

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



Communist Workshop at Anti-Imperialist Summit: **COLLECTIVE PRODUCTION FOR COLLECTIVE NEEDS**

SEATTLE (USA), July 29—“I know about the history of the communist movement in the Philippines. But I would like to know more about the communist movement in El Salvador,” said a young Filipino. He was among almost 80 people who attended today’s International Communist Workers’ Party workshop at the “No to APEC-IPEF Summit.” That included 20 people on Zoom.

The workshop began with the participation of the ICWP collective in the maquilas of El Salvador (see page 3). This generated interest, enthusiasm, and applause.

The workshop was a space for discussion about revolution, collective production and needs, and about communism. It was based on the concrete work of the communist workers’ cells around the world. A comrade from El Salvador was happy to explain the communist movement there.

Questions and comments filled the room with a broad and explicit discussion of communism. Different generations, especially young people, discussed the possibilities of production and distribution based on needs and not profits.

Someone asked, “What do you mean by

Communism?”

Another attendee answered, “I think we need collective production for our collective needs. I think that is the basis of communism.”

We talked about inter-imperialist rivalry within the global unity of capital. We discussed the potential of the working class in the new international division of labor. Many comments spoke to attacking the roots of the trade cartels.

“If we could wipe out APEC with a snap, the conditions for something similar or worse to emerge are still there,” said another participant.

The ICWP workshop put on the agenda the potential of an international organization based on communist principles, without alignment with any imperialist power.

After the workshop ended, people came to talk to us. They gave us their contacts and took all the literature we had. This struggle for communist ideas at the “No to APEC-IPEF Summit” showed the potential to advance the political work of the ICWP.

“Our Party collective here in Seattle is making plans to do just that,” a comrade declared.

STUDENTS AND WORKERS COMMEMORATE 1975 ANTI-FASCIST STRUGGLE

EL SALVADOR, July 30—“I think that a communist education for a classless society is possible, but we have to start with the youngest,” said Andrea, a university student, when asked her opinion about communist education.

“Current education is deficient. We are not going to leave as good professionals. Few of us have access to education. It also destroys the creativity that exists in the students.”

As we marched, I told her that ICWP fights for an education that is not separated from the workers. We will all learn from each other in practice. The students will not be different from the rest of the workers. We will all be able to carry out any task.

We fight for a world without money, without exploitation, without social classes that divide us. For this we are organizing to mobilize students, workers, and soldiers to fight for communism.

“Communist education will respond to the needs of humanity, not to a handful of exploitative thieves.

“You have in your hands the pamphlet *Communist Education for a Classless Society*,” I told her, “You can read it and share it with friends.”

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“I will,” Andrea responded. She carried a sign denouncing the militarization of the University of El Salvador. We will follow up to continue gaining new comrades.

Maquila Workers Bring Communist Ideas to Students

A group of comrades (maquila workers, teachers, and others) from the International Communist Workers’ Party joined the call and the march to commemorate the anti-fascist struggle of July 30, 1975.

We distributed our *Red Flag* newspaper and our Communist Education pamphlet. We gave them to students and all who were there, inviting them to read it and show solidarity with our class.

The march commemorated a massacre in which thousands of students from the National University went out to demonstrate against the fascist government of Colonel Arturo Armando Molina. He deployed the army to stop the march. Soldiers massacred hundreds of students.

The capitalist rulers tried to legitimize the massacre as a response to a “communist plot.” That generation of young people who got involved in the struggle were inspired by revolu-



Students of the National University of El Salvador, July 30

tionary movements around the world.

May our commemoration safeguard the legacy of their genuine intentions for revolution!

Workers and Students March United in the Struggle for Communism.

From the massacre to the present day, the commemoration is a sign of the state of the struggle in El Salvador. This year has been an opportunity for young university students to shout “Present!” for the communist struggle against the government of Nayib Bukele.

Despite living through the oppression of the government of Nayib Bukele, workers and students took to the streets to struggle. They exposed the injustice, repression, and exploitation of the working class. The rulers are subjecting us to a “regime of exception” with the use of the army, a fascist practice.

In the face of this, we are building, and unifying, our communist collectives.

Increasing the political struggle for communism among the masses is possible in the vacuum left by the fall in the masses’ expectations of Bukele’s fascist capitalist project.

We must make a radical change to the system. The struggle is in our hands. And our ICWP fights directly for communism.

Communism is the only answer to the horrors that capitalism imposes on the masses of workers, students, and everyone. That’s especially true now that the global economic crisis is rapidly leading to increasing destruction.

Our Party educates through *Red Flag*. Wherever we are, it teaches us to put an end to the distinction between mental and manual labor, to



fight and work collectively.

The mass mobilization for communist production requires breaking down the barrier between students and workers. We all need to unite for communism and thus end the marginalization of children, youth, and the elderly. We will all learn and work for our whole lives.

The communist struggle is the main driving force to win a revolution with an armed uprising.

Join ICWP, become part of our communist collectives. Let’s overcome fear and oppression to organize a communist system and defeat our worst enemy: all the imperialists and all the capitalists.

**The pamphlet:
COMMUNIST EDUCATION FOR A
CLASSLESS SOCIETY
is available at
icwpredflag.org/epe.pdf**

WORK – WHY IT’S BETTER THAN A JOB

SINCE THE BEGINNING, work has been our distinguishing human feature. In planning, organizing, and doing it, humankind developed language, consciousness, and science. Work fulfills and liberates us.

