

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



HAIFA (Israel), January 20 – Hundreds of Jewish and Palestinian Israelis demonstrated against the genocide in Gaza. Poster says “Only Peace Will Bring Security” in Hebrew and Arabic. There’s no peace in capitalism.



LOS ANGELES (USA), January 20 – Poster in Spanish says “Stop the Genocide in Gaza with Communist Revolution Everywhere.”

ICWP FORGES COMMUNIST UNITY OF IMMIGRANT AND CITIZEN WORKERS AND SOLDIERS

GQEBERHA (South Africa), January 19— “We can grow and build a bigger ICWP. There is no other way,” said a comrade at a meeting of the International Communist Workers’ Party. “The capitalists everywhere are creating genocide.

“Look at the hypocrisy of the African National Congress (ANC),” he continued. “They are charging the Israeli government with genocide but right here, we have dozens of Blacks getting killed in South Africa by police.”

Other comrades at the meeting passionately described how the lack of jobs has left millions of Black South Africans in unbearable conditions of poverty, hunger, and homelessness. Racism, xenophobia, drugs, and police violence are on the rise.

Many people are violently attacked by drug gangs. Last week, a comrade from Mozambique was robbed. He lost his cellphone and some

cash. When we found out, we organized comrades to defend him. Our comrades confronted the criminal, who was forced to return the money and cellphone.

We carried out this mission because comrades are reading *Red Flag*. We must defend against these racist attacks. We are all workers. Our ethnicity, nationality, gender, can never divide us.

The comrades from Mozambique don’t speak the local language and they are targeted. We taught many Mozambican guys to speak Xhosa. They are now well integrated with us. We read in English and translate for them in Xhosa. Now many of them will join us on May Day.

Our efforts to teach English to the Portuguese-speaking workers from Mozambique has opened eyes, too, of many from Zimbabwe. They face similar problems of racism. They come looking for guys with “*Red Flag*.” All this is going to translate into our large presence for May Day.

In our meetings, we have discussed the need to reach out and organize soldiers who live with us in the township. Several soldiers are getting *Red Flag*, and they are talking to others on their base. The soldiers see that in the township there is racism, sexism, lack of healthcare and schools. But the rich capitalists want us to attack the working class when they fight back.

Many of these soldiers talk about the Marikana massacre in 2012, when Black soldiers attacked miners under the leadership of ANC head Ramaphosa. “We have to fight for the miners, not against them, and build for the future without these bloodsuckers,” one said. “I will take a stack of *Red Flags* to my base and recruit some of them for May Day.”

We estimate we will have over 200 workers (including immigrants) and soldiers in our area march with us for May Day.

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WHY WORKERS NEED DIALECTICAL MATERIALIST PHILOSOPHY, NOT IDEALISM

EL SALVADOR— “The boss tells the workers, ‘Work hard, much harder. Work overtime and you’ll earn a lot of money.’ Lies! This is the idealistic philosophy that the bosses try to instill, so that we produce more, to generate profits for them,” said a worker comrade of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) during our international conference.

M explained: “If I push a chair, it moves. The chair moves because of the real outside pressure I apply. This is a materialist explanation, but to end here would be mechanical materialism. On the other hand: ‘I can move this chair with my mind.’ Or I can pray, ‘God, if you exist, make this chair move NOW.’ These would be idealistic ways of looking at change.”

Dialectical materialism explains that the main reason the chair moves is because of its organic composition and not so much because of the pressure I apply to it. Dialectical materialism considers both the internal and external when looking at change, but the internal is primary. If you applied the same amount of pressure to a wall or a tree, they wouldn’t move a bit.

ICWP fights for workers to study and understand philosophy, with a vision of how things work. **Mechanical materialists** have a superficial/external view of how things change. **Dialectical materialists** see internal contradiction as primary.

Similarly, when someone says, “It’s cold outside. Put on a coat or you’ll get sick,” this is a materialist, but mechanical explanation. Yes, real external forces, like how cold it is, would be partly to blame, but if we leave it there, the explanation remains superficial and externally focused.

Dialectical materialism explains that the main

reason why a person gets sick or not would come from within. Some will get sick, but some will not. Some contracted COVID and some did not. Some died and some didn’t. It had to do with many factors: How old was that person? Was the person’s immune system compromised? Did the person have other illnesses? What made that person vulnerable to getting sick? Not getting enough rest, depression, or being too stressed all cause a person’s immune system to weaken.

Why do communists study dialectical materialism?

Dialectical materialism is the only philosophy that can help us free ourselves from all forms of exploitation. To win, ICWP needs to use it to guide our actions.

