

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

MASSES WORLDWIDE PROTEST GAZA GENOCIDE, SEE PAGES 3, 7, 8

KERALA, INDIA: END ISRAEL'S ATROCITIES IN GAZA



Letter from Palestine:

BETWEEN HUNGER AND THIRST, ORGANIZING A COMMUNIST COLLECTIVE IN A REFUGEE CAMP

GAZA, November 7—I am a freelance photographer in Gaza. I want to tell you how it feels to be living in the middle of the genocide.

The Israeli Defense Forces have the GPS location of all the water tanks installed on rooftops. They are systematically dropping bombs on these tanks to deprive water to the population. They also have the GPS location of every solar panel installed in Gaza, the bakeries, and flour mills. Now they have bombed all these structures. Thousands of dead bodies are under the rubble. The stench from the rotting is spreading everywhere.

Add to this the breakdown of the sanitation and sewer system. We are reduced to about two liters of salty water, and dry bread every other day. Masses of people are herded into hospitals that are constantly bombarded. The screaming of the injured people is unbearable, and the wailing of those relatives after they find their loved ones are dead, children in shock, separated from their parents. Horror after horror.

So why am I writing to you now? First, I want to say that this may be the last time I might be alive. I want to thank you for the *Red Flag* you have been sending for about three years. It was very nice to keep in communication about com-

munist. I have shared your literature with some friends in Gaza, Egypt, and Jordan.

You were asking me to organize for a communist revolution by making a small collective. I thought a lot about it. I consider myself a secular Muslim. I know from my personal experience and talking to many others that Hamas is no friend of the working class. In the north of Gaza, they have built ultra-luxury homes on the oceanside for the super-rich functionaries of Hamas and other rich people. It was a \$500 million project financed by the capitalists in Egypt and United Arab Emirates. There was a fight between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority for territorial control of the prime real estate properties.

The idea of communism sounded very appealing to me when I thought that not a single ultra-billionaire who controls the oil wealth in the Muslim countries has done anything to stop this genocide. The monarchs in the Middle East are like vultures. Then I thought of many Jewish common people who have come to Gaza and helped us over the years. They were telling us many stories of the Jewish soldiers unwilling to fight. We have heard of many Zionists who joined the Israeli Defense Forces but when they

saw that they were just occupying people in the West Bank, brutalizing them, they started rebelling against the Israeli government.

I have also heard of many demonstrations against the Gaza genocide all around the world. The masses of these workers are disgusted with genocide. My message is to unite the workers, not the capitalists. It is this fight among the capitalists that is causing genocide.

I am also thinking about how I can ask people to fight for communism when they are injured, bombed, their houses destroyed, no food, no water, and they have no hope. Communism is hope. It is based on reality. Out of 2.5 million people in Gaza, some will survive. So, I am sending all my friends in Gaza my stories of how I am becoming a communist. I have friends in Gaza in my camp who like the idea of communism. Between hunger and thirst, I will struggle to form a collective of our party.

I urge everyone who is reading this to do the same. Spread the word of communism everywhere in the world! Today's children of Gaza will carry on the fight for communism. If this is the last time you hear from me, my message is: Fight for communism.

— "Hamza"

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From Gaza to Shaheen Bagh, India:

COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL DEFEAT NATIONALISM AND FASCIST TERROR

SHAHEEN BAGH, DELHI (India), November 10— “When I saw images of the genocide in Gaza, my heart exploded in rage. We have been subjected to similar atrocities here since 1947”, said Ali, a Muslim resident of this predominantly Muslim community. “Over two million Hindus and Muslims were killed, and twenty million people were displaced”. This third-generation youth, like his neighbours, lives in constant fear of police killings, bulldozers destroying homes, and years-long imprisonment under harsh conditions.

“We are organizing for communist revolution”, said a comrade. ICWP members were distributing copies of *Red Flag* in Shaheen Bagh under fascist conditions. “From Gaza to Shaheen Bagh, rich capitalists have brought immense misery to people like you while amassing enormous wealth. We want to end this grotesque inequality by mobilizing hundreds of millions of workers to smash capitalism. It is a system based on insatiable greed. We want you to join ICWP”.

After October 7th, fascist Modi pledged support for the Zionist butchers in Israel. His government declared that demonstrations against the genocide in Palestine would be considered treason and punished with imprisonment. In Muslim areas, it is an even bigger threat as fascist RSS goons, protected by police, brutalize people.

Our party distributed the *Red Flag* in Shaheen Bagh in 2019 during a massive months-long protest against xenophobia. Ali, like many others, read *Red Flag* then. But when a comrade came to his house, things started to change. The conversation opened doors to many similar con-

versations about the need to organize for communism.

Ali was very impressed that so many non-Muslims flocked to the Shaheen Bagh protest. There was a tremendous sense of solidarity when Sikhs, Hindus, and secular people joined hands with the Shaheen Bagh residents. The fascists were trying to divide people based on their religion.

However, Ali saw that the movement was very nationalist. This bothered him. A comrade asked, “Are workers from Pakistan and India more similar than different”? Ali paused for a long time. Then he said, “We are more alike. It is the rulers who teach and indoctrinate people, it is the divide and conquer that the British colonialists used to forcefully displace people”. He gave an example of how the billionaire Adani supports fascist ideologues like Modi.

“We were blinded by nationalism”, Ali said. “This is the same ideology that the masses in Palestine and Israel are taught. It makes workers in both places enemies of each other. We should be all united against the ruling class in Israel and the Palestinian nationalists like Hamas and Palestine Authority”, he continued.

Ali offered us his house and introduced his extended family. An older brother spent four years in jail on fake charges. The violence in the jail made him disabled. Everybody in the family is glued to the news from Gaza. The ICWP comrade told Ali that he was a Hindu but understanding communism, he sees himself as a worker. “I would ask you to join ICWP and change the world. I want you to invite everyone you know

to join ICWP”.

