

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



Khan Younis, Gaza



Los Angeles, USA



Jakarta, Indonesia

SECOND LETTER FROM GAZA: TALKING ABOUT COMMUNISM AMID THE RUBBLE OF A REFUGEE CAMP

December 3— It is becoming increasingly difficult to communicate with you.

After a pause in the genocidal war, the Israeli Defense Forces launched carpet-bombing in the area where we are taking refuge. We are in Khan Younis with at least 200,000 people. We are all homeless and overcrowded. Hepatitis and viral flu are spreading like wildfire.

You would like to know how I am spending my days and nights since you started sending *Red Flag* regularly. *Red Flag* has been my source of joy, excitement, and hope. I read every word of it. As we sat around at night, I started talking to many friends. I share my Arabic translation of *Red Flag* with them. I don't have the same friends every night, but we quickly talk about communist ideas and how things could be so different.

One friend said that his grandfather was a communist in the 1930s. He clearly remembers his grandfather talking very affectionately about a Jewish communist who remained his lifetime comrade in struggle. When I showed him *Red Flag* and said that ICWP is building an international working-class party for communism, he raised his fist. I said that we could organize a small group to talk about *Red Flag*. He agreed but also said that we are on the move every day.

Rich Israeli Rulers Responsible for Brutal Attacks

I have also seen that ordinary people who are displaced, many of their relatives are killed, and their houses bulldozed don't carry a grudge against Israelis. They think there is a powerful system in Israel and a handful of super-rich people order the army, police, and politicians to carry out this brutal attack.

Many people are very carefully reading about the few Israeli ex-soldiers who have denounced the war. It gives them hope that not every Israeli soldier is willing to fight.

I thought of the friend whose communist grandfather had a Jewish comrade. We can do it again. The Israeli workers are showing signs of distrust with Netanyahu. If ICWP can organize workers and soldiers there, people in Gaza will erupt in solidarity.

Many of the top Hamas leaders grew up in the refugee camps in Khan Younis and other areas. I don't want the future of our children to get wasted by Hamas or other nationalist groups. I want a red flag, not the green flag of treacherous and opportunistic Hamas. Hamas and Israeli rulers have sold out the working class in Palestine and Israel. They are using genocide to advance their sick system.

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**THIS
IS A
4-WEEK
ISSUE**

MOBILISING THE FACTORY WORKERS FOR COMMUNISM

GQEBERHA (South Africa), November 24 — Around 50 comrades participated in the *Red Flag* distribution and mini toyi toyi protest at the VW plant in Uitenhage yesterday. A mix of new and old comrades distributed more than three hundred copies of the *Red Flag*. We had two banners: one in solidarity with the Palestinians and another calling for the destruction of capitalism.

That was our message to the workers as we distributed the *Red Flag* and marched in solidarity with the Palestinian masses suffering genocide at the hands of Israeli and US imperialism and capitalists.

One coloured worker shouted, “Free Palestine!” when he saw our banner. A comrade replied, “Free Palestine and forward with communism!”

A worker asked, “If you say down with capitalism, who is going to employ us as we work in these firms to feed our families and they pay well here.”

The comrade replied, “We will work as workers are working right now. The difference is that it won’t be to satisfy the profits of shareholders and bosses that we have never even seen face to face. Rather, we will produce everything, not for profit, but to satisfy our needs.”

“Then who is going to own things,” the worker asked. “People sometimes need a boss.”

“The system favours the bosses,” the comrade answered. “That’s why they always pretend that



we need them. For example, workers here produce cars even though they never see the owner. That means that workers can produce without the bosses’ presence already. The difference is that in communism, workers will own the means of production without them being owned by few individuals.”

“That’s an interesting angle,” the worker replied. “I wish I had time, but I will read the paper.” We told him the number was on the paper if he wanted to know more about communism and ICWP. He promised he will do as he was rushing to clock-in.

Other comrades welcomed the fact that workers received the paper with a smile and enthusiasm, even though some were little shy because

they had never distributed before. Comrades marched and danced with our banner. The workers in the plant definitely now know about ICWP. We are confident many will join in the future as our work in the plant will intensify leading up to the May Day next year.

Another positive is that we have a long-time friend who works at VW. He has promised to distribute the paper to a few of his colleagues and factory workers he is friends with. There are two potential workers he will struggle with since he is close and talks with them every day. We will assist the comrade and we plan to invite the workers to our meetings.

We had a positive day. However, we recognise that as comrades we must struggle and learn everyday about our weaknesses and strengths both as a collective and individuals. Part of that is, as a collective, we need new members to be confident with the party’s communist line. It helps that they are present to distribute but that is not all. We must sharpen our ideological understanding so as to advance it to the masses and workers with confidence and conviction. Participating in the distribution is a start and we will continue in this struggle.

Aluta and happy revolutionary holidays to all!



GAZA LETTER from page 1

Children Learn Collectivity, Ingenuity, and Communism

How can we build a network of Red Flag among children? They have seen every horror of this capitalism. I see hope in these children. Amid starvation, they feed younger children. There is no rioting or looting. This is because as a collective society, the adult workers have pledged that they would feed children first even if they are starving.