We can’t learn to ride a bicycle without getting on it. It’s not enough to read in our *Red Flag* newspaper about how to organize a communist revolution that leads to a communist society. We will learn in the process of mobilizing for communism.

We can’t win a revolution without organizing soldiers and their working-class parents. We can’t build a base without going out and talking to the people. We must talk to the people to learn about their disagreements and contradictions and be able to struggle with them.

Winning Communism Is an Idea Based on Material Reality

How much time and energy do we spend trying to survive under capitalism versus organizing to destroy it? That’s often based on how effectively ICWP comrades show us that the only solution to capitalism’s attacks is collective mass action to smash this capitalist system of profit and wage slavery.

What is our understanding of materialism

and idealism? Where does knowledge come from and what is it for? Does what we practice help change our political work and our thinking? These were key questions discussed during the conference.

The general answer is that materialism is real and concrete. It is based on facts. It forms the basis for communist revolution. As communist organizers of ICWP, we should not live on dreams (idealism) but on concrete reality.

“In the Party, we generate solidarity among comrades. That is communist materialist practice,” said a young worker.

Knowledge comes from those who came before us and our own experience. It helps us to understand and do things better based on history and experience. Knowledge helps us avoid repeating past mistakes by fighting directly for communism.

Knowledge comes from the social practice we carry out in our collectives. We learn and then put this new knowledge into our practice. Building and strengthening communist relations helps us create a mass ICWP. It helps us overcome fear by creating class consciousness.

Even after the conference, the participants continued to ask questions. They were still trying to clarify the difference between materialism versus idealism. We concluded that we should continue to study dialectical materialism and make efforts to include it in articles in every issue of *Red Flag*.

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• **For more about the communist**
• **philosophy of dialectical materialism, see:**
• **icwpredflag.org/wp/wordpress/dialectics/**
.....



Tens of thousands of demonstrators marched in cities throughout France on Sunday, January 21 against a new racist immigration law. The law would make it illegal to be in France without residence papers, and make it much more difficult for immigrants to bring their family members to France and to use social services. As war and famine stalk Western Asia and the former French colonies in Africa, an increasing number of workers risk the deadly Mediterranean crossing, only to face fascist attacks in Europe.



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- CHENNAI, INDIA: AUTO WORKERS ORGANIZE FOR COMMUNISM
- SOUTH AFRICA: FIGHTING XENOPHOBIA, MOBILIZING IMMIGRANT WORKERS FOR COMMUNISM
- EL SALVADOR: COMMUNIST WORKERS’ CONFERENCE EVALUATION
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Democracy: Dictatorship of Capital over Its Wage Slaves

NEITHER FASCISM NOR DEMOCRACY: FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM!

The US and Israeli governments' genocide in Gaza is leading to widening war in the Middle East. Iran has answered Israel's aggression with its own attacks. Its allies the Houthis and Hezbollah have joined in. The genocide in Gaza and war in Ukraine are only the opening shots of a possibly nuclear World War III. It is the imperialists' last desperate attempt to "solve" their system's deepening economic and political crisis.

Capitalism's deepening crisis is driving billions into inhuman living conditions. The working masses are fighting back. Many see that capitalism can't meet our needs. Many are open to communism.

In response, the rulers are organizing mass fascist movements from Germany, to Israel, the US, Mexico, India, South Africa, and beyond. They need fascism to discipline rebellious workers and to force us to fight and die for their profits and empires.

Elections Divert Workers from Revolution, Pave Road to Fascism

This year there will be elections in seventy-eight countries. The rulers and their trade union and other mass organization leaders are mobilizing over two billion voters. Their goal is to divert these masses from revolution, building illusions that "less fascist" or "anti-fascist" politicians can solve our problems.

But these masses can fight for their own class interest: communism. Then they will change history!

The reformers say we can defeat fascism by voting for democracy. But democracy is the dictatorship of capital, the velvet glove covering the capitalists' fascist iron fist. Their elections also build openly fascist movements, like Trump (USA) and Modi (India).

Biden is also fascist! He sends more lethal weapons to Israel and Ukraine. The US Airforce

helps the IDF (Israeli military) select targets to bomb in Gaza. The US fascist war budget means more cuts in US workers' wages and benefits.

Fascism or Revolution

In the 1930s, the world's workers faced something similar: war was advancing; fascism was growing in Germany, Italy, Japan, and beyond.

In response, two contradictory lines emerged in the communist movement.

One line held that fascism was a new development "the open terrorist dictatorship of the most reactionary, and most imperialist elements of finance capital." It claimed fascism was so powerful that communist-led workers could not fight it, much less defeat it.