Yet, under capitalism, work becomes a job. The job is owned by someone (a capitalist or a capitalist state) and a wage is attached to the job. While a job might house and feed us, it also demoralizes us.

By making us beg for jobs, capitalists instill servility. By making us compete for them, they divide us. By locking us out of planning and design, they belittle us. By controlling the tempo and rhythm, they endanger our health. And by organizing production for their needs alone, they keep us impoverished.

THAT’S NOT ALL. When an economic crisis erupts, capitalists intensify their attacks.

Millions are denied jobs and left to starve. Others are forced to work for welfare or as prison labor. Millions more are killed in wars or

herded into refugee camps as the capitalists fight among themselves for control of the world’s jobs and markets.

For all this, capitalists earn our disgust and anger. That is why periods of economic crises and wars raise the opportunity for communist revolution and liberation.

ALONGSIDE OPPORTUNITIES, DOUBTS ARISE. Are workers capable of planning, organizing, and running modern society? After all, the socialism of the Chinese and Russian revolutions led back to capitalism.

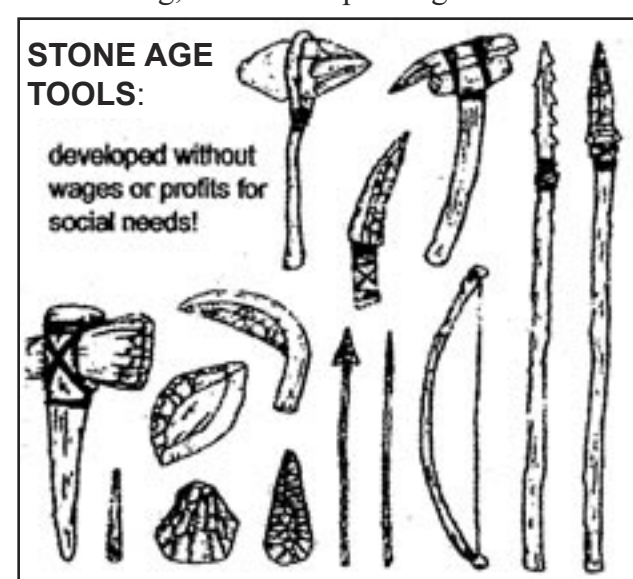
Communists enter this fight confidently. We can learn from the mistakes of the past. The mass of working people, who create everything of value, can learn how to manage and distribute it.

As we see it, one of the biggest mistakes of socialist revolutions was keeping the wage system. They modified it. They should have abolished it.

THIS IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES which-

sets out to show how dependency on the wage system sabotages our desires for a healthy, share-and-share alike life. It satisfies only the capitalist’s need for profits.

A communist system, on the other hand, organized around work, will satisfy our complex, interlocking, and ever-expanding social needs.



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NO IMPERIALIST TRADE PACTS BENEFIT WORKERS IN EL SALVADOR

An organizer of the International Communist Workers' Party who works in a maquila (sweatshop) in El Salvador opened the recent ICWP workshop in Seattle with these remarks, delivered via Zoom.

For decades El Salvador has lived with US trade mandates, pushed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. There has been no benefit for the working class.

Also, several years ago, the fmln government opened diplomatic relations with China. The current president Bukele recently announced the signing of the Free Trade Agreement with China. He promised that this would benefit business owners and entrepreneurs, while providing many job opportunities for the working class.

China has an interest in Latin America, with the construction of the airport and other projects in process. Their main objective is to build an infrastructure that facilitates the flow of raw materials and goods to and from China, gaining the support of many countries where they promise to invest.

Decades ago, El Salvador signed an agreement with the US called the Partnership for Growth. This was nothing more than a disguise to privatize banking and communications, among others.

Maquila workers in El Salvador are clear that this will only benefit the exploitative business owners. We do not trust their promises or free trade agreements. But we do trust in our grassroots work for communism as a system that will end exploitation, bosses, and money.

We workers in the maquilas experience exploitation by the bosses who are allied with the governments that sign all these treaties.

I will tell you about the case we are facing in the factory. Recently, the factory boss gave three options for the compensation payment (one month's wage, about \$350) that he is obliged to pay each worker at the end of each year:

(1) Pay them 60% of the \$350 compensation he owes them, with the promise that those who accept this percentage will continue working.

(2) Pay them 70% of what he owes but they

are suspended for a period of time and when there are more work contracts, he will call them back.

(3) Pay 100% of what he owes them but end their contract. That is, they are fired!

This is the reality of the workers in the maquilas, where the bosses and the government are complicit in exploiting the working class. No free trade agreement either with the United States, China or any other imperialist, will benefit the working class.

But we workers in the maquilas, even under fascism, are not passive. We are building the communist forces, through collectives in the factory, to achieve the system that will free us from this exploitation and misery. The Communist system in which we will produce only to meet the needs of humanity and not for profit.

We are part of this great project under the communist line of the International Communist Workers' Party.

ONLY COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL END THE TRADE WARS THAT LEAD TO SHOOTING WARS

July 30—Marchers in Seattle demonstrated against APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) and the IPEF (Indo Pacific Economic Framework). These trade groups are both led by the US imperialists.

The demonstration did not, however, also condemn the trade groups ASEAN and RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership), organized by Chinese imperialism.

Each set of trade groups is organized to increase profits and influence, either for the US or the Chinese imperialists. Both increase workers' exploitation, poverty, and climate disasters.

