

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



“The Line Between Hunger and Anger Is a Thin Line”

YOUTH MOBILIZE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AND SOLDIERS FOR COMMUNISM

GQEBERHA (South Africa), May 26—Our day starts with a massive distribution of *Red Flag*. Comrades were engaging with industrial workers on a brief “tea-time” break when a young man approached us. “I am not asking for money,” he said repeatedly. In this area, known for gang violence, he wanted us to know he was looking for work.

“I have not eaten for two days. Could you take me to Zwide, where I live with my sisters? I came here looking for work but couldn’t find any.”

“We cannot feed everyone. Only revolution will feed hungry people. But we will buy you some groceries and take you to Zwide,” we said.

“We are organizing for a communist society where millions of people like you will contribute to benefit the working class,” said a comrade while continuing to distribute *Red Flag*. “This capitalist profit system is responsible for people like you starving. That is why we are offering *Red Flag* here.”

The unemployed young man picked up a stack of *Red Flags* and followed other comrades in spreading our literature.

On the way to Zwide, he shared his life story. His parents died when he was fifteen. He had to drop out of high school to support his young sisters. He worked in the food processing industry until Covid ended his employment.

We have ICWP workers in Zwide. We plan to see him regularly.

Organizing Workers in Townships for Communism

Hunger, chronic unemployment, and contract labour bosses sucking every drop of the workers’ blood: that’s every worker’s story in Gqeberha. The official unemployment is 45% and almost 65% among youth. Hunger is everywhere.

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Fight Fascist Capitalism’s Sexist Violence

MASSES OF COMMUNIST WOMEN AND MEN WILL CHANGE THE WORLD

INDIA, May 28— “The world is watching us,” declared Sakshee Malikh, a woman wrestler who was brutally assaulted by Delhi police along with others. They have been protesting Brij Bhushan Singh, a powerful member of the fascist BJP. He is accused of sexually harassing and mentally torturing women athletes and underage girls.

A few blocks away, an expensive new Parliament building was being inaugurated. Thousands of heavily armed troops were there to prevent the athletes’ protest. Tens of thousands of supporters came to join the athletes. Many others were turned away on the highways.

The new Parliament building has all the hallmarks of fascism. The inauguration date commemorated a Hindu fanatic who praised Hitler and Mussolini and was key in organizing the fascist RSS (Rashtriya Swamsewak Sangh). RSS, the Nationalist Self-reliant Movement, is a Hindu-supremacist organization formed by Modi’s BJP.

The new building was lavishly built by the Tatas, among India’s richest billionaires. It was blessed by mass murderers and rapists dressed as Hindu priests. These gangsters included the rapist Brij Bhushan Singh, who is charged with forty other violent crimes.

One of Parliament’s first acts was to reject unanimously a proposal to stop irregularities in Adani enterprises.

Tens of millions in India watched the unfolding police action against the women athletes. Masses were disgusted with the Government’s sexism. Powerful newspapers and TV channels censored the protests, but hundreds of millions were talking about a sham parliament that spent over a billion dollars to suppress dissent. The so-called largest democracy

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Capitalist Inflation Destroys Workers' Lives

ONLY COMMUNIST REVOLUTION CAN END MISERY AND EXPLOITATION

Food prices are going up and up. So is everything else!

Inflation is shrinking workers' buying power worldwide. It's causing hunger, starvation, disease, and mass migration. The capitalists use inflation to make the masses pay for their crisis. They constantly push workers' wages as low as possible. Now it's worse.

Money is the means the capitalists use to steal the value workers produce but don't get paid for. They maximize their profit by paying workers as little as possible.

Money and exploitation define capitalist production relations.

Only workers' labor power—not money! — produces value. By getting rid of the capitalists and their wage slavery with communist revolution, we can collectively produce only the useful things that the masses need to live and thrive. We'll share it, based on need. We won't exchange or trade it. There won't be markets or money.

Comradely relations define communist production relations.

The Covid pandemic, itself caused by capitalism, spurred inflation. Demand for goods dropped. Supply chains were disrupted. As the pandemic slowed down, demand increased, but supply had dropped. It takes time for supplies to be replenished. So prices increased above what many can pay for what they need.

The imperialist war in Ukraine dramatically reduced supplies of oil, gas, and grain. Prices shot up. Destroying the Nord Stream pipeline (which supplied gas to Europe from Russia) meant increased gas prices in Europe and the rest of the world. Less grain from Ukraine meant higher prices for grain and food in general, especially in Africa. The short supply has enabled oil and food producers to jack up prices and reap huge profits while workers go hungry and freeze.

Imperialist Conflict and the Price of Money

The sharpening fight among imperialist and capitalist powers over which currency will dominate capitalist markets also contributes to inflation. Money itself is a commodity. The price of each currency goes up and down (mainly up) rather than being tied to gold or the US dollar. This inflates prices of international transactions, making things more expensive.

The Chinese yuan is gaining ground against the US dollar. But the fight over which currency will dominate world markets will only finally be decided by world war. That's how the US dollar became the world reserve currency after World War II.

Inflation is also rising because the main imperialist powers (the US, China, and Russia) are spending more of the money they steal from workers on weapons. The US plans to spend over \$1 trillion upgrading its nuclear weapons facilities, for example.