It called on communists to unite with the "good capitalists-imperialists" against the fascist ones. However, not only did *all* German industrialists support fascist Hitler, but some "good" imperialists in the US, UK, and France also funded Hitler!

The other line explained that the nature of capitalism makes fascism inevitable. It is the open dictatorship capitalism resorts to when preparing for world war. R. Palme Dutt, a key leader of the British Communist Party, showed that only when the communist masses defeat capitalism can we put an end to fascism and imperialist war.

The communist movement adopted the United Front Against Fascism line because the leaders lacked confidence in our class's ability to unite to defeat fascism with revolution.

It was a disastrous betrayal. Instead of organizing the masses for an armed revolution to destroy all capitalists-imperialists, the communists chose to ally with the "good" capitalists-imperialists to "defeat" fascism.

The German communists had already chosen the electoral path. They

failed decisively. They were wiped out.

Even when leading armed struggle, the communists fought, not for workers' power, but to restore "democracy." The aid promised by the "good" imperialists never came.

Despite this, the Soviet Union defeated fascist Germany. Communist-led guerrillas liberated Eastern Europe, Greece, France, and Italy. But immediately after the war, these fighters gave up their weapons and state power to the "good" capitalists.

The communist movement, lacking confidence that workers would fight directly for communism, fought for socialism instead. Socialism failed. It is state capitalism. It keeps money, wages, and production for sale.

Only armed revolution for communism can put an end to capitalism's fascism and wage slavery. In communism we will produce all that we need, and collectively share it according to need, without money.

Liberals and Fascists All Support Capitalist Rule

Everywhere, the "good" capitalists-imperialists attacked the communists who fought fascism, seeing communist revolution, not fascism, as the real existential threat.

Today, liberal politicians, pushing voting to stop fascism, are the main danger to our class. They blind us from seeing that capitalism can have no solution to growing fascism and war because they are part of its nature.

We are confident that the powerful working class—industrial workers, soldiers, and youth—will unite to defeat fascism and imperialism worldwide by fighting directly for communism. Let's build ICWP to make this a reality!



ZIONISM IS FASCISM! THE SOLUTION IS COMMUNISM!

AGUADILLA (Puerto Rico), January 15 — With red flags flying defiantly, shouting "Free and Communist Palestine!" and other revolutionary slogans, members of Communist Workers and Students for Social Change demonstrated to repudiate Israel's genocide in Gaza.

They protested in front of facilities of Lockheed Martin, a leader in the armaments industry and the largest US military contractor. They denounced and condemned the fact that the US-backed genocide in Gaza is fueled by weapons produced by Lockheed Martin

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Capitalism Kills! Only Communism Will Save the Working Class.

Recent developments around the world and here in South Africa might seem isolated. But they are overall connected as imperialist and capitalist crisis pops up everywhere.

In the Middle East: the ongoing slaughter of Palestinians in Gaza at the hands of Israeli and US rulers. In the Red Sea, with Houthis and the US and UK. We know all these groups and countries have no interest in the workers. Rather, they care about controlling trade routes and dominating regions for their own capitalist interests.

South Africa launched a genocide case against Israel in the World Court. We don't expect much, because the UN and all its institutions are practically controlled by our class enemies. The World Court has no enforcement power.

We want the killings of the Palestinian working-class brothers and sisters to stop. A ceasefire is better than the ongoing bombardment.

However, ultimately the best way to protect the class brothers and sisters in Palestine is through a red army that defends workers and will revolt against capitalism.

We must intensify our efforts to bring about communism and communist revolution. The opportunities are there.

Our working-class family in Palestine and Syria is killed directly by bombs, disease, and starvation. Around the world they are killed every day by capitalism in other forms. In South Africa, crime and drug abuse are rampant. Seventy-five people are murdered every day, which in some cases is more than in active war zones like Syria.

Workers produce everything, but capitalism forces the things the workers produce to be wasted. Their system of overproduction does not allow them to distribute things to workers who need them.

We must fight and mobilise to end this tragedy of capitalism everywhere in the world. We must unite to usher in a communist revolu-

tion in which we build a society that is based on meeting our needs.

Capitalists mobilise our class brothers and sisters to fight their wars for profit. We should organise and mobilise our class brothers and sisters who are soldiers to fight for our emancipation. We support our comrade who is organising twenty soldiers for the May Day rally. We hope to have multiple meetings with them before and after the rally.

We only have ourselves and our unity as the working class in order to kill our killers (capitalism) through ICWP and mobilising for communism.

Fighting for reforms instead of fighting directly to end capitalism is tantamount to allowing genocide and suffering to continue. Capitalism kills: Whether slowly or fast, it kills the same. And we know it kills, not the capitalists and politicians, but us working class masses.