Ali said he is now a member of ICWP. “In this Gaza war, I was hoping that some Muslim countries would put pressure on Israel or the US to stop the war. I now see they are all rich capitalists making their profit from the misery of the working class”.

“What is the next step? How many people do you know”? asked the visiting comrade. “Come with me with *Red Flag*”.

He and Ali brought stacks of RF to the neighbours. By the end of the day, we distributed hundreds of copies and Ali knew all of those who took it. He brought communist energy, explaining that we have to organize with the masses against the capitalists. It resonated in people’s imagination because they had experienced daily violence, brutality, and horrors. Now, many of them feel they have seen the communist solution that can destroy their oppressors in Gaza and Shaheen Bagh.

Our Delhi collective is engaged in many struggles like the one with Ali. In the last week, we recruited three new comrades from Shaheen Bagh. This is our new party cell. When we meet as a collective, our creativity, imagination, and strength expand. When we consistently meet as the collective, it brings life and future possibilities of more collectives culminating in a communist revolution.

Gaza has caused horrific death and destruction to the working class. But we will organize workers and soldiers to destroy our class enemies and triumph with the communist revolution.



PASADENA (USA), November 13— “Stop Gaza genocide! Cease-fire now!” Hundreds of adults and children gather weekly outside the office of Rep. Judy Chu. Marching across a busy street, they disrupt traffic. Their chants fill the air.

This grass-roots action is growing rapidly. And the political struggle sharpens. “Judy Chu, you can’t hide – stop supporting genocide,” youths chanted. A leader of Jewish Voice for Peace rushed to shut them up: “You can’t say that, you’ll push her away.” Typical of how liberals try to cage protests within capitalist politics! Another marcher, a union organizer, intervened: “You can’t tell the young people what to say!”

Meanwhile a Muslim friend told a comrade, “I don’t like ‘from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.’” She sees that a Hamas-controlled Palestinian state would likely resemble today’s Iran —and drive out Jewish people.

Comrades and *Red Flag* readers are raising communist ideas in these protests, reconnecting with old friends, and making new ones. Our party collective will get stronger.

Important Criticism of Last Issue

Our collective in Delhi, India discussed the articles in Vol. 14 #14. In India, we print a shorter version of *Red Flag*, which is usually the first three pages. We thought the letter on page three, by a Los Angeles teacher, needed an editorial comment.

The author of the letter had an opportunity to explain the ruling class propaganda of ‘both sides are to blame’ and ‘Israel was only responding’. The author never once said there was a genocide happening in Gaza.

You can only explain genocide if you understand history. The writer could have explained the historical emergence of colonialism, Zionism, ultra racism in the Israeli ruling class. This has resulted in mass expulsions, brutal wars after wars for domination, deliberate attacks on the civilian populations in Gaza and the West Bank, that have been going on for a long time.

Instead, the author’s assertion of building unity between Israeli and Palestinian workers is not going to convince many people. It is mechanical, ahistorical. In India, we are bom-

barded with anti-Muslim/anti-Dalit hate propaganda by the fascist BJP. We make a breakthrough in recruitment by ideologically struggling with the masses by looking deeper at the colonial history that created the social class of Hindu and Muslim.

—Delhi collective in the struggle

Red Flag responds: Thank you. We agree that the letter was mechanical and ahistorical. It should not have been on page three, and we should have commented on it critically.



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Massive Garment Workers' Protests in Bangladesh

ONLY COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM, WILL END EXPLOITATION

EL SALVADOR, November 11—Thousands of garment workers in Bangladesh went on strike, demonstrated massively, and fought police for better wages and against repression. This, amid a wave of political violence ahead of the January elections in this Asian country.

Bangladesh is the world's second-largest clothing exporter after China. Four million people work in its 3,500 clothing factories. They supply brands such as Levi's, Zara, and H&M.

The garment industry accounts for 85% of Bangladesh's \$55 billion in annual exports and 16% of the country's GDP.

Workers are demanding an increase in the minimum wage to 23,000 taka (about \$209 a month). The minimum wage has been frozen at 8,000 taka (almost \$73) since 2018.

"The owners have refused to meet the demands and many factories will close and work-

ers will lose their jobs," warned the president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Faruque Hasan.

The Government announced last week a raise to 12,500 taka (about \$112 dollars per month). Workers rejected this and continue to fight.

Maquila Workers in El Salvador Discuss Bangladeshi Workers' Struggles

"We are with you because we are living through the same bosses' attacks," said a worker comrade. "The bosses steal the value we produce. Only by fighting for communism will we win, because we will work based on meeting our needs.

"We will create a world without borders, without money, a communist society without racism, sexism or xenophobia. We will break the chains of wage slavery. We are united with you garment comrades in Bangladesh!"

"We are the international working class in struggle," said another worker comrade. "We tirelessly face exploitation, unjustified firings, and inhumane conditions. But they will not defeat us. We will fight for our cause."

Our struggle is not for money or reforms! Money does not produce value. Only workers' labor produces value. By

getting rid of the capitalists and their wage slavery, we can produce only the useful things the masses need to live a decent life. We will share, not sell or trade.

There is no "fair wage." Even with a wage increase, we are still chained to the capitalist system. We don't want more chains, but rather an end to their chains. Every worker needs to understand that only a communist society will eliminate money and exploitation.

Communism is the only alternative for the working class, where we will work producing for the needs of humanity. We fight for a society free of exploitation. Many of us who work in the maquilas are part of that fight.

Thousands of those fighting in Bangladesh today must join the International Communist Workers' Party to end exploitation once and for all.