That means investing less capital to produce consumer goods. Weapons are incinerated in wars that kill workers for bosses' control of markets, profits, and workers' labor.

Communist Revolution, not Reform

In the face of inflation, unions worldwide are pushing the fight for higher wages. They want the masses to put our faith in reforms. But higher wages will not keep up with rising inflation, which will end up swallowing any wage increases that workers "win."

Capitalism is a monstrous system based on racism, unemployment, terror, exploitation, environmental destruction, and war as capitalists compete to the death for maximum profits. The illusion that unions and reform can solve this diverts workers from the only solution to the capitalist crisis: mobilizing for communist revolution to destroy capitalism.

Capitalism pits workers against each other for slave labor jobs. Communism won't have any unemployment or wage slavery. Instead, everyone everywhere will be needed to produce, distribute, and fight to meet the masses' needs.

Communist social and political relations mean cooperation, collectivity, and confidence in our comrades. We will produce and share everything the masses need—without competition or markets for buying and selling goods or services. Eliminating wage slavery, we can end the racism, xenophobia, and sexism it produces.

Communist masses will plan for meeting workers' needs, including safe, healthy working conditions, housing, healthcare, and environment. *Scarcity won't be a reason for price gouging (inflation), but an impetus to mobilize more of what the international working class needs.*

The imperialists are preparing for World War III to determine which currency will dominate the world's markets and workers. We call on the masses worldwide, especially industrial workers, soldiers, and youth, to join ICWP to mobilize for communist revolution—so that NO currency and NO imperialist rules the world. Instead, the communist masses will make our own decisions to meet our own needs!



US Debt Crisis: The Very Rich Versus Homeless People

I wonder if our friends are aware that this foolishness about the debt ceiling is really about the transfer of wealth to the top. That for a substantial number of years the powers that be in the USA have talked us into accepting extremely rich people and the homeless. This has nothing to do with the value of people's lives (their contribution to society) but can be attributed to what conditions the society in general will accept. Before conditions were created to make people homeless, the average person had to be conditioned to accept it.

The money that does not exist in the pocket of the homeless resides in the bank account of the billion-dollar class. There is a direct relationship.

—Reader in the USA

Read our manifesto:

Mobilize the Masses for Communism

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/mmce.pdf

Volume 14 Number 7, May 31 to June 21, 2023

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Building Communist Relations among Industrial Workers and Farmworkers

HOW CAN WE BE SURE OF ICWP?

EL SALVADOR, May 27— “I am a very thorough person. I like to listen and watch people to see if what they say goes with what they do. Not like the fmln who, when they came to power, forgot everything they had promised the people,” said a new farmworker comrade during a recent meeting.

“I participated in the march on May 1st,” he continued, “and I found that in the group that we were going to march there were other friends, from the eastern part of the country, whom I already knew from national farmworkers’ meetings.”

A worker from the western maquilas and the new comrade, an agricultural leader from the center of the country, participated in this meeting. Three comrades came to represent the International Communist Workers’ Party.

“The masses are mobilizing worldwide,” began a comrade. “The Party’s idea is that we

give leadership to the working class. Our pillars for organizing are the workers and the army,” she continued.

An ICWP worker leader pointed out that “In the factory where I work, the Party is the guarantor of the communist line. It is known there, and in other factories in various places, the *Red Flag* newspaper is already read.”

The western worker asked, “How many workers are there in the factory where you work? To how many workers can you pass the newspaper?”

The comrade replied, “The factory is not very big. There are only about 150 workers, but I already have contacts and I pass the *Red Flag* to some co-workers and friends on WhatsApp.

Then he said, “Where we were going to have this meeting, it is a rural area. Several friends were invited to introduce them to the Party, but the conditions weren’t right, so we are going to hold it next month. There is a lot of enthusiasm

to learn about the ideas of ICWP.”

It was a good exchange of views among new and old comrades of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

“I need to know more about you,” the farmworker pointed out. “I already told you, I’m very thorough and I want to know what I’m getting myself into. I’m president of this and that and I don’t want them to talk to me about communism again and it’s not true. Which is what happened with the front.”

“I think that it is a very good aspect, to be thorough, because we need to be critical and self-critical in order to advance in the construction of the ICWP,” replied a comrade.

Another comrade ended by pointing out that the front had wrong ideas from the beginning. Their ideology was never directed towards communism. They never talked about ending wage slavery. That was to establish the difference between them and the ICWP, which says that the workers generally need to know, with some examples of political economy, about the abolition of money and the organization of production based on the needs of humanity and not for profit.

At the end of the enjoyable meeting, possible dates for upcoming meetings in other areas were discussed to get ICWP’s ideas out to industrial workers and farm workers.

May Day, San Salvador, 2023

“Communist Revolution Will Free the Working Class from Wage Slavery”



OAKLAND SCHOOL STRIKERS ON PICKET LINES ADVANCE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNISM

OAKLAND (USA), May 26 — “Parents, students, and teachers can run a picket-line, the educational system, and the whole society!”

The Oakland teachers strike is settled but the struggle continues. Teachers, parents, and students put up a lively fight but the united front of the School District, Union officials, and the Democratic Party kept control.

The strike continued the struggle against the push of state government and real estate developers to shutter five schools in January 2022, prelude to further closures and mergers. The job action was provoked by the district’s refusal, over six months, to seriously negotiate a contract with the teachers’ union.