—Comrade in South Africa

Elections Don't Change the System

INDIGENOUS MASSES IN GUATEMALA NEED COMMUNISM

Sunday, January 14 marked the 105th day of the takeover of space in front of the Public Ministry of Guatemala by members of indigenous communities, the “48 cantons (districts).” Their objective: To press for the inauguration of President-elect Bernardo Arévalo that very day.

Arévalo ran as an anti-corruption candidate. Forces within big business, the traditional economic elite, and the military oppose Arévalo's inauguration. The United States supports him.

In September Arévalo called on his followers to “defend democracy.” On October 2, the 48 districts mobilized tens of thousands of indigenous workers. They marched hundreds of kilometers, paralyzing the main access roads to the Guatemalan capital. They blockaded roads for weeks. Other groups of workers, small businessmen, and, to a lesser degree, students, joined them.

Capitalist Democracy Doesn't Solve Workers' Problems

It is an illusion to think that electing a new president will end racism, exploitation, hunger, or lack of education. And these are only some of the problems the working class faces. Only a communist revolution of the workers led by their International Communist Workers' Party can break the whole power structure of the racist capitalist system.

At first the protesters were applauded and cheered in the marches in the capital. Later many city worker supporters abandoned them. Enduring cold, rain, and sometimes hunger, the indigenous people stood firm in their demands in front of the Public Ministry building. “Out with the corrupt!” was their battle cry. “Respect for the Popular Vote and Democracy!” This pressure was key for Bernardo Arévalo to take office on January 14.

The indigenous protesters expected a more inclusive government. But their first disappointment was when Arévalo announced his cabinet. Of the fourteen members, only one is indigenous. Forty-three percent of the Guatemalan population identifies as indigenous.

Racism cannot be erased with the stroke of a



pen. It is a pillar of the capitalist system. Only communist revolution can crush it by transforming society.

Another sharp blow to Arévalo's supporters was his betrayal of his campaign slogan: “A future without CACIF!” CACIF is the Guatemalan business leadership group. Minister Jazmín de la Vega belongs to CACIF. Her most loyal followers justify this by saying, “we need the businesspeople.”

In the capitalist system, the bosses have economic power. Their government, army, and police exist to maintain their unjust system of exploitation. The change of government does not change any of this power structure.

In communism, workers will have power. We don't need any businesspeople. We'll produce directly for the masses' needs without money or profits.

A Long History of Struggle

The indigenous masses in Guatemala never stopped resisting the vicious racist exploitation of Spanish colonialism. They continued this tradition of struggle against US imperialism, Spain's successor. In 1944, they actively supported the “revolution” that overthrew Jorge Ubico, a US-backed dictator who savagely oppressed the indigenous masses for the benefit of US banana companies.

Juan José Arévalo, Bernardo's father, became president in 1945. He was a staunch nationalist, very popular in Guatemala and the region. He was followed by Jacobo Árbenz, who continued Arévalo's nationalist policies. A US-backed military coup overthrew Árbenz in 1954, when he wanted to nationalize US-owned banana plantations.

The first guerrillas organized in Guatemala in 1960. Thus began a civil war that would last 36 years, leaving a trail of destruction and death. Hundreds of thousands of workers, peasants and students were imprisoned, tortured, and massacred.

Among them, the indigenous ethnic groups suffered the most because they were the ones who supported and participated the most in the guerrillas. From 1981 to 1983 alone, the regime of the “born-again” Christian Ríos Montt, razed 600 indigenous villages to the ground. It massacred more than 200,000 indigenous people.

The guerrilla leaders never professed to fight for communism. But the government campaign was rabidly anti-communist. The indigenous masses offering their lives identified themselves with the “communists”. This should give us confidence that by organizing ICWP we can massively mobilize these masses for real communism.

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A Collective Experience in Constant Transformation

We came to the ICWP international conference deeply grateful for having been invited for the second consecutive year. We set out from Costa Rica with the goal of sharing our struggles and challenges.

We are members of the working class, housewives, youth, and farmworkers confronting a capitalist government increasingly determined to strip us of historically achieved gains. They are determined to take away the right to decent housing, education, and public health. The right to defend territories and to have land and conditions to plant food using principles of food sovereignty.

We also aimed to get to know more deeply, together with our brother and sister workers without borders, about the socio-political, ideological, and economic context in which day by day they develop and struggle to achieve work and a life of true dignity and social justice. Where human rights are respected in all their dimensions.