But in the current period of sharpening rivalry between the imperialists, these groups don't just make profits. They are also platforms for the Chinese and US imperialists to prepare for war over control of markets, natural resources, and workers' labor power by building alliances with other capitalists. They are stepping-stones on the path to World War III – possibly a nuclear war.

Capitalist competition for maximum profit makes this inevitable. Capturing market share ultimately means destroying rivals' factories and workers.

Only communist revolution can eliminate this

murderous profit system. Our future lies in turning the capitalists' wars into a fight for communist workers' power.

Communism will be based on collectivity, trust, and confidence. We will plan, produce, and share only for human need – with no trade, barter, or money. Workers around the world will have no reason to fight each other.

Fighting for communism means joining and building ICWP collectives in the factories, schools, and barracks to win industrial workers, students, soldiers, sailors, and marines to communist revolution.

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

Communist Leadership: Collectivity and Building Relationships

I came to Seattle to help fight for our communist perspective and to connect with people who want to learn more about us. In my experience, ICWP succeeded in both objectives.

We conducted a workshop in which the participants listened carefully, applauded, asked important questions, and were excited to hear from comrades in El Salvador.

Many people stayed after the workshop to talk and take literature. A large part of our success came from the structure of our workshop and from discussing actual strategies and solutions for mobilizing the masses for communism.

Leaders of other workshops lectured and left little time for audience participation. We, in contrast, facilitated a discussion among attendees

about communism. In the process, we demonstrated communist principles on collectivity. Our manifesto says, "the working class can build a new future." We gave people a glimpse of how we relate to each other.

The next day, we set up an information table at a pre-march rally. Many who had attended our workshop came by to say hello and to take more literature. We had some great conversations, and many people left their contact information.

One participant mentioned that he liked our structure and how the facilitator conducted things. He asked for some tips about how to be a better facilitator and leader. I mentioned that we could help him develop as both, and he gave me his contact information.

He later told another comrade that we had helped him change his perspective on how leadership is done. He said that he wanted to get away from a top-down academic approach and develop a more working-class leadership style.

Many of the conversations we had were just like this. And, many times, I caught people from nearby tables looking over and listening in on our conversations. We sure have a lot of people to keep in contact with!

—Comrade from Los Angeles (USA)

"Being a Mother Has Taught Me Why We Need Communism"

I joined the ICWP when I was in high school and was active with the Party, going to rallies, marches, and events.

I graduated and soon joined the work force and became a mother. I stopped being active, but I am back now and stronger than ever. Now I have more reason to fight for the workers. Being a mother has taught me why we need communism. Having no safety net is extremely difficult.

As I worked for a big corporate office, I didn't have any paid maternity leave and was with no pay for forty days. Having a child is extremely expensive. Honestly, I couldn't have done it without my working-class family and friends.

Knowing this firsthand has made me extremely upset as I know many mothers haven't had the best support, especially from their government. A government with no exception took their share of my paycheck and told us that this is to help the community. I didn't see it when I became a mother.

Having gone through some hardships with my family has taught me time and time again that communism is the only answer to having the safety nets and success in parenthood.

Knowing our children will be taken care of long after we are gone is a peace that cannot be bought with money. But it can come with change. Knowing that there is a world that will have no barriers, no borders or poverty for our children, is the goal we should be striving for.

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)



El Salvador Government Attacks Health and Education Workers

GREATER REPRESSION MEANS GREATER ORGANIZATION FOR COMMUNISM

EL SALVADOR, July 29— The government of “New Ideas,” led by the Bukele brothers, is causing anxiety among health workers.

A stampede during a soccer game on May 20 left nine people dead and many injured. Two health workers were fired for commenting on their concerns about how the government of El Salvador and the country’s soccer federation FESFUT handled this situation.

Forty medical students (interns) who protested the dismissals were also fired. The government didn’t care about their seven years of study or their families’ years of struggle and effort.

“What the Minister is doing is to generate fear, so that no doctor complains about the things that the government is doing,” said one doctor.

“If doctors, nurses and all health workers came together, we would turn this government upside down,” said another.

In addition, the government launched a campaign to divide workers and have them attack healthcare workers.

They falsely accused another doctor of malpractice for the death of a pregnant woman from

complications in childbirth. The capitalist system always works to divide the working class.

The International Communist Workers’ Party denounces these attacks against the workers. They are part of capitalist trickery to divide us and attack us all. We are all workers. Our enemies are the bourgeoisie who profit from the workers’ sicknesses, and the capitalist government and the dictatorship of New Ideas in the country.

At the same time, the government will force thousands of teachers to retire without paying them the last two months of the year’s salary while stealing their Christmas bonus and vacation pay.

“They are paying union leaders so that teachers don’t complain or organize,” commented an education worker. “They get salaries and bonuses equal to about \$1,000 or \$2,000.”

Only the working class will save itself. The lack of medicine, the long waiting lists, wage slavery, and work overload are the fault of the government. The government does NOT want to solve these problems since they make money from private hospitals, insurers, and selling medical supplies to the state from health care companies owned by Bukele’s family and friends.

We will break the information barrier to the working class by discussing and

bringing *Red Flag* to other workers. We will form a large and strong movement of urban workers, farmworkers, and soldiers. We will struggle for Red Flag readers in the health area (mainly doctors and medical students) to help reach more workers, including nurses, service assistants, and cleaning workers.

Our Communist Line Must Spread Worldwide

We want a comprehensive, longitudinal, and universal health system worthy of the working class. An educational system that empowers and encourages the full realization of each human being’s potential.