A teacher comrade reports:

Although the District had the initiative, they were challenged immediately. From day one, as we were face-to-face on the picket lines, a sense of “it’s all of us or none” took over. This was strengthened by parental support, built in earlier struggles against racist school closings. Students stayed home en masse. This was a teachers’ strike, but it was also a statement of Oakland’s working class. The unity was powerful.

This heightened sense of our own power, together with the uncertainty of the outcome, created a tension that led to sharp discussions over strategies and tactics.

I am a long-time teacher here. This is not my first strike.

Communists in the class struggle can make two mistakes. One is to focus on the reform and get caught up in leading the union’s tactical struggle. A second error, fearing getting lost in reformism, is to dismiss the importance of the day-to-day struggle.

I tried to avoid both errors. Being on the picket lines without trying to lead the struggle allowed me to deepen ties with several teachers and to introduce myself as a communist with others.

Pickers debated whether to demonstrate outside the house of the “progressive” School Board Director. This led to a discussion of who runs “public” education. Was it the local elected officials? Or the State-appointed Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT), which directly guards the interests of big money (capital)? As the capitalist crisis deepens, cutbacks in public education funding will continue, no matter who gets elected to the local school board.

A similar question was “Why have Oakland teachers been paid so low (compared to most Bay Area teachers) for so long?” Surely, I argued, this was a systemic issue rather than one decided by the politics or personalities of former School Boards.

Capitalism needs a few bosses, a few more professionals and technicians, and masses of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers. It constructed its school system to meet that need.

The wage system requires racism, to keep us divided and to guarantee that especially Black, Latinx and immigrant workers must take the lowest-paying jobs. Oakland, especially in the flatlands, has historically served the capitalist class as a source of low-paid workers.

Since we ran the day-to-day actions of the strike, I argued, we are perfectly capable (with parents and students) of running education. We could even run society.



What would communism look like? It would look like “abolished capitalism,” one said. It would look like socialism, another argued.

I said that socialism wasn’t good enough. It kept wages, money, and inequality. I said we need a society without bosses, wages, money, or profits, where we share-and-share-alike what we produce. I talked about how education in a communist society would rest on theory and practice to serve the needs of the masses, not the needs of capitalism.

We teachers ran the strike activities but not the negotiations. Class solidarity was positive and emotionally powerful, but it wasn’t enough. We need a revolutionary organization, a mass communist party, capable of taking on the combined liberal/conservative institutions of capitalism.

That’s the Party we’re beginning to build around the world, as you can see in the pages of *Red Flag*. We invite Oakland readers to keep reading it, share it with others, contact us, and join us.

Read our pamphlet

**COMMUNIST EDUCATION FOR
A CLASSLESS SOCIETY**

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/epe.pdf

CAN YOU GO TO WORK EACH DAY AND STILL BE A COMMUNIST?

"I still have communist blood inside me, Comrade, even though I'm working for the capitalists," said a comrade.

"Everybody has to work for the capitalists; the point is to mobilize to destroy them. The resources are the people," replied the other comrade.

"Things are sharpening. People see that capitalism can't solve the problems," the comrade continued. "People had big expectations after apartheid—but they aren't being realized. It's becoming clear that this system has nothing to offer. People are looking for alternatives. Communism is the only alternative. Once people realize this, there will be revolution."

"Other forces say that something other than communism will work, but it won't. What do you think, comrade?" he asked.

"Yes, the system is unsustainable," answered the first comrade. "They try to keep it intact, but it's falling apart. It will inevitably collapse. They try to keep it functioning. People try looting and other things to survive in the meantime."

"Looting will only make people angry. It won't solve the problem. So, they're acting against their own interest."

"Russia and China aren't communist, right?" asked the first comrade. "They seem to be in conflict with the western nations. Even though they themselves practice capitalism. They say

they are communist but aren't. There are billionaires in both countries. Here in South Africa, some people support Russia. People don't know their real agenda."

"The ruling class gives people lollipops to suck on. But it's not true."

"Red Flag has a lot of good things, Comrade."

"Yes, you should come back to Red Flag."

"Yes. The only problem is this capitalist life I'm living. Going to work every day, and on weekends, I'm doing other stuff. But if I can find time, Comrade, I'll come back."

—Comrades in South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA MOBILIZATION, from page 1

As restless youth wander aimlessly every day, some succumb to alcohol, and others are taken over by gangs. Crime is becoming increasingly violent to support drug addiction.

Makeshift shacks littered with garbage and government-subsidized RDP houses are where Black and Coloured workers live in segregated townships. These townships are the source of enormous wealth for the capitalists. Workers who live here produce everything from cars to minerals, highways, ships, processed food, and pharmaceuticals.

A comrade who lived in shacks for five years says he will take us to one such area where every major industry has somebody working. Many work for one of the largest VW plants in Africa, where a car is assembled every ten minutes. But the shacks where the workers live get a plastic pit hole toilet of different colours every five years.

Political parties (ANC and EFF) bribe workers every five years, when elections come around, with new schemes that never come true.

The trade unions are mired in corruption and gang violence. A comrade in Marikana got a job only after paying 10000 Rands (US\$500, ₹42000) to a trade union. He will spend years paying off this outrageous bribe.