Virtual and face-to-face spaces of exchange meant for us the possibility of learning, evaluating, and growing collectively. Of valuing our differences in an atmosphere of trust, respect, and commitment to collective growth. We all distanced ourselves from any trace of the individualism conditioned by the dominant capitalist, patriarchal, and colonialist culture.

Thanks to all the women and men, we came closer to their experiences on the family level, in the community and in the workplace. There they systematically suffer the abuse of those who hold power, who are allied with the interests of capital accumulation internationally.

We learned that every comrade from the maquilas in El Salvador, in South Africa, and in every country in the world has the true authority to position their knowledge, affections, and daily experiences in our agendas of life and struggle. They experience daily super-exploitation that denies them access to decent working conditions and fair wages. They became our main teachers on what it means to fight and defend rights in a scenario rooted in relations of

social inequality. That threatens in every way their job security, food, and their physical, socioemotional, and family wellbeing.

We returned to Costa Rica with a greater conviction and determination to continue struggling. We are united by the same feelings and worldwide lessons necessary to transform all the infamous relationships that have historically been imposed on us by the power groups in each country we come from, be it El Salvador, Costa Rica, South Africa, India, the United States, Mexico, Palestine...

Dear friends, thank you for the more than political, ethical, human, militant and fraternal space. Thanks for your clarity and human warmth as the working class and youth who invite us to share in our country the knowledge spun together with you. To continue fighting against any mechanism, action and policy that favors the dominant class of the world.

Long live the working class and youth in struggle and resistance!

—Workers and Peasants Movement (MTC) in Costa Rica

HARVARD: ZIONISM, “DIVERSITY,” AND IMPERIALIST CONTRADICTIONS

Harvard was a “smelly mess... a privileged sanctuary for Fifth Amendment Communists,” declared fascist Sen. Joseph McCarthy in 1953. No way, Harvard replied. It was already firing Communist Party members.

Seventy years later, politicians like Elaine Stefanik, with wealthy alumni donors like Bill Ackman, are again gunning for Harvard.

They grossly misinterpret “intifada” and “From the river to the sea” as calls for genocide against Jews. They demand the ouster of those who protest the Israeli government’s actual genocide against the Gaza masses. They successfully pressured the Harvard Corporation “Board of Overseers” to fire President Claudine Gay.

A college president’s main job isn’t to lead academic policy. It’s to raise money. That’s why Gay was so vulnerable. It’s also why we should dig deeper: Harvard still doesn’t need lessons in fascism.

Harvard, Imperialism, and Zionism

The Kennedy School’s Belfer Center links Harvard to US imperialist policymaking. Its director was a key Bush advisor on Iraq. She has ties with war contractor Raytheon, investment managers, and Citigroup.

For economic policy, the Kennedy School has the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government, funded by a chief investment officer for Goldman Sachs and an international energy executive. Its head, Larry Summers, was Clinton’s Treasury Secretary and headed the World Bank.

In 2019, students identified Harvard indirect investments in four companies linked to the Israeli military. A 2020 report found Harvard had \$200 million invested in companies tied to Israeli settlements in occupied Palestine. More is hidden.

Last spring, Harvard’s Kennedy School of

Government tried to rescind a fellowship offered to Ken Roth of Human Rights Watch, saying he was “too critical of Israel.” Student and faculty protests forced the dean to back down.

The Kennedy School has a huge Zionist presence. From 1989-2023, the Wexner Foundation paid for 300 mid-career Israelis (almost all Ashkenazi Jews) to be groomed there for higher government positions. They were mostly in the military, intelligence, law enforcement, or criminal justice. It also funded a leadership program for Israeli executives.

Palestinian students found the Kennedy School “scary.” An event planned by the Palestine Caucus in 2020 was stalled for six weeks. Then administrators made unreasonable demands, forcing the event to be moved.

Harvard belongs to a “tight triangle of ties between Washington, Wall Street, and Cambridge.” We need to understand the conflict over former president Gay in terms of contradictions within the US ruling class.

US Rulers Face Contradictions

First, not “whether” to support Israel, but “how.” US rulers have long advocated a two-state solution where Zionists grabbed an enormous chunk of Palestine. Half of Palestinian Arabs were driven off ancestral lands to establish the Israeli state. Israel continually blocked the second (Palestinian) state. Now Netanyahu demands Israeli control “from the river to the sea.”

Will the US openly back Israel’s fascist “one-state reality,” as a recent Foreign Affairs article advocated? But even some US Senators now question the impacts this would have for US imperialism globally as Israel’s Gaza genocide defies world opinion.

Second, isolated US imperialism increasingly needs fascism to crush class struggle and prevent rebellion. Should that fascism take the form of

Trump’s aggressively racist, open authoritarianism? Or of a “diverse” and formally democratic but still dictatorial state?