Children are the future. As you know, we are not able to charge cell phones. Some children found a badly damaged bike in the rubble. They converted it into a stationary bike and connected it to a discarded led rod, and acid jar. They took turns peddling the bike. Pretty soon I had a fully charged cellphone. And they are doing it for anybody who needs a charge. No money was ex-

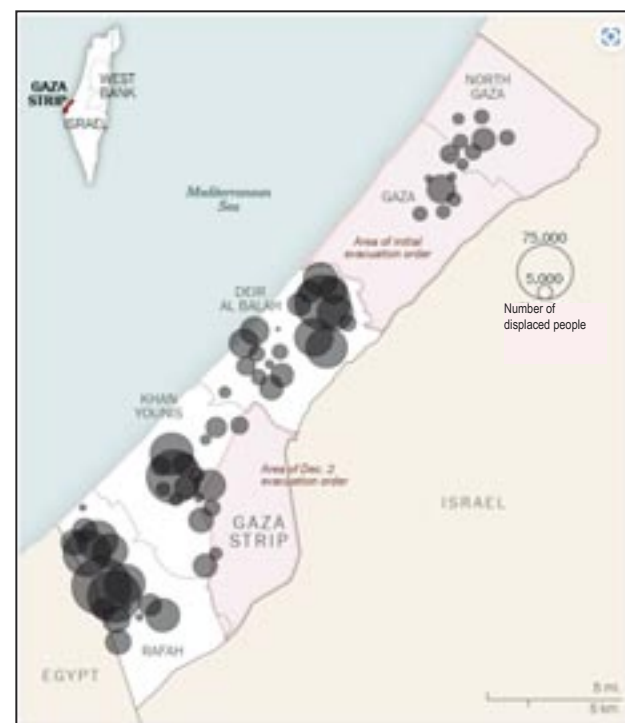
changed. We can build a long-term relationship with them.

Children who can turn scraps into a charge station, can hold the guns to destroy our class enemy. I am talking to these children about war, revolution, and communism. Remarkably, war has taught them that change is possible. We want to bring about and fight for a communist change.

So, in these chaotic, desperately difficult conditions, thanks to your efforts and encouragement, we will continue to grow with communist ideas. They cannot kill us all. The workers around the world must support us with communism. It took me 46 years to see communism as the only solution. But these children of Gaza are ready to fight for us and improve our line if we learn from them.

Still alive and fighting for communism.

Hamza



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INDIA: FIGHT CAPITALISM'S DIVISIONS, BUILD INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' SOLIDARITY

INDIA, December 3— “When I saw the El Salvador garment workers’ article in *Red Flag* about wage slavery in Bangladesh,” said a comrade, “I immediately called a garment worker in Dhaka. She had been getting *Red Flag*. I asked her about the strike. She said that with the war in Gaza, many workers are thinking of linking the struggle internationally. We are all wage slaves.” Our Bengaluru collective met at a safe place to discuss the revolutionary potential all around the Middle East.

At this meeting, which was attended by about 25 people, a comrade pointed out that in Kerala, a liberal firm has stopped taking orders to make police uniforms for Israeli police. Many new people came to talk and explain how communists can be organizers of revolution. They specifically pointed out the Gaza letter in *Red Flag*. “I used to think that India and Pakistan were enemies. After reading the letter, I realize, it is the capitalists on both sides who are keeping us divided,” one said.

Not everyone who is “upper caste” is “upper class.”

A Dalit comrade talked about the systematic discrimination against Dalits. Many get the lowest-paying jobs with the most dangerous work conditions. Almost half of the garment workers here are Dalit women, and they make less than \$65 a month.

“We used to think we Dalit workers were low-paid because of the upper-caste Hindus. But I see that most of them are workers. Although they

make more salary than us, they are wage slaves. Only ICWP organizes wage slaves around the world.”

“We have been talking to a garment worker in Sri Lanka for over a year. If we can have a meeting of garment workers in India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, we can recruit more. Perhaps we can include El Salvador workers also. This will be a clear alternative to NGOs who talk about our plight but never talk about destroying the very root of it, which is capitalist wage slavery.”

Auto workers reported from Chennai. “We have not written for *Red Flag* regularly but the war in Gaza has created tremendous solidarity in my factory. Last issue we distributed 500 copies of *Red Flag* at the factory. We were thrilled to see pictures of the VW plant in South Africa with ICWP calling for a communist revolution.”

“Why do you think workers are more open now?” asked a comrade.

Another comrade responded. “The capitalist rulers are inflicting maximum harm on the children of Gaza. It affects every worker when they see such horrors. They ask who is responsible for such mass violence. It is the Israeli capitalists. They are fascists. When I saw Modi giving full support to Netanyahu, I did not doubt that Modi is carrying on the same atrocities in Kashmir, on the Muslims and working-class Hindus.

“At the beginning of the war, many factory workers did not pay attention,” the comrade continued. “But as it progressed, everybody was

talking about it. When we go with *Red Flag*, people thank us. ‘I am looking for an article from South Africa,’ they say.”

“Two-State Solution” Was Deadly for India’s Hindu and Muslim Masses

We are also fighting against the fake “Communist Party of India” and the “Communist Party of India (Marxist).” They say that the Gaza crisis can be resolved by a two-nation solution.

“India was founded on a two-state solution. It killed over two million Hindu and Muslim people in 1947. Now, almost 75 years later, the richest capitalists are in power. Adani operates the Haifa port in Israel. Ambani is trying to buy a multibillion-dollar Israeli microchip company to stop the US from closing this lucrative deal. A Palestine state will be no different as the capitalists there will exploit the workers.”