There are four million garment workers in Bangladesh. If you join our party and build communist collectives, you will become a powerful force for communist revolution. You will inspire garment workers and all workers worldwide to fight to end wage slavery. You will help build a communist society to meet the needs of all workers.

Let's cross the bosses' borders and share *Red Flag* newspaper with these workers so that they feel communist solidarity.

Let's organize to overthrow this capitalist system! Let's fight for the communist world that we so need and deserve!



From Gaza to Gqeberha, South Africa:

UNITE WORKERS EVERYWHERE TO ORGANISE FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

GQEBERHA (South Africa), November 13 — "During the march in Summerstrand, I met a few communist friends", said a comrade. "They would like to build a relationship with me through the ICWP. They want to have a meeting asap. They are from Johannesburg."

Comrades of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) went to a march around Summerstrand (Gqeberha) against the genocide in Gaza. Members of the local mosque were there. It started small, but very soon there was an energetic multiracial crowd of thousands. We were impressed to see Black and white, Muslims and people of other religions, from all over the world, side by side, denouncing atrocities in Gaza.

We called for workers of all races and nationalities, from South Africa to Palestine, to fight for communism. We openly asked new comrades to join ICWP so we could destroy genocide, xenophobia, and racism.

In a communist society without money, we will be able to struggle and smash all forms of racism. We met some soldiers as well and explained to them our goal to eradicate wage slavery. We appealed to the soldiers to be part of the Red Army for communism, not the bosses' army to suppress workers.

We went to spread our party's communist ideas and communist solutions by distributing *Red Flag* and carrying our banner. We don't fight for national liberation. We have experience here in South Africa of both apartheid and the betrayal of the so-called liberation movement, exemplified by the African National Congress. The masses and the working class can only be

liberated by dismantling capitalism, which exploits workers and advances only international capitalist interests.

"Our fight is to destroy capitalism and usher in a new communist society," explained a comrade. "Join us in this struggle for true liberation by joining ICWP and reading and distributing our literature."

Our communist banner was visible to hundreds. ICWP comrades got to know some new members and recruited them to our party. We also made contacts with church members who are in solidarity with the Palestinian masses.

About three years ago, ICWP members participated in a demonstration at the same location, when the Israeli government bombarded Gaza. Among the hundreds of protestors, our members met some Muslim workers from Bangladesh, Somalia, and Zimbabwe. We also got to know a leader of the local New Muslim Unity, which had some Marxist influence.

One friend put us in contact with a comrade from Gaza. We shared and discussed *Red Flag* with our new friends and brought them closer to the party. They still get the paper and we have met with them since.

Our aim is to participate in the solidarity strikes to show contradictions in capitalism, and to bring communism as the only solution in solving such conflicts.

The Israeli government, together with the



USA imperialists, are committing genocide in Palestine. They have killed over eleven thousand, including over four thousand children, claiming that it is "self-defence" against Hamas. They are not defending any homeland, but American capitalist interests.

Even US politicians have openly stated since the 1950s that Israel is their unsinkable aircraft carrier guarding their interests in the Middle East.

Hamas leaders are no saints. They are not "defending Palestine." They too are capitalists trying to control resources, especially the gas reserves found off Gaza's coast. They are not fighting for liberation of the working-class Palestinians but for their own enrichment.

Fighting for national borders doesn't solve problems that the masses face. We should recognise this and mobilise our brothers and sisters for the destruction of capitalism and its profit wars with communist revolution.

Anti-APEC Conference: A Weekend of Communist Struggle

WHY COMMUNISM, NOT NATIONAL LIBERATION, WILL END EXPLOITATION

SAN FRANCISCO (USA), November 14—“I don’t like nationalism. It divides the working class. If communists are fighting the bosses, then I’m a communist!” said a young person in our ICWP workshop at the No 2 APEC Peoples’ Summit in San Francisco.

“In the Philippines, National Liberation means a fight against oppressors,” said a young woman. “I believe this helps to educate and organize for a revolution worldwide. You say that national liberation won’t lead to workers’ freedom, but for years that’s been the struggle in the Philippines. We should support it.”

“The Vietnamese workers fought heroically with tremendous commitment against the Japanese, French, and US imperialism for over 30 years! They defeated them all,” replied an ICWP comrade.

“But they fought for National Liberation, not Communism. So today, Vietnamese workers are wage slaves for Nike and other capitalists. The Vietnamese government is allied with US imperialism against Chinese imperialism.”

This discussion was useful because National Liberation is the main goal of many organizations. The next day, a “national liberation” contingent marched in the anti-APEC march.

History shows that all national liberation movements end up siding with one imperialist or another. They put new capitalists in power. The American revolution successfully defeated the British capitalists. The US rulers have imposed racist capitalism and imperialism on the masses in the US and worldwide.

We need communism—to get rid of all capitalists and imperialists. To produce for the masses’ needs. As long as capitalism exists, the working class will be enslaved.

Thus, ICWP is building one international communist party, not separate parties in each country. Workers worldwide face the same capitalist enemy and need communism together.

“I disagree that no capitalist economic alliance has ever protected workers,” said another young woman. “We should reform the trade agreements to help poorer countries, like Mexico and the Philippines.”

She was responding to a comrade who said that the imperialist rulers have organized themselves into competing trade blocs that only result in greater exploitation of workers.

“Capitalism is based on exploiting workers. Imperialists move their enterprises to other countries to superexploit workers there,” said

another comrade. “No rule will change that. Only by getting rid of production for profit and producing for the needs of our international working class will we end this super-exploitation.”

Another young man said, “My experience with Bernie Sanders turned me off to communists. He supports Biden in supporting Netanyahu. After five years of political activism, I am jaded!”