Stefanik’s panel implemented the Republican campaign against “diversity, equity, and inclusion.” Her Zionist inquisition didn’t get Harvard to dump Gay. So Ackman and De Santis pal Christopher Rufo dug up one Jonatan Pallesen who claimed Gay plagiarized. This Pallesen has coauthored articles with notorious pseudoscientific racists.

But Gay’s defenders who attack this “new eugenics” ignore that Harvard itself has been notoriously hospitable to it. Jensen, Herrnstein, and James Q. Wilson pushed racist IQ diatribes. Moynihan, Banfield, and Wilson used “culture of poverty” lies to justify racist repression.

Communism Will End Imperialism and Its Universities

“Plagiarism” rests on capitalism’s sanctified private property, applied to ideas. Communism will end private property and with it, “plagiarism.” Communist ideas come from the masses and belong to the masses. Please share, reprint, adapt, and use the ideas in *Red Flag* to advance the struggle for communism!

Abolishing private property means ending capitalist wage slavery with communist revolution. We will all work for the common good and share the fruits of our labor. Workers will decide collectively what we need to know. We’ll collectively figure it out. Learning, teaching, and research will be integrated with work. We’ll be motivated not by “degrees” and status but by curiosity and our commitment to the masses’ needs.

Students raging at the genocide in Gaza are chanting “The only solution: Intifada, Revolution.” The only solution is communist revolution everywhere. We invite them to join ICWP to make it happen.



NORTHERN IRELAND, January 18— Over 150,000 public workers walked out in the largest strike in fifty years. Transit workers plan further strikes. Irish workers, paid less than British workers, are hit harder by inflation and cuts in public services. In this deepening global capitalist crisis, the solution is not higher wages but communist revolution to end the wage system.

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“Leave the World Behind” ... Or Leave Capitalism Behind?

The disaster movie “Leave the World Behind” quickly became the #1 streaming film on Netflix late last year. The story focuses on two families who find themselves stranded together in a luxurious country house during a catastrophic hodgepodge of events. At times, these events don’t even seem linked, though they are apparently from a cyber-attack. As confusing threats grow, both families must decide how best to survive the growing crisis with no internet or means of communication.

After over two hours, the movie finally gets to its point: That humans are, by nature, individualistic, greedy, and selfish and will turn on each

other in times of chaos. The movie seems to make this political lie, frequently promoted by capitalist media, its main task rather than creating a coherent story line.

It does make perfect sense that Barack Obama was a co-producer of this movie.

As we near World War III, workers are increasingly uneasy. The ruling class would much rather have workers turn on each other rather than uniting to destroy the capitalist system of chaos and destruction. However, capitalist propaganda will not trump our innate instinct to unite during a crisis. Our first instinct after an earthquake, fire, or bombing is to run in and help! We simply could not have survived as a species without this.

This deep-seated connection is why communism is the best system for us and for the planet. This planet can provide for human need, but not for human greed. Capitalism’s profit motive divides us and foments selfishness and greed.

Communism will set up a system that has us work simply according to ability and commitment. Commitment to having society function. We will work to make sure nobody is left homeless, starving, without healthcare, etc. We’ll work to provide for our collective needs and not to sell our labor while a few live extravagant lives off our labor!

—Comrade in California (USA)

LOOSE BOLTS SHAKE OPEN DOOR TO RACIST ATTACKS—AGAIN!

SEATTLE (USA)— A Boeing Max plane crashed in October 2018, and another in March 2019, killing 346 people. Boeing's Board of Directors and CEO implied that the fault lay with incompetent foreign pilots. Briefly, a few blue-collar Boeing workers tried to spread this lie. ICWP comrades and friends, including Asian immigrants, silenced those rumors before they could spread on the factory floor.

The latest Max emergency landing, after a door plug flew off mid-air, has opened the door to more widespread racism and sexism.

Blogger Walsh claimed, without evidence, that incompetent "diverse mechanics" were hired instead of "experienced" mechanics. "DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) is destroying the airline industry, and lots of people will die because of it," Walsh told his 2.6 million followers on X.

Fascist commentator Ian Miles Cheong complained, "The 737 MAX was put together by a team of 'diverse' engineers." Elon Musk amplified these attacks. Fox News said, "DEI must die, not passengers on your [Boeing] plane."

These are not isolated racist rants. They re-reflect a national campaign, supported by billion-aires, to intensify racism, sexism, and xenophobia.

A few years back, the company had to put on a show when millions demonstrated in cities where Boeing has factories. The new CEO and the Board promised to implement DEI. It became just a straw man for fascists to spread lying

attacks on our fellow workers.