We must all unite in one workers’ movement under the leadership of the ICWP and fight directly for communism. We will abolish wage slavery and the infighting between workers manipulated by the capitalist system.

In a communist system there will be continuous mass production of medical supplies, medicines, and treatments. Workers will be trained to make necessary medical supplies. We will mobilize the masses to prepare for any health crisis.

The healthcare system will be free. We will share the responsibility of caring for each other. We will be a united working class. And this, at the same time, will eliminate the stress of capitalist wage slavery that produces many diseases.

We will work to have health care from a completely new perspective: one in which the health of every member of the working class, of our communist society, is primary.



Oaxaca (Mexico), July 3, 2023- Medical students at the University of the Southeast, with parents and recent graduates, protest at the Government Palace. They demanded hospital internships for all medical graduates and equal conditions for these internships.

CONTRADICTIONS: STUDYING DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM

LOS ANGELES (USA), July 27— A worker comrade told a dialectics discussion group that one of her internal contradictions was fear of the regime of exception in El Salvador that she lives under. But she conquers her fear by collectively struggling and organizing smaller party groups.

That contradiction is between her fear of repression versus her commitment to build ICWP to get rid of hated capitalism. She strengthens the communist side by participating in Party meetings, giving workers *Red Flag*, and talking about it with them.

ICWP is organizing four sessions to study Dialectical Materialism via Zoom. The goal is that younger comrades study, understand, and lead in these discussions to strengthen the party’s work.

About twenty people met for the first session. The comrades who led it read several articles available at

<https://icwpredflag.org/wp/wordpress/dialectics/>.

A brief visual presentation explained that the most important concept in dialectics is contradiction. It is the unity and struggle of opposites. Contradictions exist in everything: inside each person, in families, workplaces, in the life of a plant, the decaying of an old car, in capitalism.

People gave good examples. “Inside capitalism, the workers and the capitalists need and influence each other, but they are in sharp conflict. This conflict produces protests, strikes, rebellions and revolutions. The victory of commu-

nism will end the contradiction between workers and bosses.”

All processes have contradictions. The contradiction that is internal to a process is what drives that process. It determines the direction the process will go and its character.

For example, a comrade showed that if she smashed an egg with her hand, the egg would break. But if she uses the same external force on a rock, it won’t break. The internal composition of the egg and the rock are different, so the same external force leads to two different outcomes.

Fascist repression will not stop the working class whose communist party is organized in collectives in the factories, schools, and barracks to fight for communism. By organizing the party this way, comrades are fighting to make sure the party is like a rock, not like an egg.

“When we are in communism, there won’t be contradictions?” a comrade asked. We concluded that when we sharpen and resolve a contradiction, it gives rise to new contradictions that we will then have to resolve.

After the working class destroys capitalism, part of its ideology and practices, like racism, sexism, and individualism, will still exist together with, and in opposition to, the communist ideology and practices we will be building. The party needs to guide the masses to resolve this contradiction by defeating these vestiges of capitalism once and for all.

Another comrade described his experience in

a factory in Los Angeles. It showed that the workers can collectively overcome internal contradictions like fear versus the need to struggle.

He thought that workers would be too afraid to stop production. But five workers stopped working in one section when the boss lowered the piece rate there. The comrade gave a piece of paper to a co-worker, saying she should stop working to support them. He didn’t think anything would happen. But when he turned around, the whole factory had stopped working. He stood up and told the workers, “The factory is ours!”

This happened, he said, because the party had been distributing communist papers outside. We must overcome fear by having confidence in the workers. This was a reform struggle, but we can have confidence that workers will fight for communism.

Time ran out. We are planning more time for the next session so more comrades can give examples of contradictions in their everyday lives, nature, and in political work.

Contradictions are everywhere. We can learn to identify them and struggle to resolve the main ones, strengthening the communist side. This was a good start. After these four sessions, we will have smaller discussion groups about dialectical materialism.

See you at the next meeting! Ask a party organizer for the Zoom link.

Dialectical Materialism Helps Us Understand and Make Change

TIPPING POINT: CAPITALIST CLIMATE CRISIS CALLS FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

July 26—It's hot. Temperatures are breaking records on every continent. Then breaking them again. This couldn't be happening without global warming caused by capitalism. And capitalism won't save us from itself.

"Warming Could Push the Atlantic Past a 'Tipping Point' This Century," headlines warn. The phrase "tipping point" comes up often.

A "tipping point" can mean two things. First, it can mean that a quantitative change in something like temperature is causing a qualitative change. For example, railroad tracks get hotter, little by little, until they buckle. Or the Arctic ice sheet melts away, bit by bit, until no ice is left.

A "tipping point" can also mean that the qualitative change is irreversible. That there's no going back. Buckled railroad tracks won't ever straighten themselves out. They are not railroad tracks any more. They are scrap metal.

The Arctic ice sheet will probably reappear as the earth's orbit tips the north pole away from the sun. But what effect is it having on the Atlantic Ocean?

Sometimes irreversible change is described as the "negation of the negation." "Negation" doesn't mean "saying no." It means ceasing to exist in the old way, although keeping aspects of what it once was.

Iron ore remained iron when it was smelted and ceased to be ore. The train tracks ceased to exist when the heat made them buckle. They stayed iron, but they didn't turn back into ore.

"Quantitative change becoming qualitative change" and the "negation of the negation" are examples of dialectical materialist laws. Here "laws" mean generalizations we see in the world. Dialectical laws are very general.

We understand the climate emergency better when we use the communist philosophy of dialectical materialism to analyze the information scientists are gathering.