The comrades in Chennai are also working with an older comrade who was in the Indian army. He has rich experience of how unreliable the boss’s army is. Israel’s army only proves that they can have the best, most robust equipment. But at the end of the day, soldiers are also wage slaves. We want to explore more about how to recruit communists in the army.

Our Southern collective decided that the recent war in Gaza has created conditions for creating four study groups to talk about abolishing nationalism and wage slavery. We aim to recruit more comrades and double or even triple our *Red Flag* distribution by May Day.

ICWP GROWS IN EL SALVADOR MAQUILAS (SWEATSHOPS)

EL SALVADOR, December 2— “And what is this about the Communist Party?” asked Celia, a factory worker. She was meeting with us in the collective for the first time. Another *Red Flag* reader invited her.

Her question opened the space to explain about the political organizational work that the International Communist Workers’ Party is carrying out inside and outside the factories.

“We fight for the working class to be liberated from wage slavery, for a world without bosses, and for the work we do to be based on what the working class needs and not for profit,” replied Comrade Lucia.

“ICWP is a party that organizes workers internationally, because we need a mass party everywhere in the world that fights for communism. A system in which the working class will collectively administer society. All that is produced will be for use and not to accumulate personal or private wealth. It will be a society without money,” said Comrade Juan.

Juan tried to give a clearer idea of what we are. We are strengthening the collectives of workers, men and women, in these meetings, after finishing our day of wage slavery.

“Today we are under the yoke of capitalism, but that is going to change. The struggle we are

organizing has that goal, to achieve the communist system. And for this, we industrial workers are key. Each of us must organize our family and co-workers in the factory,” Comrade Alex responded.

“I understand little about capitalism and Communism, but these ideas that you have explained to me grab my attention and I like them. I will invite my partner to join the Party and to read more *Red Flag* articles, since he works in another factory,” concluded Celia.

Camila, another *Red Flag* reader, said, “I have also told my sister about the newspaper *Red Flag* and the ideas I have heard from the comrades of ICWP. She is also a worker in another factory.”

We ended this collective meeting by inviting the workers to the ICWP international conference. We are planning a meeting with men and

women workers from other factories mentioned here, who are interested in learning more about the International Communist Workers’ Party.

It’s been another week of intense struggle against the bosses’ system. We want to make sure that more workers know about our Party and our newspaper *Red Flag*. It is not easy or simple inside the factories, but every day our consciousness of communist struggle is growing.



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Mass Interest in ICWP Surges:

URGENCY AND PERSISTENCE: KEYS TO PARTY GROWTH

UNITED STATES, December 3—“A decade ago, I worked hard with Filipino anti-imperialists to promote the efficacy of organizing the international working class,” said P, a comrade educator. He was not successful.

It was different at the No-To-APEC events in San Francisco and Seattle. Over fifty activists, many of them Filipino/a, gave party members their contact information. The teacher was impressed.

The worldwide outrage at the imperialist genocide in the Middle East calls us to redouble our efforts to recruit many more party members. Over the last months comrades have connected with many activists at workers’ strikes and demonstrations against APEC and genocide. South African comrades’ toyi-toyi protests have attracted dozens more.

ICWP comrades are in the streets participating in these demonstrations. We bring communist solutions and distribute thousands of pieces of communist literature. We attract more potential recruits, some of whom have invited us to their demonstrations and meetings.

Comrades and friends have the chance to advance ICWP’s strategy of fighting directly for communism “on the streets.” Struggles with these potential comrades help us develop and enrich our line.

ICWP workshops and collective meetings also help us get to know new friends. A comrade in El Salvador who joined the party’s San Francisco No-to-APEC workshop was inspired by so many young people debating what strategies we should embrace. The workshop facilitator understood that many of the participants wanted communism but thought that militant reform would create communists. Some of us used to think

that, but we’ve learned why it didn’t.

A young Filipina maintained that Filipino people were so oppressed that we must focus on immediate reforms. After the workshop, she enthusiastically gave us her contact information to continue to discuss the need to immediately raise communist solutions. This shows how the party can work even with those who have disagreements.

The workshop struggles represent communist advancement over recent months. There is a greater potential for party growth. But it can only be realized by focusing on following up with people we met.

Not everyone we meet rushes to join the ICWP, but some respond eagerly. One friend remembered our discussion in Seattle about building collectives. In San Francisco, he asked for the comrade who had led that workshop, wanting to continue the discussion. The Seattle facilitator could not attend the San Francisco workshop, but immediately began texting this friend. Friends like him can bring many others to our party.

“Just Peace” and Other Cruel Capitalist Jokes

The context for our work includes many ideological obstacles. A decade ago, educator P thought nationalist ideology was a big obstacle. It still is.

Many people interested in the party bring with them reformist strategies, particularly nationalism. Building rock-solid personal and political ties will allow us to struggle over these competing strategies.

The difference between resisting capitalist war and mobilizing for communist revolution is now a hot topic among people we know.

The San Francisco No-to-APEC leadership advertised the Resist US-Led War Coalition: Resist Imperialist War! Build a Just Peace! Long Live International Solidarity!

By not attacking capitalism, they made this a cruel joke. Capitalism assures imperialist war, never a just peace. And international solidarity without a working-class basis ends up building alliances for more imperialist exploitation and global war.

Coalition leaders have been building this movement for years. It stands in contradiction to the revolutionary strategy that the masses need everywhere.

We Need Communist Strategy

ICWP’s strategy is to fight directly for global communism. This requires building one international communist party for one global working class. Not a collection of capitalist nation-states.