Learning by practice for the communist line

Workers are increasingly looking for alternatives to deadly capitalism. An EFF organizer who sees the need for communism is now becoming a passionate mass ICWP leader. He brought more than 20 workers to a meeting where women and men listened to ICWP's ideas about organizing the masses. Some of these workers now go daily to industrial locations where they know people. They also attend ICWP political classes.

We have gone to factories of Coca-Cola, Isuzu, Ford, SASKO Bakery, SPAR, Cadbury, Eveready, Continental Tires, SAB, Welfit Oddy, and more. The enthusiastic, energetic, and hungry comrades carry on this struggle relentlessly. We plan to ensure the continuity of this struggle

year-round.

"You will learn by distributing Red Flag to the masses," advised an older comrade. Distributing Red Flag is more than just handing out the paper: it builds and revives trust and camaraderie.

We went inside an army base to distribute Red Flag and revive contact with soldiers. They asked us to come back when there would be more soldiers. One said, "Your party is interesting. No lies." About organizing soldiers for communism, he said, "Yeah, there is no other way."

Soldiers and workers are seeing the future of communism amidst the massive poverty, unemployment, crime, and hopelessness of a system that needs to be destroyed. The novelist John Steinbeck wrote that "the line between hunger and anger is a thin line." If you are hungry or angry, join ICWP today and bring communist revolution closer.

More letters and articles from South Africa on pages 5, 6, and 7!

INDIA FIGHT AGAINST SEXIST VIOLENCE from page 1

in the world proved itself a dictatorship of the rich and powerful capitalists.

In Delhi, Bengaluru, and Chennai, ICWP comrades went to factories and demonstrations to show that only communism will end sexism. In Bengaluru garment districts, we started discussions on the harmful effects of sexism. Women talked about how rapes, dowry debt, and murders happen to people they know.

"We will instantly kill and eliminate sexist murderers like Brij Bhushan Singh," a comrade said. "Women and men who are victims of such people will swiftly kill them. It will embolden the masses to fight sexism."

"We will have art, culture, and street theatre to celebrate the unity of women and men. We will do away with sexist clothing. We will not make women sex objects," she concluded.

Another comrade was thinking about why



sexism exists today. We don't all agree about when sexism arose. But everybody agreed that sexism, directly and indirectly, helps capitalism's profits.

"When even famous wrestlers are treated in a such humiliating way, supported by sexist criminals who spend all their time profiting from capitalism," someone asked, "how can working-class women defend against such a system?" The Dalit woman of Hathras who was gang-raped and killed, and Bilkis Bano, who was also gang-raped, and her child killed, are among the many women who suffer horribly due to murderous capitalists.

Discussions about sexism have made many women and men think deeply about how it plays a cultural role to support capitalism as it demeans women. An ICWP member said emotionally, "Communism will bring changes that are difficult for us to even imagine. When we kill people like Singh, we will have guns in our hands."

"But how do we combat sexism now," she asked, "when people like Singh roam around freely, supported by fascism?"

"We must fight sexist ideas and behaviour that comrades have learned from the past," was the answer. "This will encourage and inspire everyone to recruit more communists."

As Malikkh said, "The world is watching." We must show that communism can change the world.



Bengaluru, India, May 2023: Protest against sexist violence

Read our pamphlet:

THE COMMUNIST FIGHT AGAINST SEXISM

Available at:

icwpredflag.org/sxse.pdf

SOUTH AFRICA: NEW COMRADE REPORTS ON PARTY RECRUITMENT

GQEBERHA (South Africa)—The imperialist war in Ukraine has affected my workplace. We produce tank containers. Because of the war, the company had to give workers noncontract renewals and some retrenchment, because it cannot send the tanks to the clients. So, they had to stop ordering more tanks, which led to the cutting of workers.

The Loadshedding in South Africa plays a huge role in industry. This is when demand for electricity is more than the supply, so electricity is cut. Workers are losing their work every day, whereby employment is scarce.

That leads to more crime. People are trying any means to make ends meet. We see the disappearing of adults and kids; people hiring others to kill for insurance pay-outs; and there are drugs and all sorts of petty crimes.

It is becoming bad. We have a lot of work to do, Comrades. We need solutions on how to deal with such. It won't be done in a day; it will take a lot of time and courage. It will need us to recruit more soldiers and have teachings on what the ICWP is all about. We need each other.

The Next Day

For our ICWP party to grow, we need to recruit more comrades. To recruit more comrades,

we need to look at certain individual comrades and how they are struggling to recruit. There are comrades who are good verbally, who can talk all day about what ICWP is all about.

There are comrades who can talk but don't know what ICWP is about. And you'll find that there are comrades who do know what ICWP is about, but they are not good verbally. They are good writers. We need to look at all those comrades.

If a comrade is not able to recruit more comrades, find out why. Maybe comrades are struggling to explain what ICWP is all about. Sometimes comrades are shy. To tackle those problems, we need to visit each other more frequently, to have more meetings, to have educational programs to teach the comrades what the ICWP is all about so that they can recruit potential comrades.

Like myself. I have potential comrades. It's not that I'm afraid, but I can't recruit because I don't want to be questioned and be unable to deliver answers. So, whenever I am confident in the ICWP, I can recruit more, get more comrades.