We will also understand better how to mobilize to destroy capitalism as soon as possible. Before it does more irreversible damage to Earth

and everything living on it.

For example: How do we build communist relationships that bring many more people into Party collectives – and keep them?

We start with people we know. We have something in common with them, but also differences.

If we spend just a little time together, we don't become friends. If we only share a little about ourselves, they don't become friends. But when we spend enough time, and open up enough, "quantity" can become "quality." We can become friends.

More conversations discover or develop more shared values and aims. We become more aware of how much we are dedicated to the same struggle. We develop more confidence in working through disagreements. More confidence in the Party.

We learn that our disagreements are secondary, and agreement is primary. That struggle continues inside the party. A qualitative change from "friend" to "Party member" becomes possible.

Unfortunately, that qualitative change is not irreversible. Sometimes comrades quit. We have more to learn about how to avoid that.

The "laws of dialectics" don't explain anything through abstract generalities. To understand something, we must get into concrete particulars. That might mean the failure of the 20th century communist movement. Or the immediate tasks facing our collective. Or the nature of a particular friendship.

Or the climate crisis.

Take the AMOC system in the North Atlantic. It is a very, very slow current system that circulates water from north to south and back. It's driven by changes in the ocean's temperature and saltiness. It warms Europe and carries nutrients that sustain ocean life.

The oceans are heating up, bit by bit. The



melting Arctic ice sends more freshwater into the ocean. Ocean water becomes less dense, less salty, and less able to sink. AMOC slows down even more.

Scientists see evidence of an approaching qualitative change (tipping point) where the AMOC system would collapse. That would mean a much colder Scandinavia and much hotter tropical areas. Changed global rainfall patterns. More carbon in the atmosphere, accelerating global warming.

So far, this qualitative change isn't inevitable. But the capitalist profit system stands in the way of reversing the process. If you didn't already think that communist revolution is urgent, maybe this will be a "tipping point" for you.

The climate crisis is flooding our class siblings out of their homes from Vermont (USA) to Pakistan and the south Pacific. It's killing migrants trapped in baking deserts from Arizona (USA) to Tunisia.

Future articles will try to help us understand this better by looking at the many "tipping points" of the climate crisis. And at how dialectical materialism can help us transform our world.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH COMMUNIST FIGHT IN PUERTO RICO AGAINST US IMPERIALISM

July 25—Members of Communist Workers and Students for Social Change in Puerto Rico braved pouring rain and a massive police presence to demonstrate in front of the Fort Buchanan military base. They denounced the imposition of capitalist colonial rule in Puerto Rico 125 years ago, its continued imposition, and US military actions around the world.

Before the demonstration, they sent a message to ICWP:

Given the threat of the possibility of a third world war, we call on revolutionary communist

organizations to show solidarity with this effort by sending a written message to be read at the demonstration. This will take place in front of the entrance to Fort Buchanan in San Juan.

The Fort Buchanan military base, symbol of the repressive forces of US imperialism in Puerto Rico, was the place where different aggressions and invasions of various countries in Latin America and the Caribbean were coordinated. Today, Lenin's slogan is more valid than ever: War on wars and our slogan: Peace between nations, and war between classes!

Down with capitalism! Death to imperialism! The workers' struggle has no borders! The working class has no borders! Long live proletarian internationalism and communism!

ICWP sent solidarity messages from the US and El Salvador, which were read at the demonstration.

From the US:

"Our goal is the same: a communist world without exploitation, racism, sexism, xenophobia, borders or nations! ICWP is organizing a new international communist move-

ment with the slogans: One class, one red flag, one political line, and one Communist Party!

When war broke out in 1914, the Russian working masses and soldiers responded to the Bolshevik slogan Turn imperialist war into a revolutionary war! They did just that.

Today China's and Russia's capitalist rulers are fighting US imperialism for world domination, leading rapidly to World War III. We have every confidence that the working masses will once again do the 'impossible.' When they embrace our communist political line, nothing and no one will stop them. Victory will be ours."

From El Salvador:

"Comrades, we support your fight, which is our fight. The working class has never been passive. We are inspired by our own history to fight directly for communism. Here we continue to live the oppression of the fascist government of Nayib Bukele. Amid this repression, we are building communist collectives in the maquilas. Join us in building communist cells and we will break the chains of wage slavery. Long live the international working class! Long live communism!"



NEW SCHOOL YEAR: TAKING OUR EDUCATION INTO OUR OWN HANDS

LOS ANGELES (USA), August 2—Students going back to school are facing a lot of things that they don't have much control over. But last year, a group of students here learned how to take matters in their own hands. With a growing understanding of systemic problems and strength in numbers, they organized a student strike. It's important that they keep up the momentum and develop their understanding even more.

From organizing a walkout to changing the world, you need a plan. Especially since the capitalist ruling class has a plan for students, now and after they graduate. Whether it is selling their labor or fighting in their wars, the bosses know what they want for these youth. The students need to develop their own plans.

Earlier this year, school workers, supported by teachers, students, and parents, took to the streets in a three-day strike for better working conditions and a better wage. As we speak, hotel workers and Hollywood actors and writers are on the picket lines. Other workers from various industries are sure to follow. The summer of picketing is on. This means further opportunities to win these workers to our fight for a better, more equitable world.

Part of the ruling-class strategy to weaken our class is to divide workers and to get us fighting among ourselves. We have previously written about the Los Angeles Unified School District's Black Student Achievement Plan (BSAP). They

say they want to “address inequalities in access to resources for Black students and to build their leadership qualities.”