To build this party requires urgency and persistence. Following up on many more contacts must be a priority—in the short run and over time. It complements our strategy of building communist concentrations in the factories, barracks, and schools. These campaigns must include inviting more new friends to our conferences, forums, local party meetings, and social events.

Our struggle in coming months will expand the party’s reach among young activists. It will help prepare us to build the collectives we need among industrial workers and to turn the guns around in the imperialist armed forces.

We aren’t satisfied with resisting capitalism. We’ll end genocidal capitalism once and for all with communist revolution.

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Building Communist Relations in Struggle

We had a very useful two-hour discussion over coffee with a person comrades met at the Seattle No-to-APEC Summit and her friend. Both are active in a group of young Filipinas. She had asked to get in touch with ICWP members here, and we followed up.

We gave them *Red Flag* and discussed our communist ideas as well as theirs. The history of US soldiers refusing to fight the Huk guerrillas in the Philippines after World War II struck a chord.

They invited us to a planning meeting for the San Francisco No-to-APEC activity. There we talked about ICWP and offered *Red Flag* to participants. Some (but not all) at the meeting

applauded when we showed the front page about mobilizing against the G20 meeting in Delhi. A comrade said the answer to coming war is communist revolution. Three more people gave us their contact information.

Another comrade suggested the group go to the Kaiser picket lines. Then a member of the group shared that Kaiser had donated \$1 million to APEC while refusing to hire more workers. We met up with some of these young women at the picket line, where we exchanged literature. As they distributed their flyer, we distributed *Red Flag* to the workers.

This helped us get to know and work with young people interested in communism, but who have different ideas about how to achieve it.

these new friends. We need urgency and persistence to win them to ICWP. We have seen some of them at marches against the genocide in Gaza. They are always friendly, and gladly take *Red Flag*.

We met more people at the Kaiser and Starbucks strikes, at many demonstrations against the genocide in Gaza, and among students protesting tuition hikes. We are meeting with some of them and planning how to participate in these struggles.

Comrades are getting bolder in getting contact information. They are taking a long-term view and keeping up with as many of these contacts as possible, even when the contacts are hesitant about being involved. Comrades say, “Fine, but let’s keep talking.”

A friend who is a retired MTA worker came with us to San Francisco. He liked the experience and is meeting with our collective. We will invite other friends to do the same. We are planning a zoom meeting about Gaza, imperialism, and communism.

Other comrades in LA have contacted people from southern California who were in the ICWP workshop in San Francisco.

In this new period, with surging mass hatred for imperialism, we are confident that many of these contacts will become new friends who will help build ICWP collectives.

—Comrades in Southern California



We participated in committees leading up to the San Francisco event. Some activists helped us make sure our comrades were registered for the Summit. We didn’t convince them to attend the party’s workshop. But we talked with lots of people and plan to get together with some of them soon.

We should expect disagreements among

Idealism and Materialism: Part II

HOW CAN WE MAKE COMMUNIST IDEAS GRIP THE MASSES?

Part I outlined the philosophical concept of the ideal. The ideal includes ideas, concepts, theories, doctrines, works of art. It includes anything that is a product of human thinking. These mental products can be thought about, agreed with, rejected, or shared by different people.

Philosophical materialism says that the ideal is produced by the material, by human brains. It is molded by the material structures of nature and society that people interact with.

Knowledge consists of ideas that accurately represent the material reality that people have learned about by working with that reality. To know how to build a house, the best way is to be part of a crew that builds one.

This process of learning through practical activity also happens in political movements for social change. The struggle for communism must be planned using knowledge and implemented through a material process of political actions. Those actions are guided by communist ideas.

Part I quoted Marx's point that "theory also becomes a material force as soon as it has gripped the masses." A theory does not become a material force just because people understand it, but only when it grips them, that is, moves

them into action.

The most important part of organizing the movement for communism is the material process of making communist theory grip the masses.

This communist political work always involves creating social relationships. In these relationships, our friends can understand communist ideas and add to them as they participate in class struggle against capitalism.

Materialism recognizes that the ideal is not all-powerful. The material and the ideal influence each other, but materialism says that the material has the upper hand. In general, the material has a stronger effect in producing and molding the ideal than vice versa.

People who interact with cars know that a flat tire must be fixed before the car can run. Ordinary experience with material reality guarantees that true belief. The capitalist media, however, has the power to create false beliefs in many people. Both true and false ideas are produced by material systems.

Philosophical idealism says that the ideal has the power to dominate the material. Idealism involves saying that ideal things can have effects which they actually cannot have. For example, it is idealism to think that "democratic values"

can stop fascism. If the capitalists need fascism to continue their rule, they have the material power to make it happen unless communist revolution destroys them first.

It is idealism to think that the enslavement of Africans was the result of racist thinking by white people. The opposite is true. The enslavers invented and spread the lie that Africans were "natural slaves" to justify enslaving them.

Religious belief is a form of idealism. It is idealism to expect a God or gods, ideal beings invented by people, to hold back capitalism's material oppression of the working class.

The material generally dominates the ideal, but there are times when the ideal has a decisive effect on the material. Sometimes an army that has fewer powerful weapons defeats a better equipped one because its fighters are more committed and plan better.

As the material contradictions of the capitalist system heat up, as it barrels toward war and fascism, the political thinking and commitment of the working class can determine whether it can create communism and escape the hell of capitalism or not. That is the situation that our movement can create and must create.