No key executives, who are overwhelmingly white men, are being held accountable for the latest Max blowout. Instead, the racists blame unknown, non-white Boeing and Spirit employees.

Subcontractor Spirit AeroSystems workers repeatedly warned corporate officials about "widespread and sustained quality failures" and "excessive amounts of defects." A former Spirit Quality Control Inspector "struggled with Spirit's culture which placed pushing out products over quality," according to a 2023 lawsuit. Herein lies the real fault.

The question for retired and still-working Boeing workers is why racism and sexism are even more vitriolic than before. They are growing as the US loses its industrial power.

These divisive ideologies are baked into capitalism, which is built on a platform of wage slavery. The wage system pits one worker against another, making racism and sexism essential strategies of the capitalist system.

Long-Time Industrial Worker: Need Communist Solutions

A comrade worked for years as a boilermaker. He eventually got a job training men and women, children of immigrants and people of color, in aviation and other industrial jobs.

He met with about a hundred students every month to see how they were doing in the factories. Every month, the students complained about racist and sexist harassment. Every month

he would go to the plants to defend these students.

"Looking back, I can see my weakness," admitted this well-respected comrade. "I had a reformist line. I could have said anything at those monthly meetings. Militancy was there, but communist solutions were just not in the mix."

He now meets with a Party collective with an openly communist line as he continues to develop training programs for young industrial workers. Most are BIPOC, reflecting the changing industrial workforce.

"We have a party now that can help comrades focus in on the only solution—communist revolution," he concluded.

In communism, collective production is based on meeting the collective needs of the international working class, not the capitalists' need for profits or divisive ideologies. As we mobilize again to silence these lies, our strategy must be to end racism and sexism finally with communist revolution.



PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO
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International Conference: Women Communist Leaders Step Up

My journey to El Salvador was very impactful. I have seen the party growing from my visits to El Salvador last year and then this year. As a visitor from another country, for whom language was not a barrier. I observed all the comrades' emotions at the two-day conference. I met interesting comrades from different parts of the country and the neighboring country.

My engagement and conversations with the women comrades impressed me most. I have seen them growing and raising important points about how they see key questions. When we talked about the Palestine/Israeli issue, they expressed how they feel solidarity with the masses in Gaza. They drew a whole picture of capitalism from what is happening both in Gaza and El Salvador.

A few comrades who were very silent last year made a lot of important points at this conference. And important arguments. They showed how they see the struggle as a family.

I'm not trying to explain the problems of capitalism. I'm talking about how there is a connection to the party. The women comrades have so much empathy and aggressiveness. They are ready to sacrifice. They came with their partners. Whole families were together to fight against capitalism and fascism. They know, they're growing, they're teaching their kids. They go between their work, the party and family, and show how they are all together to fight against capitalism with the goal of communism.

It shook me up and impressed

me. Especially the women comrades' development there.

—A Comrade

The International Communist Workers' Party Expands

Three comrades from the factory where we have the largest concentration of ICWP members have quit that job to look for higher wages in another factory. But they are also leaving to organize and distribute our *Red Flag* newspaper there.

When my comrades told me that they were quitting work in the factory, I felt like a bucket of cold water had fallen on me, since they actively participate in several ICWP collectives.

I thought it would be an important loss for the fight for Communism. But I met with other comrades recently and talked about this, and about what was happening in the factory. A comrade said "L told me, 'I'm leaving the factory, but not leaving ICWP. I'm going to the new factory to recruit more comrades. You'll see.'"

So, we saw it as an opportunity to expand communist ideas and the organization of more men and women workers into the International Communist Workers' Party.

The work environment in the factory has caused layoffs and uncertainty among the remaining workers. There is less production. This suggests that they will continue with more layoffs.

That's why many young workers are looking for new opportunities in other centers of exploitation, but these are also new places to organize for the ICWP.

From this situation comes the invitation to these comrades who are leaving, that we should meet where they live with their families. This seems to me an excellent idea to give continuity to our fight for Communism.

This represents an advance to strengthen communist relations with the families of the workers and to organize in the community, for which a meeting is planned soon.

—Comrade Worker in El Salvador



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Left-wing students and workers in China used “big character posters” to educate masses and struggle against capitalist-roaders during the Great Leap Forward in the 1950s and the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in the 1960s.

co-workers.

For all I know, this policy of no political or religious topics may have changed or been “relaxed.” The task force was implemented one year ago. In its discussions, interesting topics and issues have been raised. In one session, the topic was de-colonization. We discussed the importance of de-colonizing our minds.