They're acting as if working-class youth don't all suffer inequalities and exploitation under capitalism. We know racism is real. We know that the capitalist ruling class uses it to great effect to divide — and to super-exploit — workers.

At best, programs like BSAP temporarily ease the pain of capitalism's systemic problems, but they don't cure the disease. At worst, they divide students and school workers. They keep us from joining together to fight for a long-term solution—to rip capitalism out by its bloody roots! The answer is working-class unity, not identity politics.

Small, consistent, changes can lead to big changes. Students organizing with their friends to fight against the rulers' attacks. Reading and studying *Red Flag*. Distributing it to friends, family, and other workers. Bringing communist ideas to mass mobilizations and protests. Joining ICWP and recruiting others. All of this will bring the communist revolution closer.

The ruling class has their

plans for students in education. But students are already showing great promise in their abilities to not fall into their trap.

Capitalist schools are set up to prepare students for the capitalist workplace. That means a lot of wage slaves, some planners and administrators, and a few leaders. Communists know everyone can learn how to work and plan and give leadership to the working class—in the revolutionary struggle and in the communist world we will build.

Students are future workers and soldiers. They will be crucial to the communist revolution we need. We encourage students to continue developing politically and reading *Red Flag* and join the fight for a communist future for all.



Oakland students protest cop murder of Tyre Nichols, 2023.

COMMUNISM, NOT DEMOCRACY, CAN DEFEAT ISRAELI FASCISM

USA, July 30— “What's going on in the world right now is terrible,” said O. She is an Israeli friend living in the US. “But I can't disconnect from this disaster in Israel.”

The Israeli Knesset (parliament) has passed laws to prevent the judiciary from overruling “unreasonable” legislation. Prime Minister Netanyahu is facing trial and possible jail time for corruption. His main hope is for his Knesset allies to stop the prosecution without judicial interference.

These allies are open racists, ultra-nationalists, and religious extremists. “They are holding Netanyahu hostage,” said O. They plan to annex the West Bank and deport the Palestinians. They want to force their religious law on Israel, which was founded as a secular state. For that they need Netanyahu's “judicial reform.”

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis have marched and protested since January 7. Trade unions, doctors, universities, and even business associations have held or threatened political strikes. One thousand military reservists pledged to quit if the fascist policies go through. Some already have.

Women protest in red costumes inspired by the TV series “The Handmaid's Tale.” They know that religious fascists, unleashed, would quickly subjugate women and re-criminalize LGBTQ people.

But how many of these pro-democracy protesters fight against the Israeli government's racist oppression of Palestinians in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank?

“The very radical groups I work with, like Women in Black, do,” O reported proudly. She takes part in protests in the US in solidarity with the Israeli mass movement. For example, hundreds of Israeli expats rallied on June 1 in Teaneck, New Jersey against a prominent leader of the Israeli judicial overhaul.

“Any capitalist country cannot be a pure democracy,” declared O.

Every capitalist country is a dictatorship of the super-rich over the working masses.

Communist ideas have taken root in Israel before. They will again. What if, among those dissident Israeli reservists, a *Red Flag* collective organized for communist revolution?

Communist workers' power will give the masses real control over our collective destiny. Isn't that what most folks want when they march for democracy?

Israel, the Mideast, and US-China Imperialist Rivalry

The USA rulers have armed Israel to the teeth. They continue to do so. But Netanyahu, bent on saving his own skin, ignores Biden's opposition to Israeli judicial reform.

US imperialist mouthpiece Thomas Friedman says that Biden really wants a US-Saudi security pact. This is a very slim possibility. The point would be to normalize Saudi-Israeli relations to oppose Iran. That would require Israeli concessions to Palestinian national aspirations. Critically, it would require cutting back Saudi ties to China.

The Saudi rulers are considering selling oil to

China for Chinese renminbi instead of US dollars. That would seriously threaten dollar supremacy. Any deal would have to stop it.

For domestic and international reasons, Netanyahu would have to break from his far-right supporters. This, remarkably, is where Friedman sees hope for the Israeli pro-democracy movement!

Don't hold your breath. Friedman says that “success would be a long shot, at best.” Even though such a deal, he says, would be “hugely in the interest” of the US, Israel, and Saudi Arabia. He doesn't mention that it would drive China closer to Iran. That would increase the likelihood of all-out war in the region.

In 1948, US and British imperialist policy pushed Palestinian people from their homes to create Israel as a client-state. That was the “Nakba” (catastrophe). Now, as our friend O says, this catastrophe engulfs the masses of Israelis, including Jews.

The global march deeper into fascism is indeed terrible. There is just one solution: from Israel to India, from El Salvador to the USA. That is to mobilize the masses for communism.



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

I Became a Communist because Workers Have More in Common than Difference

I joined the party about seven years ago, when I was barely 20 years old. Before that, I was part of the African National Congress (ANC) youth league. However, I became disillusioned with the ANC politics or lack thereof.

In the ANC they were interested in gossip and factions. It was more like “Who do you support for this position?” and “What is our position or slate for the upcoming branch, regional, provincial and/ national conference?” It was never about doing anything meaningful to change the lives of the masses.

Eventually I left the ANC for a Black Consciousness movement which was primarily based in the University. Their politics were primarily focused on racial wars, as it were. They were mostly about the hatred for white people, whom they saw as evil quite literally!