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Increasing Opportunities for Party Growth in Mexico Amid Pro-Palestine Marches

In classrooms and at marches we have distributed hundreds of communist leaflets of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). At the marches we meet teachers and university students. Those who know me receive the leaflets and give their opinion. Some do not.

Pro-Palestinian nationalism predominates in these marches. Although now it is easier for them to accept criticism of Hamas and the Palestine Liberation Organization, and criticism of an Islamic State that subjugates women even more, like in Saudi Arabia, Iran, or Afghanistan.

Many believe that the search for a "peaceful solution" proposed by the president of Mexico (AMLO) is good, and they reject the demand of some political groups to break relations with the Israeli government.

I take advantage of the fact that many know about my political activity and respect me, although they do not agree with me on everything. I'm confident that we will advance little by little, perhaps more now, with the dangers of World War, mainly with students in the classrooms.

Also, for about a year I have participated in protests organized by a small group of teachers for permanent jobs and better conditions. I have presented ICWP's ideas and brought the *Red Flag* when we have printed it. The majority there belong to or have links with political organizations that already know us. I take advantage of discussions to reach those who have no commitments to other groups.

There is a WhatsApp group of more than a hundred. Many read what I write. However, they do not participate, even in things that affect them immediately, such as union submission or the 4% salary cap imposed by the government. They can actually lose their job if they confront the boss. However, this allows



me to present the idea of fighting directly for communist revolution without going through the stage of reforms.

I'm focusing on the teachers who are not "politicians" for now. I ask them if they know about the ideas I spread through *Red Flag*. Some say "yes, teacher," but in truth they get the idea that I am a "leftist," or a good social fighter, although similar to those of other groups.

The possibilities and opportunities to develop Party collectives are increasing. I will continue the struggle so that we achieve this!

Comrade Teacher in Mexico

Red Flag's Communist Ideas Unify Us

"For the last year we have been loyal *Red Flag* readers. It's the only newspaper that shows reality. I like learning about the working class's struggle around the world and the rejection of injustice," commented R.

In this latest edition we see the atrocities that are causing the genocide in Gaza. "It is inhuman. It fills us with pain and leaves us in shock when capitalist leaders wipe out thousands of people. The working class is the most affected and massacred," said J.

"Reading *Red Flag* is essential for those of us who have the same thinking; it unifies us around the world; we have no nation, we are the same class," we all agreed.

The systemic competition and greed of capitalism is the essential cause of these massacres. We know that we need to organize for communism, to change the reality that people are living.

In El Salvador, we are living through a tenacious struggle against an oppressive fascist capitalist system. Despite all the conditions to which we are subjected, we continue the struggle to share the *Red Flag* newspaper, to meet and to have our political discussions.

We are grateful to *Red Flag* that builds the bonds of working-class unity. It gives us the starting point both here and around the world, that there is only one solution and that is the struggle for a communist revolution.

Only by organizing ourselves with the masses of workers, soldiers, students, and children can we succeed in breaking the chains imposed on us by the capitalists. Only united can we destroy our class enemy.

No more imperialist wars, no more repression! Let's triumph with Communist Revolution!

—Comrades in El Salvador

MOVIE REVIEW: BARBIE'S WORLD DOES NOT FIGHT CAPITALISM

Mattel, the company that produces Barbies, has evolved. Unlike the Barbies from the 1970s, the current fashion dolls have expanded in range of colors and in body type, including people with disabilities. For adult collectors such as myself and children who enjoy Barbies, these representations are one of the most pivotal changes made by a toy manufacturer. But none of these changes positively impact the lives of workers around the world.

Barbie's world includes these variations. It reflects the ways in which Mattel followed the trends from when Barbie was first produced in 1959 as a fashion icon.

The main protagonist Barbie in the movie is made in the image of the first version produced in the US. She is blond, blue-eyed and has a body based on the sexualized idea from racist, sexist capitalism. The other Barbies represent CEOs, the president of Barbie's world, mermaids, and other occupations or characters.

Barbie leaves the "Barbie" world to enter the world of flesh and blood people only to discover that women are objectified based on their (western ideal of) beauty and youth. The men in the real world are empowered by patriarchal values, whether a construction worker or owner of a company. Mattel's CEO and Board of Trustees are all male. They spend their time trying to capture Barbie to return her to the box where she is displayed for sale and consumption. She is the proverbial beauty linked to the success of men.

Ken in Barbie's world only exists in his relation to Barbie. He does not add value to the dolls of Barbie's world.

First produced in 1961, Ken is like the other merchandise sold by Mattel to accessorize Barbie. Ken's role is that of a placeholder for the male gaze. He has very little to contribute to

Barbie's world. But when Ken secretly follows Barbie into the real world, he takes in patriarchy, loves it, and returns to Barbie's world to teach the other Kens how to take over.

The difference is the role that Barbie and Ken occupy in their respective roles in each of the worlds. In the real world where patriarchy and capitalism rule, Barbie becomes aware that the idealized Barbie who's been an astronaut, a president, construction worker etc. does not reflect the lived experiences of working women and girls. Barbie then returns to her world to find it usurped by patriarchy where all the iterations of Barbie cater to the Kens and forget their positions and identities.

Capitalism and Patriarchy

The film is insufficient in connecting patriarchy and capitalism. In the real world, the role that women play is based on the male gaze in capitalism. Capitalism and patriarchy encourage competition where men are encouraged to acquire the most "beautiful" woman to heighten their personal value amongst other men within systems that oppress women and men workers of all nations.