I have one comrade sitting here with me. I've been explaining to her that I am an ICWP mem-

ber. But I don't know how to explain what ICWP is all about. So, I need that training still. I need more frequent meetings. If other comrades can't meet because of distance, or transportation, we can have online meetings, or exchange messages, call each other frequently, or have one-on-one meetings.

For us to grow, that is the solution that I have now. To recruit more comrades, we need to know what is the struggle that our comrades are going through. What can we do to help our comrades conquer their obstacles, find out what are the comrades struggling on in order for us to be able to recruit and in order for our Comrades to be confident in what they are saying about our ICWP party.

The Third Day

Yes, Comrade, we can meet tomorrow with my recruit so that you can explain to her thoroughly what ICWP is all about. Remember you said you wanted to brief me more about what ICWP is all about. Is that possible, Comrade?

(Later that day): Okay, Comrade, I have two female comrades that I have recruited, my neighbours. So, you will meet them tomorrow at one o'clock.

—Red Salute!



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

Racism in Sports: Players Suffer, Capitalists Profit

Real communism is the only way to eliminate this plague along with the rotten capitalist system!

Ultra-right groups have engaged in continuous racist attacks in La Liga of Spain, one of the world's most profitable elite leagues. Racist chants target Vinicius Jr., a Black Brazilian football (soccer) star who plays for El Real Madrid.

Vinicius Jr. says Brazilians know that Spain is a country of racists. Historically, Black people have suffered racism in Brazil as well!

Javier Tebas, La Liga president, cold-bloodedly declared that neither Spain nor La Liga are racist. He represents the interests of his masters in denying reality. If Tebas doesn't think that racist chants in the stadium are racism, then he's the real racist.

Sports bosses are no different from any other bosses. They have created a mega-industry for profit, and do not intend to end racism.

Players receive exorbitant salaries and are marketed as heroes. Their salaries are an insult to the working class who are squeezed and exploited to their last drop of sweat, working just to survive. Yet even these "heroes" are not immune to racist attacks.

Discussions in the US and in Spain

In Los Angeles (USA), a comrade described her grandson in Costa Rica. He was passion-

ate about soccer but faces discrimination by his school teammates due to his African heritage. Instead of the game being joyful, it has affected his (and many kids') self-esteem and caused high levels of anxiety.

A comrade in Spain talked with friends in an amateur league. A Spaniard said, "In our team we have guys from Equatorial Guinea, Ecuador, Romania, and Spain. I will never see my teammate as anything less than that!"

The Ecuadorian goalie said, "The problem of racism should disappear everywhere." The comrade added that being Black doesn't mean you can't be racist; Vinicius has used racist insults himself.

The comrade in Spain also talked about this at work with co-workers from Rumania, Bulgaria, and Latin America. "The problem in soccer is complicated, because there are Nazis among the groups of fans," said a worker from Chile. These extremely violent groups like the fans of Atlético de Madrid, los Biris del Sevilla and Boixos Nois from Barcelona represent the interests of the team owners. They build divisions among the working class whenever there's a soccer match.

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 cre-

ativity pursuing the illusion of a professional sports career.

Team sports can help people learn cooperation and collectivity, but rigid competitiveness and individualism lead to burnout stress in many athletes. Spectators take the "us against them" to the workplace, families and to the barracks. It becomes an obstacle to organizing on a class-conscious basis for communist revolution.

In communist society we will encourage each other to participate in exercise that emphasizes collectivity and allows everyone to participate according to their ability and mainly for health and well-being.

—Written collectively by Red Comrades

Read our pamphlet:

**TO END RACISM,
MOBILIZE THE
MASSES FOR
COMMUNISM**

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/rpe.pdf

MEDITERRANEAN SEA: THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST BORDER

May 19—Naima Hassan Aden along with her six-month-old son, Sulekha Abdullahi and her six children, were piled into a small boat and abandoned by the Greek Coast Guard to die. They were among eleven piled on a small boat. Mahdi and Miliyen were also among the group from Somalia, Eritrea, and Ethiopia who were thrown into the Mediterranean waters.

The Greek Coast Guard sentenced them to death, but they did not die as thousands of others have. All trying to escape imperialist wars, climate change, famine. All caused by a capitalist system in crisis and its preparations for World War III. Many members of our working-class family are fleeing from parts of Africa that are

at war and where they cannot find jobs to survive.

Greek government abuse of immigrants seeking asylum happens daily. It's not easy to protest because those most affected are denied a voice.

The entire European Union toughened its immigration policies after 2015 and 2016, when more than a million refugees arrived from Syria, Iraq, and other conflict areas. Ukrainians are the big exception. Poland, Italy, and Lithuania are also passing laws to make it easier to expel immigrants.

Germany and other rich nations are financing refugee camps in Turkiye. They finance and arm the murderous Greek Coast Guard. Two ways to

keep refugees out of Europe. Candidates in the recent election in Turkiye and the upcoming election in Greece run on anti-immigrant platforms.

The same thing happens in the Americas. The Darien jungle is the first wall to stop migrants from reaching the United States. Meanwhile the US rulers authorize the Mexican government to stop immigrants from all over

the world, including Afghanistan, not just those from South America.

The capitalist and imperialist classes are increasing fascism to try to maintain their borders. Each border represents the bosses' control over millions of workers. These governments must foment nationalism and racism against other workers to continue to maintain their good life, based on the misery and theft of our unpaid work. They need it to win us to kill other workers in a future world war.