“Sanders doesn’t reflect a communist position at all! He is a social democrat. He tries to fool people into thinking we can change capitalism through elections. He supports US imperialism,” answered a comrade.

“How can you criticize Hamas when they’re the only ones fighting the Israeli government?” asked the same man.

“Hamas leaders are capitalists who live in luxury while the Palestinian masses are exploited and killed. Palestinian masses need to build a united struggle for communism, along with all workers of the world. They don’t need to replace one exploiter with another,” responded another ICWP comrade.

Forty people participated in our workshop in person and on zoom. It was very different from the others. Those had long presentations with only a few minutes left for discussion. Ours was organized to make discussion the main aspect. We put the chairs in a circle to see each other while participating in the discussion.

Mass participation in discussing and criticizing every aspect of the communist revolution we need is crucial. We need to take this approach at the mass demonstrations in which

our class participates too. Encouraging everyone’s participation now is the way to guarantee the masses’ participation in making decisions in communism.

One Working Class, One International Communist Workers’ Party

A comrade opened the workshop by explaining our party and our communist vision of a world without money, borders, or imperialist war.

A comrade in the El Salvador maquilas described our struggle for communism among these industrial workers. He explained that no capitalist trade group can represent workers’ interests. That we must fight directly for communism, not to reform trade groups with “pro-worker laws.” This emphasized that industrial workers and soldiers are key for revolution and communism.

These short talks, our participation in earlier workshops, and our *Red Flag* distribution provoked this very lively discussion. It was a win for our ICWP. Seeing that thirteen people signed up to know more about ICWP, a comrade said, “Good! Let’s engage in more struggles like this!”

The next day, thousands marched against APEC and genocide. We distributed over 1200 copies of RF/BR, over 100 pamphlets about Mobilizing Masses for Communism and immigration, and 1200 ICWP leaflets “Abolish Imperialist Trade Cartels, War and Genocide with Communist Revolution.”

In all, twenty people signed up to learn more about ICWP. We have contacted all of them. Now we need to develop communist relations.



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We’re Prepared.... With Communist Solutions

What most stood out to me at the No to APEC conference was the clear difference between those who believe we need reform struggles and ICWP that organizes directly for communism and communist revolution. The reformers believe reforms are a pathway to “address root causes” and/or abolish capitalism. I see it more as a distraction that does not move people towards communism.

The reformers don’t have faith that people will unite behind a communist cause without hooking them into reform struggles. However, bogging down workers and students in reform struggles is basically telling them that capitalism works and simply needs some fixing.

Working within the capitalist system leads some to believe that the “justice system” can

work for us if we have enough legal observers, social justice lawyers, protests, and advocacy. It says capitalism simply needs more regulation and ethical corporations. It says this is all possible under capitalism if we expose injustices and unethical corporations.

Reformers seem to get preoccupied with explaining the details and researching what companies should be exposed for wrongdoing. They don’t explain that the capitalist system was not designed to serve the working class, only the capitalist ruling class.

These errors have already been made by past communist movements. We must learn to fight directly for communism. We must take every opportunity to explain what communism is to the masses. We cannot get stuck with reform struggles. They have never been a step in the right direction.

The first workshop I attended was supposed to be about organizing the new anti-war movement. Most of their presentation was detailing how Boeing was making huge profits from supplying the “war machine.” They hinted at being anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist but never at any solutions other than reforms. When I asked how their actions would lead to attacking the root cause of the problem or what their solution would be, they disagreed. They said that talking about these details would lead to actionable activities that people would join.

However, I saw when distributing the hundreds of fliers and Red Flags that people were open to communist ideas. Many have already concluded that capitalism does not work for them. They are looking for solutions. Are we prepared to give these to them? ICWP is prepared!

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

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Hurricanes: Not Natural Disasters, But Capitalist Disasters

The death toll, misery, and precariousness left by Hurricane Otis in Acapulco, Coyoaca de Benítez, and the entire coast of Guerrero are caused by the capitalist system.

The government did not take measures to prevent the damage to people and their property. It has been said that it ignored warnings that the tropical storm would become a highly dangerous hurricane.

Poverty and rudimentary or improvised housing caused the hurricane to affect the working class the most.

The wealth from the area's tourist industry remains in the hands of the capitalists. Few workers have sufficient income to buy or build resistant houses.

These "natural disasters" fit perfectly into the rulers' plans. The population doesn't blame them for the natural phenomena, and they are not burdened with the responsibility of reconstruction. So any help is accepted as a benefit, and the politicians see their influence strengthened.

Additionally, they can enrich themselves with the management of supplies. Either they directly divert the official budget, or they make arrangements with suppliers.

President López Obrador said that he met with the Mexican bishops to coordinate the aid before going to San Francisco (USA) to participate in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC).

The Zambrano family owns the Cemex corporation. It also has a cement production plant in Israel, helping to build the walls separating Gaza and the West Bank from Israel. It has announced that "its labor union" will take a caravan of trucks with materials for reconstruction. This is "part of an inter-institutional effort" in conjunction with private initiative and other social organizations.

The working class, as always, was the first to respond to help those in need. Workers brought food and medicine and helped search for the injured under the rubble. Only the working class saves the working class!

Capitalism is the problem. The solution is to end it, to abolish all buying and selling. First, the buying and selling of labor power. Then we would not need money. Production would be to satisfy present and future human needs. To achieve that we need to mobilize the masses for communism.

—Comrade in Mexico

Port of Tacoma, USA



Let's Turn Resistance to Capitalism into Revolution for Communism

"If we can pull off this level of global solidarity, then the revolution starts now," said a friend whom we met at anti-APEC events this summer. They referred to holding up an arms shipment to Israel leaving the Port of Tacoma. A high school friend we met distributing *Red Flag* was also enthusiastic about the potential of these actions.