The merchandises of Barbie items from cars, houses, and clothing are produced in China, Indonesia, Mexico, and Thailand by wage-starved workers.

The film does not address why the Barbies choose to relinquish their identities to serve the Kens. That negates the real economic struggle for survival that women workers face. This scene implies that the Barbies have returned to traditional femininity where men must be served and appeased.

The film cannot and does not parallel this reality as Ken does not contribute to the status or identity of any Barbies. Women in the real world

are used to upgrade the status of the men with whom they partner based on the commodity of "beauty" which Barbie represents. The short phase where the Kens rule Barbie's world is a response to their invisibility.

There is no lens to question these systemic structures that could unify the Kens and Barbies. Their lack of sexual organs is another reason this film cannot address the byproducts of patriarchy and misogyny – rape and sexual coercion. The dispossessed Barbies are restored to the power structure of their world, while the Kens are encouraged to find themselves.

Barbie offers no solution to women or men workers of the world facing the devastating effects from capitalist exploitation and its resulting misogyny, and patriarchy. Only a communist world can address these poisons that ruin the lives of workers around the world.

Films that are made within a capitalist system for profit are not going to free women despite the undertones of "girl power" woven in the storyline. Its reverse sexism where Ken is a minor character is not a symbol of power. Instead, it dehumanizes half of humanity.

Capitalism already promotes misogyny, but the response should not be to promote misandry (contempt for men) as a solution. The workers cannot reform or eliminate the toxicity of capitalism's bi-products – racism, misogyny, nationalism, sexism, or xenophobia to name a few.

Only workers can build a system based on equity where women and men build a communist world in unison that crosses borders and languages. Children will learn the tools they need to build a truly collective society. Everyone will work together and we will greet each other in our various tongues united to lift our heads and say, "Good Morning Revolution."

Anti-Zionism is Not Antisemitism

US imperialists and their Israeli capitalist partners divide the masses by saying that if you criticize Zionism or the Israeli government, you are antisemitic (racist against Jews). This lie is meant to weaken the fight against the fascist Israeli government and its imperialist backers.

Zionist ideology says that since Jews suffered so much in the Nazi holocaust, they can only be safe in their "own" country. But Jewish workers, like all workers, have no country. Every country belongs to the capitalists!

Zionism says that Jews alone have suffered a

holocaust. They ignore the many holocausts that capitalism-imperialism has created. Capitalism massacred Native Americans to establish the United States. It killed untold numbers of Africans who were kidnapped from their homes and forced into slavery in the Americas. Belgium's King Leopold killed 18 million workers in the Congo. Turkish rulers slaughtered 1.5 million Armenians. Multitudes of Palestinians expelled and killed since 1948. Over 40 million civilians killed by US imperialism since World War II. The list goes on and on.

Nationalism blinds us to the truth that all workers have been, and still are, victims of capitalist and imperialist plunder, exploitation, mur-

der, and genocide.

But we are also capitalism's gravediggers. No group of workers is alone. We are all class brothers and sisters. We will win communism because we are the many; we have the same interest. And we now have the correct political line: mobilize the masses for communism, nothing less.

The old Communist movement thought some nationalism was "progressive." They were wrong. Nationalism is the opposite of internationalism. There is no progressive nationalism. Join and build one ICWP worldwide to get rid of capitalism and imperialism, all nationalism including Zionism, racism, national borders, and genocide. No more holocausts!

California State University, Los Angeles (USA), December 6— "Can I take a picture of your poster?" a woman asked during a one-day faculty strike. It read, "Genocide in Gaza, Attacks on Students and Faculty Mean: Mobilize the Masses for Communism!" She took our leaflet and *Red Flag*, then returned asking for another paper for her husband, a professor.

"Take a few more for your friends and family," a comrade said. She gladly did. We exchanged contact information to keep in touch. We made contacts with several professors, students and staff.

We distributed almost 500 papers and 600 leaflets, "Strike Against Racist, Imperialist Capitalism! Let's Fight for the Communist World We Need."

This strike was third in a series in the largest US university system. Forty-six thousand faculty and staff demanded a 12% wage increase in the first year. Like all workers, they need to end capitalist wage slavery and the schools that perpetuate it.

Last week, CSU students protested a planned 36% tuition increase. Their banner, "Tuition rises so bombs can fall," made the connection to US-supported genocide in Gaza.



PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO
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I Found Young People Open to Communism

Let's remember that the masses, especially young people, are open to communism.

Recently I attended a rally sponsored by Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP). I hesitated, as no other comrades nor close friends were able to join me, and I didn't know much about the group. I had some concerns about safety: what the cop presence would be like and how difficult the leadership would be.

My comrades convinced me to go and check it out and then decide whether to stay. It turned out to be a wonderful experience! I easily distributed all 100 *Red Flags* I had brought. The crowd was mainly young, and most people were friendly and receptive.

It was hard to have conversations because people were standing very close together in a relatively small space. But the front-page photo of ICWP protesters holding a banner reading "Palestinian, Israeli and all Workers, Let's Unite for Communism" in five languages, including Arabic and Hebrew, piqued the interest of many.

This experience made me aware that no matter how potentially reactionary the leadership is, there are lots of young people who are open to communist ideas and have an interest in the paper and our line. I am now on the JVP mailing list and plan to go to future rallies, bringing more papers and non-party friends. Later I found out that a friend who works at a high school where we distribute the paper was at the same rally with four friends. Next time I will check in with him and see if we can go together.