In the ANC there was never any talk about capitalism and the system. In this movement there was, but the whole capitalist system to them was because of the evil white man. This appealed to us here in South Africa, given the

history and the racial inequality. But it increasingly became difficult to explain countries in Africa which are capitalist although 90-99% of the population is classified as Black.

They couldn't satisfactorily answer the question of Black capitalists: why the masses should see them as friends just because they are Black, while administering the system that oppresses them.

These lingering questions coincided with the effort and the struggle of comrade M to recruit me to ICWP. We used to have endless conversations about politics and ideas. He presented communist ideas, while I still had Black Consciousness ideas. Eventually he invited me to an ICWP meeting where there were other comrades, from the US.

It was in this meeting that I warmed up to the party. I eventually agreed to join meetings and organize and learn its political line, the communist line. It became clear to me as the comrades were talking that workers all around the world have more in common than differ-

ences, despite nationalities and race.

It became clear that workers all around the world face the same oppression and exploitation. They have the same class enemies, the capitalists, whether those capitalists are Arab, Mexican, white or Black.

We all had to fight together to destroy this system of exploitation. For these reasons I became a party organizer then. I continue to mobilize the masses for communism. I was able to convince my friends to join the party. They have also become party members and organizers.

We have grown to organize and recruit mine workers in Rustenburg. All of this wasn't automatic. Rather, it was through the struggle and learning. Throughout, I and the collective have been learning from our practice and struggles on how to become better communists. Communists are made, not innately created.

—Comrade in South Africa

Destroy all Borders! Workers Have No Nation!

“It's unfair that they keep the immigrants, who are migrating to seek asylum, living on boats! How are they going to be able to work to help their families?” asked a co-worker.

I had shown him an article about how, in Portland, England, boats are being used as “hotels” (really prisons) for asylum seekers. According to the government, it's cheaper than paying for a hotel on land for them.

This is just one example of the attacks on the working class by the capitalists and their governments.

In Africa some governments, like Tunisia, are trying to keep migrants away from their ports so that they don't reach Europe. All in exchange for financial aid. And they drive them out to the desert with little food and water to make them give up trying to reach the coast!

Texas (USA) has installed barbed wire along the banks of the Rio Grande to frighten and stop the workers attempting to cross. These wires have harmed many people. One was a pregnant woman who had a miscarriage at the buoys in the middle of the river from the terror of seeing her other children trapped by the wires!

At Mexico's northern border, more than 100,000 people are seeking asylum. And thousands more are on their way there to try to survive under this exploitative capitalist system.

Enough! While the bosses enjoy the profits made from our work, so many workers are sent to our deaths, trying to find work to help our families.

In any corner of the world where workers want to escape the misery into which capitalism plunges us, trying to move to survive, there are governments trying at all costs to prevent them.

This is the capitalist system that we must destroy with communist revolution, fighting for a world without borders. For thousands of years humanity knew no borders. Groups of people moved wherever there was water and animals to hunt.

Today's borders have only been established over the last 600 years. They result from exploitation and wars between the bosses who have divided up the world and used workers to



fight for them.

That's why we must fight for communism, a society that will put an end to the idea that we belong to a country. We workers don't have a country. We have our class, the working class. Join the struggle for a world without borders and exploitation.

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

Have Confidence in Communism and the Working Class

I was recently invited to an ICWP communist political social event (picnic). I'm grateful to have gone and shared with people from different parts of the world.

In Colombia, I was part of the Colombian army, and my ideas were from the right. Recently, I met my friend H and began to talk with him about our position in society.

He made me realize how wrong I was, in a calm and steady way. I was listening and following his reasoning and realized that I had lived on the wrong side.

Not wanting to go to the park alone, I invited M, a friend from my town. But I didn't know his political ideas. At first, when I changed and began to see ideas in a different way, I didn't know how I could tell him what I had experienced or discovered. I wasn't sure how he would react.

However, I decided to start probing his thoughts. I began to give him a general explanation of the working-class struggle.

To my surprise, he told me that his grandfa-

ther had been a revolutionary. In the same way, his father has fought all his life for the working class. He said that he also liked revolutionary ideas.

He liked the activity a lot. Now he, too, is willing to learn more about the ideas and to participate in the party.

As my friend H said, “It's a practical lesson, talking to people. You find those workers who are so close to us, and sometimes we distance ourselves from them. You must have confidence in communist ideas and in the working class.”

I changed my position. Now that I have participated in this get-together with the party comrades, I am willing to learn more about communist ideas and see what the future holds for us.

—Colombian comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

Revolutionary Greetings from a Salvadoran Comrade

I had the opportunity, and a pleasant experience, of sharing a revolutionary picnic with comrades in Los Angeles. I was very impressed by the supportive environment and the racial diversity of those present, all united by the same fight.

Hugs and greetings from comrades made me feel like family. Then reports from different areas of party work began, which I really liked. These included Seattle, India, teachers from Los Angeles, and other very important topics. Then those present gave political opinions.

Some young Colombians were interested in learning more about the communist ideas of the party. I thought it was very good to win over more young people and make the political line of the ICWP party known.

There was a talk about a worker in a factory that I really liked. It dealt with communist ideas in practice. He was given as an example of the solidarity he shows by helping his family and friends.

It was a very inspiring day for me. I am enthusiastic to continue organizing and helping with party activities.