These discussions revealed the contradiction between strategies that aim for communist revolution and those that rely on resistance while maintaining capitalism.

In them, comrades emphasized the need to win industrial workers like longshore workers and Boeing workers, as well as soldiers, to communism.

We gave two historical examples. First, during the 1917 Russian Revolution, Seattle longshore workers noticed large shipments of sewing machines being sent to areas around Russia. The longshore workers found it odd that sewing machines would be a priority during a civil war.

A waterfront worker "accidentally" dropped a sewing machine crate. Lo and behold! The crates held rifles. They were destined for the anti-communist white army supported by imperialists including the US. Left-wing longshore workers made sure the guns never made it to the Russian battlefield.

Second, we described the first battle of the revolutionary civil war. It took place outside Petrograd. In the factories, production of war materiel for the revolution went on day and night. The contribution of factory workers did not end at the factory gates.

Over five hundred workers from the

Putilov Works and fifty carpenters rushed to the trenches with their tools. They wanted to be sure the soldiers got them quickly! They trained revolutionary soldiers how to use them. They repaired vehicles and weapons on the front lines. Masses of factory workers from all

over the city did the same.

Global unity based on resistance alone cannot end imperialism because it leaves capitalism intact. Only international communist revolution can free us from the clutches of capitalist genocide. This requires winning masses of industrial workers.

Revolutionary communist strategy requires that these workers take the fight beyond the factory

gates. There can be no talk of revolution without large sections of the military convinced to turn the guns around.

We stand with the hundreds who blocked the immediate delivery of weapons for genocide. Nonetheless, the revolution really starts when industrial workers and soldiers around the world embrace communist insurrection.

Communist organizers will not spring up spontaneously. We are confident that today's struggles, like the debates with our friends, pave the way for recruitment to ICWP during mass global rebellions.

—Comrades in Seattle (USA)

No2APEC Summit—Capitalism is the Problem!

The corporate greed and power-hungry psychopaths' abusive practices toward humans and their devastating methods to exploit earth's natural resources are all too obvious.

Big business buys (corrupts) politicians and manipulates public opinion into making us believe in them. "Free trade, free market," they cry. Do they talk about corporate welfare? Bank bailouts? Halliburton deal?

Years ago, business (imperialism) interests escalated the issues between the Israelites and the Palestinians. Now, scripture stories may soon end in World War III. It seems to me they want to meet the same maker.

Hey, big business! Where are you? Ruining everything!

The Earth is also letting us know that she is getting sick and tired of big business' abusive methods to exploit her with Irregular Signs of climate disasters.

AI (artificial intelligence) is around the corner. Once stabilized, she would not need us! Would she want to keep us alive? At least as pets or in the zoo!

We mass-produce, the strong undermine the humble and the weak. Capitalists want us to not resolve differences, just to kill each other.

APEC = Big business will buy politicians to help them out. Creates mass productions with big machines and abusive labor practices that will eventually kill all small competition in small Asian countries and Islanders.

Find out about farmers' suicides in India due to being forced deeper and deeper in debt for seeds, while farmers in Mexico were kicked off their land by NAFTA flooding the Mexican market with cheaper corn from the US.

—A Friend in Los Angeles (USA)



GQEBERHA (South Africa)— ICWP comrades organize soup kitchens in their neighborhood. In communism, there will be no profit, money, no banks. Food will be distributed to everyone according to need.

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Using *Red Flag* to Organize Factory Workers for Communism

At a meeting of collectives in El Salvador, a *Red Flag* reader said, "Capitalism makes people believe that Israel is a people of God and even calls it a holy land. But I see that they kill our people without mercy. Reading this newspaper, we are clarifying what the real motives of the war are."

We commented that the war in Gaza is also a business that generates millions of dollars in profits for the capitalist owners of arms factories. Their sales skyrocket, enriching their pockets stained with workers' blood. The rulers and power groups line up in blocs and fight for their petty interests.

"The war also makes us see the need to organize for the International Communist Workers' Party in the army. Also, having more workers in the industrial areas is how we must respond to these attacks on the working class," said another comrade.

We believe that as an International Communist Workers' Party facing this whole situation, we can never give up. We must organize more workers for a classless society.

We have held meetings of the workers' collectives in the factory. We discuss articles from the latest edition of this newspaper about the war in Gaza. And we discuss the political activities we have planned as ICWP. We are inviting workers to the conference at the end of this year, emphasizing the importance of political training.

We will continue to hold these discussions with the city and rural workers of the east and west of El Salvador, distributing our *Red Flag* newspaper.

—Comrade Maquila worker

End imperialist wars, fight for a communist revolution.

"I feel completely frustrated and helpless about the indiscriminate attacks on humanity, hostage taking, forced displacement, bombings, a complete genocide. Is this war worth it?" commented J.

"An artificial state founded by British imperialists with the excuse of early 20th century Zionism, to defend British and US imperialist interests in the Middle East is leading to the bloodiest genocide of the 21st century," J concluded.

"No, none of this has to do with the Jewish people, none of it has to do with the Muslim faithful. They are just people stripped of their dignity, of their lives, so that a few politicians can hold power for a while longer," said R.

The problem is Zionism, which is a racist ultra-nationalist ideology that defends the superiority of Jews over Arabs. Israel's defense minister demonstrated this when he spoke of Palestinians as animals. This is the policy promoted by Netanyahu's fascist government. This ultra-right-winger even blamed the Nazi genocide not on Hitler, but on the Arabs!

It is a crucial time to fight and mobilize the masses for a communist system, to reverse the genocide in Gaza.

"What difference would it make to this war if we made a communist revolution?" J asked.