The following week I took *Red Flag* to a strike of Macy's employees, who have cited unfair labor practices and low wages. Again I had concerns about how the union or workers might

respond. But when I told them we are fighting for communism, where no one is a wage slave because we produce for need, not profit, they were interested. About a third of the people there took the paper.

All of this is to encourage comrades and friends of ICWP to bring the paper to the masses. It is a great chance to get re-energized, to listen to workers and others, and to make some new contacts. To help make our party grow so we can end the scourge of capitalism.

—Revitalized Comrade in Seattle

Communist Revolution Will Free Palestine from All Imperialists and Capitalists

"What would a 'free Palestine' look like?" I asked people at recent demonstrations.

"That's a really good question," several answered thoughtfully. "I haven't thought about it," one added.

Others had definite opinions – some sharply in contradiction.

"Two states," some declared. The UN endorsed this "partition" plan in 1947. It is officially US imperialist policy. The Palestinian masses never accepted it. That's why masses chant, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free."

The fascist Israeli rulers pretended to support the "two state solution." But their actions prove otherwise. The current government now openly declares its intent to annex the West Bank. It's pushing Palestinians out of Gaza. The Zionist slogan is now, "From the Nile to the Tigris."

Another contradiction: What kind of society would a "free Palestine" be?

"Nobody would dominate anyone else," declared a good friend who reads *Red Flag*. He has thought very deeply about this.

In contrast, a Palestinian woman gestured toward the middle-class commercial street in front of us. "Like this!" she said. "Peaceful."

US city streets are certainly more peaceful than Gaza or the West Bank. But even here, so many of us experience the violence built into

capitalism. Police function as occupying armies in working-class communities, especially Black and immigrant neighborhoods. Tens of millions of immigrants without papers live in constant fear.

Hundreds are homeless in the city where the woman stood. Over forty million in the US go hungry every day. This is not "peace." It is not "freedom."

"For starters, stop the bombing and end the Israeli occupation," said another. This was a common view. "Children should be able to go to school without fear." She understood that this didn't fully answer the question of what a "free Palestine" would look like. She said she would have to think about that.

We all need to think more about that. Masses in the street chant, "The only solution: Intifada and revolution!" Absolutely! But revolution for.... What?

I attended a film screening with forty student activists present. A socialist student insisted that "we should all support Hamas because they are leading the liberation struggle." Nobody spoke up to agree with him.

"In Iran in 1979," I said, "leftists supported Khomeini's Islamic revolution that overthrew the US-backed Shah. They thought that, later, they could take this national revolution further. But 'later' never came. Those Khomeini didn't kill were forced into exile."

We need working-class revolution here, not just in Palestine. And it must be revolution for communism.

Many of the students present had gotten *Red Flag* at a protest a few days earlier, and several had exchanged contact information. More took it at the event. Four approached me, wanting to stay in touch. We connected via text, and I invited them to our party collective's upcoming dinner meeting.

It's important to understand the internal contradictions of any process (like the Free Palestine movement) where we want to influence people.

—Comrade in California (USA)



Washington, D.C., Protests led by Jewish youth call for an end to the genocide in Gaza.

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What they needed then, and what we need now, is to direct that unity to fight for communism. Twentieth-century communists vacillated between a policy of "Workers of the World Unite" and a policy of all-class unity in national liberation struggles against imperialists. That doomed them to splits, infighting, limited out-

looks, and failure.

We see the results of this now in Israel/Palestine. A fascist state where Jews fear both their rulers and their neighbors. And a genocide of the original inhabitants of the occupied land. "We cannot raise our children in a world like this," said a Jewish woman in a demonstration of Jew-

ish and Arab women for peace in Jericho, West Bank on October 4.

Rejecting old mistaken policies allows us to fight for something totally new. We are building ICWP in Israel/Palestine and around the world. We are one international party. We reject every form of nationalism. The history of the struggles of our class shows that we can win.

History of Arab-Jewish Relations in Palestine:

WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE! REJECT ALL NATIONALISMS!

“Arab and Jewish workers are brothers,” they chanted in Tel Aviv on September 24, 1945. Thirteen hundred civilian laborers shut down British military camps in a seven-day strike. It was organized jointly by the communist-led Arab Workers Congress and the Zionist-led Histadrut (Jewish Labor Federation).

The Hebrew-language daily Ha’aretz reported: “Masses crowded both sides of the streets to watch this extraordinary sight of Jewish and Arab workers marching through the heart of Tel Aviv.”

We have much to learn from this history as the Israeli rulers continue their genocidal attacks on Gaza. And as they arrest and silence Israeli Jews and Arabs who stand in solidarity with the Palestinian masses.

A Hidden History

Most Jewish migrants to Palestine before 1925 were poor and working-class folk from eastern Europe. They fled discrimination and violent pogroms (mass racist attacks). They hoped to build a new society where they could live without fear. Their Zionist vision did not acknowledge that the land was already the home of Palestinians—Muslims, Christians, Jews, and others.

Many were “proletarian Zionists.” Their goal was the socialist settlement of Palestine and the future Jewish dictatorship of the proletariat there. The founders of the Palestine Communist Party (PKP) split with that position. They rejected Zionism as an instrument of oppression against Indigenous Arabs. It was a tool of the Jewish bourgeoisie, allied with British imperialism.