Only communist revolution will end the borders. A communist world will not need borders because there will be no bosses to defend them. No workers will have to leave a place where they feel safe and happy, because they will have what they need to survive.

When the workers control society through our Party, the ICWP, they will be able to travel or settle where they want and feel comfortable there. No one will stop them.



Athens, Greece, 2022: Pro-Migrant Demonstration

Read our pamphlet:

**FIGHT FOR THE DAY WHEN NO
WORKER WILL BE CALLED
FOREIGNER**

Available at:

icwpredflag.org/ffde.pdf

COLLECTIVELY PLANNING AND CONDUCTING COMMUNIST STUDY AND PRACTICE

GQEBERHA (South Africa), May 25— “I can do this work all day, going to factories, as long as I have food,” a new younger comrade told a more experienced one. “No problem. We can mobilize all over. We can come walking.”

The EFF and the ANC are mobilizing all the time. But they are revisionists. They are not fighting for communism. We need to be mobilizing also.

A comrade reported that at an auto factory, where some workers know us, they say, “Yea, man. Each and every time, bring these *Red Flags*.”

“We were talking about communism,” the comrade continued. “If we have that communist outlook, we can inspire many people. I saw yesterday how many people you were able to link to the *Red Flag*. We will start regular study groups tomorrow with five or six people. Any movement for change starts small. As people become confident it expands and keeps expanding.”

Another comrade added, “We were thinking about having classes three times next week. It's better to have a class one day, and then go out the next day to talk to people with the *Red Flag*. Then have another class.

“We need the classes all year long. To go through all our literature. We should start with

Mobilize the Masses for Communism, which explains about the Party and gives the historical context about why to fight for Communism and not socialism. We can discuss dialectical materialism, racism, and sexism. The pamphlets about industrial workers and education. We can decide what order.”

“Here we have no bosses. We are all comrades. We can decide this,” said Comrade P. “Last year, in Marikana, they thought we were from NUM or the SACP [South African Communist Party]. We had to explain that we have nothing to do with the SACP and no interest in union politics.

“You have to be patient and continue to engage with people. Some will question our ideas. We need to have confidence in the line. I can talk to anyone and convince them because I have confidence in our line.

“Theory is derived from practice. We can't produce articles without practice. You go to people. They share their stories and then we can say, ‘what are the lessons we can learn from these stories?’ Without practice, our work becomes meaningless. But without revolutionary theory, our practice won't be revolutionary.”

Comrade F said, “Yesterday, you were able to convince the soldier. At first, he was arrogant, but then he started to change his position be-

cause you were confident and convincing. We have to build long term relationships. That's not what ANC and EFF are doing. They just use people. We are building long term relationships, communist ties. Yesterday you showed how to reach out to industrial workers and soldiers.”

Comrade G said, “We went to places I have never been to before.”

Build Communist Factory Cells

Our main idea is to have some workers who are inside the factories. So, we need to build that kind of cell there. We don't have that yet. Let's say we meet someone at an auto factory, and they can build a cell there. That's what we aim to do.

“There's another factory with 5000 people. We should aim to have a cell there,” said Comrade D. “I know people there because I was transporting some of them. I have been to different factories. At some, there are more Coloured workers. We should recruit some of them. Also, I know some white workers. We should try to recruit some of them, too.”

When we have networks in the factories, we can do a lot. Imagine if we have a cell in each factory and there's a crisis. The government is raising prices. People in the factories ask, “What's the solution?” The ICWP cells will give the workers the solution and mobilize them.

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Building a Bigger and More Inclusive Party

“When some workers don't work, they don't understand,” said Comrade B. “When they work, they start to feel the pressure and they understand. So, it's easy to recruit a worker. Also, it's easy to recruit a student. It's crucial to have social ties.

“We need more women,” B continued. “We talked to a Coloured guy. We told him we need more Coloured workers in our Party.

“We need to organize those things. That's

important, like basic reading. You have to learn the basics and combine it with practical work. That's where the movement starts. When you are doing practical work, things will happen.

“I was working. That gave me experience. And now I have to read everything, so that I can learn more.”

Comrade C said, “If you read, and you stop for whatever reason, when you start reading again, it's not hard. Me too, I haven't read for a few months. I have to pick it up again.

“You have to read and practice, you see.

Read and make it work. You can't just read and then be in the clouds.”

“Yeah, you become someone who talks too much,” replied Comrade B.

“Yeah. So, we can know the advantages and disadvantages. Everyone could say, ‘Gee, that guy's clever, smart’ but there will be no movement.”

“Yeah, you must do the practical work and reading.”

“And to read collectively is easy. Easy.”

—Two comrades in South Africa

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Communist Farm Workers Discuss: What is Security?

"Here in El Salvador, there is a lot of talk about security. Everyone says they feel safe with the current regime, but I wonder what security? Security as to known problems? What about food security, health security? We can hardly buy anything, everything is very expensive," said a comrade at a meeting in the countryside with communist farmworkers.

"I see and hear interviews, and everyone says they feel safe, and nobody says anything about what I'm mentioning. Yes, they complain about how expensive things are, but they don't think about that when they are asked how they feel. Many say that 'today we feel more secure,' but secure about what?"

