good to read *Red Flag*, but I feel isolated.

A comrade from the US asked me to form ICWP in Pakistan. I am thinking more about it. We must analyze the specific problems of Pakistan. I know comrades in India are advanced and perhaps they can help us. This May Day has shown that not being a part of a communist party is a major hindrance. With your help, I look forward to more rewarding struggle.

—Reader in Pakistan

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institute controlled by Brij Singh. His notes, which are required to pass the exam, say that a person with POSCO must be arrested within 24 hours. He said thousands like him pay over 150,000 Rs. (\$2000) and go into debt for this law degree. He defiantly tore up his notes, saying, "Their law is a cruel joke." We became very good friends with these students and are talking about our Party.

People in New Delhi remember the Shaheen Bagh protest against Islamophobia (2019-2020) and the farmers' protest (2020-2021). Overnight,

the Sikh community started a langar, providing free food and accommodation to thousands. Today's struggle against sexism is becoming another such upheaval. It exposes the instability of capitalist rule and the potential for communist revolution as ICWP comrades continue to organize for it.

Sexism affects every aspect of workers' lives. It is one of the many tools the rulers use to divide us and keep their oppressive profit system alive.

The capitalist-controlled newspapers are not covering the Delhi protests. Right-wing news channels are gaslighting the women athletes and

trying to put them on trial. While men as well as women support the protests, the wealthy male-dominated Indian Premier League of Cricket has nothing to say.

But more women and men are seeing the absolute need to fight for communism, as the rulers' system has no solutions. We are printing a Hindi edition of our pamphlet *The Communist Fight Against Sexism* with the outlook of recruiting more members and contributing to the development of the ICWP line.

We can only smash sexism with communist revolution.

MAY DAY IN FASCIST INDIA: MASS CLANDESTINE DISTRIBUTION OF OUR COMMUNIST LITERATURE

May 7—We are an autoworkers' collective in Chennai, India. Our May Day took place as the capitalists are intensifying their wage slavery here in the state of Tamil Nadu. The local rulers oppose fascist Modi, but they have no sympathy for the workers either. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has proposed a 12-hour, 6-day work week. Even before this bill was introduced, major industrial factories were offering only two 12-hour work shifts. This was the case in most auto factories. This is hazardous to the workers. We have seen a rise in industrial accidents as a

direct result of long working hours.

A week before May Day, we printed a leaflet saying that in communism, workers will organize factories not only in the production process but in the distribution according to the need of the workers. More than anything else, factories will create more communists with the outlook of serving the international working class. And since no capitalists will exist, there will be no surplus value to be converted into money.

In the May Day march, we recognized that we live under fascist conditions regardless of the political party that is ruling us. Our literature was clandestinely distributed to minimize fascist retribution. We were in smaller groups trying to meet new members. As we spent more than eight hours during the march, we had very fruitful discussions with members of the trade unions. Some gave us their contact numbers. They all wanted to know more about communism.

During the march we also had a phone conversation with a garment worker comrade in Colombo, Sri Lanka. She said that she participated in one of the largest May Day demonstrations in the world, but she thought our line was the only line that will get rid of the capitalists.

An ICWP member who was in the Indian army many years ago met with some other comrades at the march. He said some of their adult children are in the army. They emphasized that the only reason they join is due to high unemployment. The army recruiters know this, and they try to use it to instill nationalism from day one. One comrade noted that India has a long history of armed struggle by massive peasant rebellions. During British rule, there were numerous rebellions and mutinies. It shows that when the soldiers are faced with wars, they defend the workers.

We can turn these unemployed youth into a fighting force for the communist revolution. These comrades are going to organize a group and write about carrying on this work.

Overall, our May Day has opened many opportunities to recruit more workers and soldiers for our party.



Auto Workers in Tamil Nadu block road in labor protest 2021

INDIA: BRINGING COMMUNISM TO MASS STRUGGLE AGAINST SEXISM

NEW DELHI (India), May 7— Comrades here, energized by the successful clandestine distribution of communist literature in the May Day march, plunged into a massive and growing struggle against sexism.

Women wrestlers are leading open demonstrations against Brij Bhushan Singh, the powerful president of the Wrestling Federation of India and an elected Member of Parliament representing the fascist BJP. The athletes accuse him of years-long sexual harassment, mental torture, physical violence, and sexually molesting underage girls. Even in the fascist BJP-controlled state, Brij Bhushan has been charged with forty crimes, including murder.

The women Olympic medallists, fed up with Brij Singh's aggressive sexual behaviour, complained to Modi at a prestigious award ceremony. Modi had welcomed them as "our daughters" but instead of acting against Brij Singh, he informed his Sports Minister who reports to Brij Singh. Brij Singh threatened, on live TV, to physically harm them.

The athletes went public in New Delhi. They declared they are fighting for the 99.9% of women who face sexual abuse, discrimination, molestation, dowry debt, and rape all their lives.

Indian law mandates police to file a First Information Report (FIR) in cases of sexual harassment. They resisted filing FIR for weeks, until India's highest court directed them. One FIR was filed by an underage girl covered by a special law called Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO). POSCO requires police to arrest the offender within 24 hours under penalty of arrest. Again, Brij Singh, with his fascist connection, was protected by the police, not arrested.

The demonstrations that started with a dozen athletes are now spreading across India. ICWP members are everywhere with the masses. Huge numbers of women are telling their stories of sexual harassment. Thousands of students and farmworkers are pouring into Delhi daily



in spite of police barricades on the freeways leading to Delhi. People are evading police tactics and barriers and reaching the site of the demonstration.

"I was with a large group of people on the night of May 5th," said Monisha, who is new to ICWP. "It was raining so the demonstrators were trying to camp on metal cots," she continued. "All of a sudden, we see drunk and aggressive police abusing women. I got dragged by my hair. I was furious as hell. Some male comrades tried to protect me. It was dark because the police had cut off the electricity and water supply. I heard screams and saw blood. In the end, several people were hurt.

"But you could not contain the hatred of the police and the entire political system," Monisha concluded. "The next day, there were reports of massive support."

The next day, Monisha and three other ICWP comrades were distributing literature to people coming to the march. An agitated young man said he was in Delhi for his final exam for the Law degree. He attended a for-profit educational

Communist Classless Society Will Uproot Sexism

Prehistory shows that sexism is not human nature. We know from anthropology that in pre-class society, men and women were equals. While there was division of responsibilities, men and women had the same status and respect.

How did that change? What historians call the "neolithic revolution" about ten thousand years ago ended this period of pre-class communism. Private property in cattle and agriculture created the conditions for class society and, simultaneously, sexism.

Today, class society means capitalist wage slavery.

Sexist ideas rob the working class of women's leadership. They seriously damage the unity of our class. We must mobilize the masses for communism to create the material basis for ending sexism.

In communism, there will not be wages, money, nor private property. There will be no bosses to profit from the division of the working class by sexism.

Instead of the capitalist market determining what gets produced and who gets to use it, the working class, led by the party, will create deeply collective social relations to make those decisions.

We will struggle, as they did in the Soviet Union, to transform everyday life. "Housework" assigned to women in isolated households will become the collective responsibility of all, regardless of gender.

But this will not be automatic. After communist revolution, ending sexism will require conscious and protracted political struggle against the ideas and habits inherited from class society. That struggle begins now.

We and our friends must see, in the practice of our party today, that open and honest criticism and self-criticism will make it possible to defeat sexism.

Read our pamphlet:
The Communist Fight Against Sexism
Available at: icwpreflag.org/sxse.pdf

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