The PKP was almost entirely Jewish. It explained to Jewish workers that the Zionist bosses exploited their situation. Zionism turned them into a reserve army to dominate Arab workers.

The PKP, following the Comintern, recruited a few Palestinian Arabs. Twelve went to Moscow for political education in the late 1920s, but only four returned to become party leaders. One died fighting for the Republic in the Spanish Civil War.

By 1934, the PKP, largely due to struggle in the Comintern (Communist International), had decisively rejected Zionism in practice as well as in theory. Its leader was an Arab worker. But the “United Front Against Fascism” policy led it to uncritically support Arab nationalism, even as it organized Arab workers on the job.

Unity in Class Struggle

Arab-Jewish worker solidarity was important from 1920 on. This, despite the opposition of both the Zionists and the Palestinian rulers.

Notably, in the port city of Haifa. In 1920, Palestinians, Jews, and Arabs from Syria and Egypt established the first trade union in Palestine in the yards and workshops of the railway, telegraph, and postal services.

A united strike of Jewish and Arab truck drivers paralyzed Palestine in 1931. Between 1938 and 1943 there were an average of two joint strikes a year. These were mainly in the railways, city governments, and British army camps. In 1947, a joint strike of the Jewish and Arab unions of government clerks shut down government services. Strikes of postal workers and telegraph operators followed.

Imperialist Roots of Today’s Crisis

In 1920, the League of Nations “mandated” that British imperialism set up a “Jewish homeland.” British rulers used the Zionists to strengthen their global empire. Jewish migration to Palestine increased dramatically after

Hitler came to power in Germany.

The 1936-1939 Arab revolt grew out of an Arab general strike, reflecting growing tensions. The Palestinian elite turned it into an armed nationalist insurgency against British imperialism, Zionist institutions, and Jewish settlers in general.

Britain’s rulers violently crushed the revolt. It issued a White Paper, limiting Jewish immigration and giving other concessions to Arab nationalism. Zionist leaders called for resistance, but soon allied themselves with Britain to fight Nazi Germany.

After World War II, Zionist paramilitaries resumed their struggle for a “Jewish state” by any means necessary. They bombed bridges, railways, and ships, fought British forces, and enabled Jewish immigration. They also attacked Palestinian infrastructure, politicians, and terrorized Palestinian towns and villages. This encouraged a revived Arab nationalist movement for Palestine’s independence as an undivided “Arab state.”

Amidst all this came the joint 1945 strike of workers at British military camps in Tel Aviv. This was part of an unprecedented level of joint struggle of Arab and Jewish workers on the job. Arabs and Jews in Palestine couldn’t know what was ahead. Yet they fought for unity.

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ISRAEL: CONTRADICTIONS SHARPEN AMONG SOLDIERS, WORKERS, BROADER MASSES

December 3—“Israel is a powder keg,” said a comrade. Fascist Ben Gvir, Minister of National Security, is arming his supporters with lethal weapons. Recently, two Hamas members gunned down three armed Israeli civilians. When the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) arrived, they thought that one Israeli civilian belonged to Hamas. IDF executed him.

“People are fuming,” said an anti-fascist Jewish Israeli friend. Cracks are opening wide in the working class as well as among soldiers. The horrors of genocide have fueled mass hatred against Netanyahu. Even before the war, he was increasingly isolated and more dangerous as mass marches rejected his expansionist, authoritarian, and religious-extremist policies.

It would be wrong to look at Netanyahu as the only fascist force. Many people are seeing this. Anti-fascist Israeli workers, soldiers, and others have the potential to overturn this fascist govern-

ment and the capitalists it represents by building a mass party for communism.

A friend from Israel sent a message that reveals the possibility of doing communist military work. They are influenced by the Standing Together Movement (STM).

“We talked this morning with the trainees of the Pre-Military Preparatory School at Mikva Israel. About the neglect of South Tel Aviv neighborhoods, about the processes of dispossession and deportation of the old residents by the real estate sharks. And about the struggle of the Standing Together movement.”

STM mobilizes Palestinian and Jewish Israelis to fight for “peace, equality, and social and climate justice.” It recognizes that “the minority who benefit from the status quo of occupation and economic inequality seek to keep us divided” but “we — the majority — have far more in common than that which sets us apart.” STM criti-

cizes the Israeli Left (dominated by NGOs) and the leftist political parties for failing to mobilize the masses.

“We stand together against the deportation of the asylum seekers and in favor of South Tel Aviv,” our friend continued, “and about the need to fight the government so that it implements the dispersion and absorption plan.”

In September, the Netanyahu government ordered a plan to deport all African migrants from Israel. South Tel Aviv has historically been the home of many working-class migrants and refugees. In recent years, gentrification has threatened to force them out. The “dispersion and absorption plan” is a pro-immigrant policy.

Stand Together opposes “rule by wealth.” But, as a broad coalition, it does not directly attack capitalism. Some members want to form a true anti-liberal left based on Socialist principles.

We have some *Red Flag* readers in Israel. We hope to convince and help them to form an ICWP communist collective.

It is no easy task, given the viciously fascist repression inside Israel as well as in Gaza and the West Bank. But it’s the key to creating communists in Israel who will fight side by side with Palestinian comrades in Gaza and the West Bank.

Only communism can create a society that welcomes all workers everywhere. That ends occupation, exploitation, and oppression. The society that masses yearn for.



Hundreds attend Standing Together Movement community meeting, Jerusalem, November 2023