—Comrade in El Salvador

Imperialist Roots of Deadly Ethnic Conflict in Manipur

GARMENT WORKER SAYS: "IT IS COMMUNISM OR ENDLESS VIOLENCE"

INDIA, July 30—"You cannot go to bed tonight without massively distributing *Red Flag*," declared a comrade. "Manipur is like Kashmir and Afghanistan combined. We only have a communist revolution to build by eliminating all the capitalists and imperialists."

This comrade was among several dozen ICWP members who gathered for a forum. The atmosphere was charged, as the news was filled with stories about the heinous rape of two women by a mob of thousands. The Chief Minister, controlled by the ruling party BJP, admitted that there were hundreds, perhaps thousands, of such cases.

Not a single newspaper, TV channel, or social media report explained why such atrocities are leading to ethnic cleansing in Manipur. These bosses' media reported only that a recent High Court order declared the majority Meitei community a Scheduled Tribe (giving it a preferential treatment in government jobs and land acquisition). Previously only the Kukis, who lived in the mountains, enjoyed this status. After the court order, the Kuki community feared encroachments.

Three ICWP members detailed the real root of the deadly conflict. They explained how only communism can resolve it by smashing wage slavery that divides workers and promotes hate.

British Imperialism Was Behind This Conflict

In the early 19th century, the British East India Company discovered wild tea growing in northeast India (part of Manipur). Seeking an alternative to tea from China, they bribed a local king to produce tea commercially, using local tribes as wage labour.

Tea plantations grew quickly. The massive production of tea for export to Great Britain prevented the tribes from growing food for their sustenance. The Assam Rifles military unit was formed to enslave wage slaves of the tea gardens and to protect the British tea plantations.

The Assam Rifles became an occupying force. Then they discovered timber in the foothills. The commercial production of timber, used in shipbuilding, became the backbone of the British navy.

British colonial administrators used different tribes for tea plantations and timber production. They promoted different languages, religions, ethnicities to divide the working class. These newly created ethnic and tribal divisions intensi-

fied wage competition. The British introduced Christianity to create a docile work force that would accept capitalism.

The discovery of oil completed colonial plunder. British imperialism set its sights on Myanmar, Thailand, and China, using northeast India as a gateway. Manipur was considered the crown jewel of India.

World War II: Japanese Imperialists Challenge Britain

In 1944, fascist Japanese forces tried to invade Imphal, Manipur's capital. They planned to use it as a staging point to conquer all of India but suffered a disastrous defeat. Twenty-six thousand soldiers, from both sides, died in the battle.

But Britain emerged from the war greatly weakened. India became independent. But it inherited more insurgency as many workers, attracted by the success of the 1949 Chinese revolution, took up arms against the Indian army.

The Chinese Communist Party made many advances in defeating the vastly superior imperialist army. But it failed to advance to communism by ending wage slavery. That brought back capitalism and nationalism.

This directly affected northeast India. Over 300 nationalist and self-proclaimed 'communist' groups now fight each other in Manipur alone. Many are from neighbouring Myanmar which is under Chinese influence. The Indian Army has deployed over 46 battalions of the Assam Rifles and various Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorism military forces to brutally suppress the local population.

Oil and Natural Gas Fuel Ethnic Crisis in Manipur

Early estimates suggest that Manipur is sitting on five trillion cubic feet of oil, worth several trillion dollars. There is an even bigger prospect of finding natural gas, vast number of mineral resources, and timber. These are all found in the Kuki area.

Mining, oil and gas exploration, and timber are going to devastate Manipur, a fragile and biodiverse area already rocked with frequent earthquakes. Oil spills into pristine rivers have already poisoned the local population, very much like what has happened in Peru, Ecuador, and the Niger delta.

In 2010, the Indian government started oil production in thirty areas. It gave Jubilant Oil and Gas of the Netherlands exclusive rights to a 3,000 km² area (about 1150 square miles). The ownership of natural resources is contentious in Manipur. That's the root of the problem in Manipur. Different ethnic groups want to be classified as Scheduled Tribes to claim the owner-



Manipur protests 2012

ship of the land.

Garment Workers Inspired to Organize for Communism

"Now I clearly understand why there is killing in Manipur," said a garment worker. "For more than 300 years, ethnic hatred was created for profit. It has devastated the working class and it is threatening to damage natural resources.

"So many garment workers I know are from Bangladesh, without papers," she continued. "They know what is happening in Manipur. They fear for their life as the Indian government is targeting us. I was afraid of approaching these women, but I am going to take them *Red Flag* on Monday."

"We need to fight for communism, not each other" said another comrade. She had seen the ghastly images of rapes and knows that capitalism is responsible for degrading women. "Today it is Manipur. Yesterday it was the sexual abuse of athletes. There was the horrible case of Bilkis Bano, who was gang raped. There was the burning of a Dalit girl who was raped in Hathras. The list goes on. It is communism or endless violence."

A comrade commended the three presenters, saying, "We need to talk more about communism and how it is going to abolish wage slavery." This opened a big discussion about what holds us back from organizing communism, because everyone thinks that communism is better for us. Somebody said, "We like communism, but I feel it is a distant dream, capitalist forces are too powerful."

"If you read *Red Flag*, bring your friends to our meetings, recruit them to the party, it will give you a different idea," a comrade answered. "It is not only possible, but *Red Flag* groups around the world are struggling for the same cause. In India, a country of 1.4 billion people is looking for us. Capitalism looks intimidating because its mass media force-feed the masses with poisonous ideas. We can change it now."

Our forum continued for several hours. The participants grabbed *Red Flag*. Everybody wants to talk about Manipur. It is our opportunity to present our communist struggle and recruit the masses.