The difference is great. That is an imperialist

THE SEED OF THE COMMUNIST REVOLUTION IS IN THE TEXTILE FACTORIES



war. Our struggle is for freedom, to materialize our ideals of a common good. To live collectively without wage slavery, without exploitation, sexism or racism, a life without borders, to defeat and end capitalism.

We need a red army to mobilize the masses where young communist soldiers and the working class give leadership for a communist society.

We must spread the ideas of real communism among our working-class brothers and sisters around the world to stop the plans of the imperialist bosses.

Join and be part of our party. It is urgent to build a mass ICWP. Help us strengthen the revolutionary movement we need. Read and distribute *Red Flag*.

—Comrade in El Salvador

Opening People's Eyes So They Join ICWP

Over three years ago, many comrades welcomed me to the first meeting of the El Salvador collective to which I was invited. It was admirable to see the struggle and commitment of all the comrades, to learn about the struggle of the working class both here and in South Africa, India, and other places. Listening to their personal stories, I was moved.

I felt at home. I had finally found what I had been looking for. Since then I have been an active part of our ICWP party and our *Red Flag* newspaper. I am proud of it.

I feel responsible to unify efforts with the other comrades, to build the basis of communist relations with more people so that they become part of our communist struggle.

I share my story with friends and family so that they will also open their eyes and join and become part of our party.

I let them know that our unity is a victory for the consciousness of the working class. Power to the working class! Our struggle goes beyond partial change against the attacks of capitalism. It is a struggle against the whole system. That's why we fight for communism.

We have a group of readers with whom I always share our newspaper *Red Flag*. It's a constant struggle and a commitment that we must continue winning comrades who know and understand the ideology of our party. And that we are an international party without borders.

I will continue to follow up on our political

reading and discussion group, fighting for our *Red Flag* readers to become our comrades in the revolutionary struggle for a communist world.

—A Comrade in El Salvador

Where "Barbie" Gets It Wrong: Childcare, Consumerism, and Body Image

I liked that the movie review of Barbie invited us into conversation about capitalist gender roles and communist alternatives.

The review describes how a giant Barbie doll disrupts girls' play with baby dolls and pretend-housework. The movie's point was that "Barbie ushered in a new world of possibilities for women beyond the limits of motherhood and domesticity."

I think we should be much more critical of that.

For starters, over one third of US women already worked outside the home in 1959, when Barbie debuted. Fifty percent of Black women did.

Children's play (in many societies) prepares them for adult work. Taking care of babies is important, useful work. So is housework. The problem isn't that girls' play prepares them for this. It's that boys' play doesn't.

Dolls designed for boys ("action figures") prepare them to fight without questioning why. At worst, "cowboys and Indians" invite them to reenact genocide.

It's a problem if girls get only dolls and kitchen sets to play with. They need construction toys, art supplies, sports equipment, and much more. But what "new possibilities" did Barbie represent? Mainly consumerism, as the review notes, especially for clothing. "Let's go shopping," said Talking Barbie. Shopping became the new "women's work."

Barbie overwhelmed little girls with a distorted image of a grown woman. If Barbie were life-sized, she would be 5'9" tall with a 39" bust, an 18" waist, 33" hips, and size 3 shoes. An actual woman that height would probably wear at least a size 9 shoe.

Barbie's feet are deformed to permanently wear high heels. Her hands are tiny. How could she do real work? All the "career" and "athlete" Barbies are just the same bizarre teen model dressed in Halloween costumes.

Barbie supposedly weighs 110 lbs. A healthy woman that height would weigh at least 145 lbs. Is it coincidental that anorexia spiked in the 1960s as Barbie's popularity soared? That's when images of the "ideal" female body changed from full-figured (like Marilyn Monroe) to skeletal (like Twiggy).

Studies of hunter-gatherer societies show that children make dolls and learn, through play, to nurture younger children. They also make and use other objects in play and to accomplish actual tasks. Most are full-sized or miniature versions of adult tools. They are learning useful skills for adult roles. In play, they also learn their peer culture.

Children in communist society will probably play more like hunter-gatherer children than like kids in late-stage capitalism. Work will again become the center of culture. Children, like everyone else, will do whatever useful work they can. "Child labor" will be valued, not exploited. And yes, that will often include boys as well as girls helping with younger children.

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

Israeli rulers have sowed the wind. They will reap a whirlwind.

GAZA: THE WORLD'S LARGEST OPEN-AIR PRISON FOR 75 YEARS

Palestinians in Gaza have lived in the world's largest open-air prison since Israel became a state in 1948.

Before capitalism dominated the Middle East, Palestinians, Jews, and Christians lived peacefully side by side in Palestine. They lived under the domination of the Ottoman Empire, whose chiefs and feudal army taxed and oppressed them heavily.

The Ottoman Empire was defeated in World War I. British and French imperialists divided its spoils. The UK and US imperialists encouraged and used the Zionist movement to build a "Jewish homeland" in what had been mainly the

home of Palestinians.

Since then, the Israeli government and the US/UK imperialists have built an apartheid state. Palestinians have been divided, imprisoned, and killed. Their every move is monitored. And Jewish workers (even those won to fascist Zionist ideas) are exploited wage slaves.

The imperialists have used Israel as their policeman in the Middle East, trying to control the region's plentiful oil. They and the Israeli ruling class, like all capitalists and imperialists, have total disdain for the Palestinian masses and the Jewish masses too.

Netanyahu funded ultraconservative Hamas

for over ten years to weaken the influence of the Palestinian Authority. He aimed to divide Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, preventing a (capitalist) Palestinian state. He has encouraged Qatar to fund Hamas and to create a class of very rich Palestinians who exploit the Palestinian masses.

Hamas is also supported by an opportunist alliance of Turkey, Iran, and

Qatar. They do not care about the Palestinian masses. They aim only to be the capitalist rulers of a Palestinian state that exploits them.