"It is true that there are some changes in the country," responded a comrade. "But what the comrade mentioned is a very important issue and we must continue talking about it. Only in Communism will security be built collectively in all aspects of life."

In this very interesting early-morning meeting, we discussed how to increase the distribution of our *Red Flag* newspaper in the area. The farmworkers stated that when they are with friends or in meetings to talk about the need to organize, they share *Red Flag* with some of them.

"We find that most people are talking about the issue of security, and then we tell them that this is not enough, people are poorly fed, they do not have comprehensive health care," said M.

After we said goodbye, we walked a few meters and saw a comrade coming toward us whom we hadn't seen for a while, and we had asked about him. When he saw us, we were all happy.

The first thing he said was: "And my newspaper? You think that because we don't see each other so often I don't do work. I always talk about our project wherever I am." Another comrade immediately handed him the newspaper.

It was a very gratifying morning. Talking with this group of comrades always encourages us

to continue our fight for communism with greater strength.

—Communist teacher

Imperialism in Sudan: Why Workers Need Communist Revolution

Several *Red Flag* readers read some articles and discussed how we are, worldwide, with the economic crisis. That is, the subjugation of the working class under wage slavery and how to get out of it.

Questions included: Why the conflict in Sudan, and what is its impact? Why is a communist revolution necessary?

R tells me, "Sudan is no exception among African countries, former British or French colonies that have a fratricidal power struggle to give power to one tyrant or another.

"Sudan's gold, exploited by the pro-Russian hitman group Wagner, does not bring wealth to the working class but only violence and irreparable damage to the environment. Either Western imperialism or Putin's Russia is attacking the workers."

On the other hand, C comments, "Historically we know that to liberate oneself a revolution is necessary. We have seen three revolutions in Sudan, in 1964, 1985 and 2019. It is currently a power struggle where we can see three bosses in contention: The Force of Freedom, Rapid Support Forces, and the army led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan."

The masses, tired and fed up with the situation that exists under a capitalist system, struggle and rebel through protests and liberal revolutions. It is a desperate cry of a class that wants change.

Regardless of who governs now, what we need is a communist society. We conclude that a communist revolution is necessary to overthrow all the chains of wage capitalism in pursuit of the common welfare.

Let's mobilize the masses for our Communist Revolution and put a stop to these crimes of exploitation!

—Comrade in El Salvador

Making *Red Flag* Better and Easier to Read

Red Flag/Bandera Roja is good, but it can be better, especially for people who find reading hard. Here are some ideas that don't need a lot of extra work or resources.

First, we should make articles and letters shorter. Articles should be less than 650 words, and letters less than 350 words. RF/BR often has longer ones.

Longer pieces take up space and are hard to read, even for people who read well. It looks

like a "wall of words," as one comrade put it. We should ask authors or editors to make long pieces shorter before printing them.

We should also use simple words, aiming for a reading level of around grade 8 or 9.

It might be useful to group some pieces into columns like Opinion, History, Life Stories, Life in the Party, Communism Explained. The Opinion column would feature ideas that are not ICWP policy. Right now, anything that isn't party policy is just a letter, not a full article.

We need a Communism Explained column. Now, each article has its own small explanation of communism. People say RF/BR repeats itself a lot. One main explanation would save space and stop this.

Another idea is to have a short summary (1-3 sentences) at the start of each article.

More empty space would help readability. We should have blank lines between paragraphs.

We could also have short articles in other languages, like French for RF and Brazilian Portuguese for BR.

Making articles shorter is hard for some people, but technology can help. I tried the latest AI chat (GPT-4), and it is good at making summaries. It doesn't leave out politics and seems to understand revolutionary communism. This letter follows these ideas. The original version was much longer and more complex. I asked GPT-4 to rewrite it in simpler language and this is what I got, with minor editing.

—Comrade in Canada

Political Education and Collectivity in ICWP

"The EFF makes false promises," said a comrade. "*Red Flag* has been talking about these things for many years. The government doesn't even talk about those things. They just want to make money for themselves. They don't want to know about our problems. When they want to get our votes, they come around. But they don't address these things.

"In the EFF, sometimes you don't eat. You get up early and go out and recruit other people. You pay for your own petrol. I'm glad we have people like you, comrades. I always bring food with me when I go somewhere, so there won't be any panic.

"Now I got together with people who can help me with the workers. ICWP is going to give me political education. I was asking for that in EFF, but now I will get it. There's a lot of things that ICWP is doing that are different. EFF is not doing things right."

Another comrade said, "Yesterday, we went to every industrial factory and even to soldiers. A soldier will come to meet with us in a couple of days. He said, 'No problem.' There's another soldier we can meet with today. I gave him *Red Flag* last week."

—Collective in South Africa



FMLN fighters during the civil war in EL Salvador

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ANTI-IMPERIALIST YOUTH EAGER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT COMMUNISM

SEATTLE (US), May 24— “I want to know more about the International Communist Workers’ Party,” said the facilitator of a meeting planning to protest the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in Seattle in July. This was in front of everyone during the final session.

APEC, a multilateral trade bloc, emerged after the Cold War. Biden is desperate to revitalize it to counter China’s growing influence. So far, APEC won’t even mildly criticize Russia or China.

About 125 people met in Seattle, Portland, and Zoom to focus on the 1999 “Battle in Seattle” that forced the city to declare martial law as over thirty thousand protested the World Trade Organization (WTO). Comrade D, who participated in that battle, was the guest speaker. Ten other ICWP comrades and close friends attended. Several had also fought for communism during the Battle.

D compared the world situation in 1999 to today. U.S. imperialism has weakened, and US unions have less clout. China has become a world power. The anti-Asian line pushed by the Biden administration is, in today’s climate, war propaganda.

In 1999, the largest US union federation, the AFL-CIO, planted the seeds of this propaganda. Union officials openly built anti-China hysteria. The unions and NGOs spent time and money trying to persuade the masses that a kinder capitalism would assure their safety and survival. The protestors wanted no part of that.

Today, as a new generation prepares for an-



Seattle, 1999:

other “Battle in Seattle,” D called for the end of wage slavery, the termination of capitalism, and a fight directly for communism.

Sitting at the Workers’ Tables

In 1999, top union officials demanded “a place at the table.” That table was where the ruling class decides how to advance its imperialist agenda.

“I would be embarrassed to be at that table!” declared D. Instead, he and other ICWP forces joined workers and youth in round-table discussions about defeating capitalism. The Seattle facilitators made sure every group included at least one comrade and one party friend.

“We could really use the experience and guidance of revolutionary elders” who fought in 1999, said an activist. A comrade replied, “And we need the energy, enthusiasm, and potential of revolutionary young people!”

Some participants feared that APEC would write a global constitution securing the right to profit. An ICWP member proposed a world without money, so no profits. Communism would be shared hardship and shared prosperity. Participants were particularly excited when the comrade stressed internationalism.

One declared that because of the ICWP speech and getting to know us a little, she is more interested in communism. Many *Red Flags* were distributed.

Another comrade talked with a young Filipino who works with farmworkers and immigrants. She discussed her experiences among immigrant farmworkers in California’s San Joaquin Valley.

Many in Seattle and in Portland expressed frustration about not maintaining momentum after huge mobilizations like the “Battle” and Black Lives Matter. We offered the fight for communism, not socialism, as the solution.

Those in Zoom debated what intensifying imperialist rivalry in Asia meant for the near future and the fight for communism.

A Filipino-American organizer, a close friend, remarked later that he understood the



Seattle, 1999: Workers applauded the communist banner.

theoretical justification for communist revolution and ending wage slavery. He wants to concentrate on how to mobilize his friends and co-workers. We discussed building communist relationships constantly, not only when big things happen.

If we let them, capitalists and their lackeys will continue to sit at their tables formulating plans to intensify inter-imperialist rivalry and the exploitation of the global working class. Today’s discussions will help build the relationships we need to end trade wars and imperialist wars with communist revolution.

Never Underestimate the Communist Potential

Comrades were surprised by the open interest in ICWP. No doubt the struggle will sharpen as events unfold. Comrades and friends must be prepared.

In 1999, comrades were self-critical. They didn’t follow up quickly and intensely enough to build the communist relationships that would grow the party. Fighting for our communist ideas among the masses will fuel the growth we need.

Our collectives must quickly follow up with over a dozen young people who asked to be contacted. Some have already called comrades, asking for advice. The potential for growth is there and we must turn it into reality.

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Organize for Communism in the ‘Green Prison’ of Banana Plantations

“The death of a worker cannot happen in the silence of the working class. We need to denounce it and fight to change this rotten system,” I told a friend who reads *Red Flag*.

With great courage she had shared the situation of a worker who died in the banana plantations owned by the transnational company Del Monte. The boss had denied him permission to go to the hospital, in Duacari, Limón province, in the Atlantic zone of Costa Rica. He is the second worker to die in the banana plantations this year.

“We have to denounce it internationally. It can be published in *Red Flag*,” she replied.

Del Monte has expropriated the lands of the Indigenous communities through laws that the government approves. The laws give concessions on the lands, exempting them from taxes and allowing them to import machinery for their exploitation.

Del Monte continues to contaminate the rivers with chemicals in the pineapple and banana crops, poisoning and exploiting the workers, bringing death in all possible ways.

As communists organized in the International Communist Workers’ Party, we stand in solidarity with the families of all the workers who have died working in the exploitative companies that enrich themselves at the workers’ expense.

Our solidarity is in the fight to change this rotten capitalist system with its banana companies that destroy everything in their path. As the Honduran writer Amaya Amador said, they are a “Green Prison.”

Communism is a collective system that will be able to end exploitation because the organization of all aspects of life will be collective. The production of food will be according to the needs of humanity and not for profit.

This case of Duacari, Limon reminds us of the hard life that the workers lived under the bosses of American companies such as the United Fruit Company, the Standard Fruit Company, and the Cuyamel Fruit Company. These sucked the worker’s blood to make their profits, exploiting workers in Honduras and other countries for hundreds of years, bringing

death and misery.

But the working class has never given up. In the face of this crude repression and exploitation, the labor movement responded with a strike in 1954 that fought for some reforms, managing to mobilize more than 30,000 workers.

The political organizational work continues. The International Communist Workers’ Party mobilizes the masses for the communist revolution. The workers in the banana plantations need to organize collectives to achieve this. We invite you to read and distribute *Red Flag*, the newspaper of the working class.

“Workers of the world, unite!”

—Comrades in Costa Rica



"Sergio Lives" "Asault on Paradise--Del Monte Out"