Fascist propaganda and lies used to justify genocide

About 1200 Israelis were killed amid the Hamas raid on Israel. Independent sources now say that many of these deaths resulted from the Israeli Defense Forces.

People who live in the kibbutzim where hostages were taken and people were killed say that many died when the IDF, surprised and unprepared for the Hamas raid, opened fire indiscriminately, shooting from helicopters.

The Hamas fighters were armed with Kalashnikovs and on motorcycles and small trucks. Big craters are visible in the areas of the attack. These could only have come from IDF bombs and heavy weapons. Youths killed at a rock concert were caught in the crossfire between IDF and Hamas forces.

Netanyahu and the entire western media have used horror stories about this attack to justify Nazi-style collective punishment. The IDF has murdered over 11,000 Palestinians, including at least 5000 children. They have deprived people of food, water, medicine, and forced them to evacuate.

Occupation and oppression can only lead to more resistance. Genocide will lead to broader war. The whirlwind of a united communist movement will blow this deadly system away with a revolution that builds communist society.



Seoul, South Korea—Activists, including Arab speakers, condemn the Israeli military invasion of Gaza

GAZA GENOCIDE from page 8

Facing World War III, Let's Mobilize Masses for Communism

This is the time to mobilize in the armed forces for communism. No soldier, sailor, Air Force personnel, or marine from the US or any other country should support the genocide in Gaza. We should not shed one drop of anyone's

blood for the capitalist-imperialist rulers' profits and empires. We need to build collectives of ICWP to mobilize them for communism and to turn their guns on the bosses, instead of on other workers.

Industrial workers, many of whom produce for war, also need to build ICWP collectives to mobilize for communist revolution. They can use the weapons they make against the capitalists and imperialists, as Russian workers in the

Putilov works did in 1917.

Students, who are future workers and soldiers, should join the fight for communism too.

Communist revolution will end competition for maximum profit. That is the material basis of imperialist war, and all other attacks on our one international working class. The masses need one international communist party with one goal: Communism. Join us!

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

How Can Communists Organize Inside Capitalist Militaries Today?

A comrade in Oregon (USA) has been discussing the situation in the Middle East (and around the world) with friends. Some of them work in schools there. Many of these friends see that the imperialists are pivoting to war.

The comrade thinks it is very important that our paper should talk about what communists can do now to organize in the military. Also, what members and friends of our party have done in the past. Actual examples and stories are key for people to believe we really can do this.

The comrade formulated these questions:

*What are the material conditions that move capitalist/imperialist nations into war?

*Capitalist propaganda tells us 24/7 that war is in our interests. How do we show that these imperialist wars are never in the interests of workers, students, and soldiers?

*How can we combat the nationalist messages that aim to get us to support and engage capitalism's desperate wars for their profits and survival, when these wars are never in our working-class interests?

*How and why do we advocate for communism and working-class solidarity as the only response to imperialist competition and war?

*Why must we organize for communism in the military when the purpose of the military is to train us to fight for capitalism and its survival in each nation?

*What is the history of organizing for communism in the military?

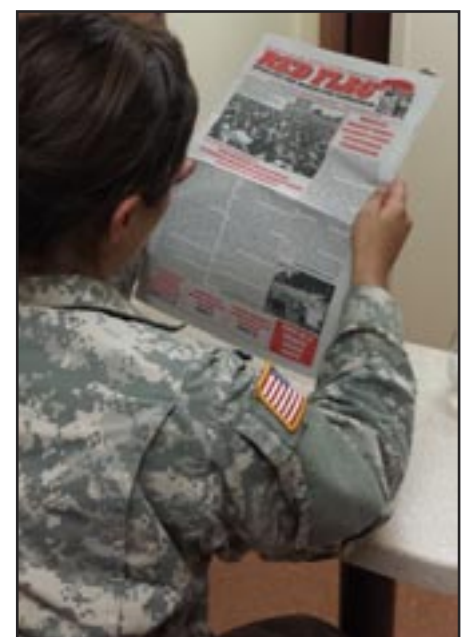
*How do we build party collectives within the military?

Comrades and friends from around the world, many of you have experience (or friends with experience) in organizing for communism in the military. We have historical examples from many places including Russia and China. But we are looking for more current (and first-person) examples from the late 20th century to now.

This is key work for making a revolution. We all need to know that it has been done and can be done. What mistakes were made? How can we improve our work?

Please contribute stories and examples and ideas for answering these questions.

Red Flag/Bandera Roja Collective



Read our pamphlet:

Soldiers, Sailors, Marines: Crucial to a Communist Workers' Revolution

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf

DISILLUSIONED ISRAELI SOLDIERS SPEAK OUT, SHOW POTENTIAL TO ORGANIZE A RED ARMY

TEL AVIV (Israel), November 14— “Amid mass hysteria to support IDF, a viral video of four Israeli soldiers speaking in Arabic is circulating everywhere,” said a comrade here. “They denounce the Israeli army, saying God is with Palestine, f*** Israeli Army. Such a blatant attack on the Israeli Defense Forces usually brings harsh punishment. But the brass only warned them that their behavior contravenes the principles and values of the Army.”

Masses in Israel are questioning their support of the Israeli rulers and their genocidal slaughter in Gaza. The parents of two peace activists killed by Hamas on October 7 blamed the IDF for creating unbearable conditions for 75 years in Gaza. In 2014, IDF killed over 2200 Palestinians in Gaza. Most were civilians. And Israeli rulers continued to fund Hamas with millions of dollars after 2014.

Every time the Israeli rulers send young soldiers off to fight, many come back angry and disillusioned with Zionism.

A soldier formerly in the elite Golani training bitterly complained that he constantly gets nightmares from his combat duty. He gets no therapy. “I killed them all (Palestinians), anything that moved. I did not spare even small children. I was part of the ‘mow the lawn’ campaign. Now I shout, I complain, and I pee all night from post trauma. I see the innocent children’s faces and I hear, ‘Why did you kill me?’

“My whole family contributed to the army,” he continued. “They told me lies about the Suez Canal. I was selected for the Havatzalot intelligence project. I had the highest motivation. Only to find out they were feeding me lies.”

The documentary “To see if I am smiling” tells about IDF in 2006 in the West Bank. It is narrated by six women soldiers. “Our unit threw a hand grenade at a crowd of Palestinians,” one said. “Several died. I saw a young girl limping in pain. My natural instinct was to run to the girl to help her. The Palestinian woman who saw me thought I was going to kill the little girl. I will

never forget the rage in her eyes. I will never forget those eyes of anger and agony. It gives me nightmares.”

These women’s story is the story of Israeli society. Young men and women at the age of 18 are conscripted. They are told lies about how they are going to create security. In reality, soldiers are forced to terrorize the population to serve the Israeli capitalists.

Their story shows explosive potential to recruit soldiers from the capitalist army to build a communist red army for revolution.

Thousands of Israeli ex-soldiers have seen that their life was spent not on the security of the working class but on the security of the capitalist oppressors. They have formed a mass organization called Breaking the Silence.

“I was a tank commander between 2010 and 2013,” said one. “We have been Breaking the Silence for 18 years now and have been collecting evidence of soldiers in occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank. Our task as the army was to keep them down, to subjugate them, to make them worthless, humiliate them. Now thanks to the brave soldiers, they are disobeying these orders. They don’t want to serve in these mass murders and create massive refugee camps.”

“I was a part of a terror organization,” said a former Israeli Air Force pilot. “This occupation is an ongoing criminal act, war crimes after war crimes. And we are not going to continue in these war crimes anymore.”

Thousands of ex-soldiers in Israel are seeing the class nature

of the war. It only serves the ruling capitalist class. While rulers like fascist Netanyahu carry out genocidal attacks in Gaza, his son lives luxuriously in Miami. The top leadership of Hamas also live luxuriously in Qatar.

The imperialist genocide in Gaza shows that the Israeli ruling class is both extremely weak and lethal. It relies on the US, another declining power. War has created millions of angry masses around the world. The most important lesson we can draw is the necessity of organizing soldiers in the bosses’ armies.

Red Flag adds: A soldier in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, distributes *Red Flag* to his unit. He says that the Gaza genocide is making more soldiers see our line of recruiting communists. “The bosses are powerless if we refuse to fight for them.” Let’s follow his lead by recruiting more soldiers from the bosses’ armies everywhere. We must build one united Red Army. Neither Hamas nor IDF can bring peace. They are enemies of the working class. Let’s build a mighty ICWP of red soldiers to free the working class from wage slavery and genocide.



Rebellious US soldiers in Vietnam made it impossible for the US government to field a reliable army.

Crossroads for the International Working Class: GENOCIDE AND WORLD WAR.... OR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

“The world is at a crossroads,” said US President Biden on November 1. “What happens in the next two to three years will determine what the world looks like for the next five or six decades.”

He’s right. Two imperialist blocs confront each other—in Israel/Palestine, Ukraine, Syria, Taiwan, and beyond. We are in the early stages of World War III. Now is the time to mobilize the masses of workers, soldiers, and youth to turn imperialists’ wars and genocides into communist revolution.

Securing energy sources for industry and the war machine is a life-and-death question for both imperialist blocs. So is denying energy to their rivals. The mainstream press won’t tell you this, but it’s a key reason for the Gazan genocide.

The Israeli government has had its eye on the Leviathan gas field discovered off Gaza’s coast since 2010. They describe it as “off the coast of Israel.” But most of the gas and oil is in the waters off Palestinian Gaza.

That’s part of why the genocidal Israeli rulers

aim to drive Gazans out of Gaza. The outright military occupation of northern Gaza is to confiscate the multi-million-dollar Gaza offshore natural gas and oil reserves.

Germany, France, and other European imperialists desperately need this oil and gas. They no longer get energy from Russia—after the US imperialists blew up the Nord stream pipelines. They had to break the EU’s addiction to Russian energy to get them on their side to fight China-Russia-Iran. So far, it seems to be working.

Thus, Israeli control of Gaza’s oil and gas becomes very important for US and European imperialists. That’s why the main NATO heads of state rushed to visit and support Netanyahu. They included rulers of France, Greece, Italy, the UK, Germany, and the US. They all endorse the genocide in Gaza and Israeli access to offshore Gazan oil. France’s President Macron even called on NATO to send troops to fight Hamas.

But the genocide in Gaza is solidifying the Arab/Muslim world against the US/Israel/NATO. Intense meetings are taking

place in Moscow between Russian leaders, Hamas, and Iran. China has brought former arch-rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia together. Iran’s President Raisi visited Saudi Arabia. This means the European capitalists will have a harder time getting gas and oil to run their industries profitably. This will accelerate the drive to global war.

Some analysts, including Pepe Escobar, assert that Iran, Russia, and China set a trap for the US in Israel, a “second quagmire.” The US was already in a no-win situation of its own creation in Ukraine. If Escobar is right, the Russia-Chinese-Iran bloc is cynically willing to fight the US-led bloc to the last Gazan worker. Just like the US/NATO bloc is callously fighting Russia to the last Ukrainian.

The whole Middle East could be engulfed in flames which could quickly spread globally. For example, Hezbollah could act at any time against Israel. Israel could open a second front in Lebanon. The US nuclear submarines could attack Iran. This is a very dangerous period.

See GAZA GENOCIDE, page 7