When we had our first company-wide mandatory training session, there was some opposition to even having such a task force. There have even been complaints over the past year, but these have been in the minority. Most employees think it’s necessary for the times we are living in. I personally don’t understand the objections considering the agency’s stated mission is “Eliminating Racism, Empowering Women”.

Besides the task force, I have spoken with a few co-workers about us being the working class and how I think it’s possible to create a better world for workers solely by Revolution. I have gotten positive feedback from a few, especially when emphasizing that Revolution is just a romanticized word for system change.

I’m currently working on a way to introduce Communism as a solution in a nuanced way since I’ve noticed the reluctance of many of my co-workers to delve into politics in what some would consider that deeply. There is definitely an openness at work to considering new systems of power other than the Democratic or Republican parties.

—Red Flag reader

ICWP Conference: “We have a world to win!”

We have come to the end of another year of struggles and victories. One victory is the recent international conference. It was a success and there was a lot of political growth. We workers and students were present to develop and do better work that allows us to expand the line of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

We want to congratulate the comrades who, with experience and practice, showed us that it is possible to achieve a communist world.

The military report caught my attention and that of the group, as I could see. The report clarified what we have discussed in the collectives about the need to organize in the army.

Listening to the young man’s personal experience was important. But the most important thing was the commitment to follow the ICWP line. I could see how other comrades identified with this experience. In conversations after the meeting they also expressed their experiences to me and how useful military knowledge can be.

The working class of the maquilas showed interest in being in a cadre school like this.

Well, we clearly understand that by organizing in the party we do not lose anything. On the contrary, the chains of slavery will end. We had thought that this is how it would be. Now we will continue organizing to participate in the communist May Day march. Long Live the International Working Class!

We have a world to win. Long live ICWP.

—Comrade in Struggle

Capitalist Schooling: Dangerous to the International Working Class

On January 8, 2024, in the Chinese province of Henan, a teacher surnamed Wang, who taught a first-grade class of Suixian Senior High School, forced his students to swear a deadly oath. “In the classroom, there is only studying. If I violate this oath, then death to my whole family, first my father, then my mother.” Teacher Wang was later questioned and criticized by students’ parents. He later admitted his mistake.

Such an oath is outright INCITEMENT OF VIOLENCE against working-class siblings such as family members. It goes AGAINST the communist principles of collectivity, unity, equality, cooperation, and mutuality. The Chinese capitalists’ schools may force students to recite this kind of oath to win working-class students to their dangerously fascist ideologies that advocate violence against members of the same class.

The capitalists’ school system already promotes divisive ideologies such as racism, sexism, individualism, nationalism, religion, and competition. It has divided our class siblings using the grading system. The capitalists more severely exploit students with lower grades or incomplete education. The bosses’ teachers who force students to recite oaths that advocate violence against members of the same class bring further detrimental effects to the mindset of our class siblings. They pollute our minds with violent fascist ideologies.

We are working to build a communist world where cooperation, collectivism, and sharing will be primary. In the communist world, we will share our knowledge with, and learn from, others. We will break down the divisions between “manual” and “mental” labor created by class society.

No longer will we be confined to one specific job. We will learn new skills by practice, and we will meet everyone’s needs by distributing the results of our collective labor. When we finally build communism, we will continue to struggle against all these dangerous anti-working-class ideologies left over from class society. These deadly ideologies will one day be gone forever. We invite students affected by the murderous system to join us in the global fight for a communist world without borders, exploitation, and oppression.

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM!

—Red Comrade in the USA

ICWP Comrade and CSU Striker Share Experiences

“We are from Mississippi but moved to Detroit. Our parents and grandparents were industrial workers. Some worked in the auto plants,” said a striker.

“I also worked in an auto plant,” replied a comrade.

“How did you like it?”

“Working on the assembly line producing one car a minute was brutal on one’s body,” the comrade said. “But I liked factory work because the company only owned my body. My mind was free to roam. I wrote leaflets, prepared speeches and meetings, elaborated on discussions. Then de-industrialization set in.”

“Yes. It also happened in Detroit. These higher paid industrial jobs disappeared. They moved out of the country or to Southern states where wages were lower.”

“I always looked at it as a vicious, premeditated mass racist attack on the US Black community,” said the comrade. “Somewhat of a collective punishment for Black workers who led mass anti-racist urban rebellions that shook the racist US rulers to their boots during the 1960s.

“And for having led antiracist, multi-racial, and anti-imperialist rebellions in the US Armed Forces against the fascist US rulers’ genocide in Vietnam,” the comrade continued. “These rendered the US Army in Vietnam unreliable. It was, after the relentless, indomitable fighting spirit of the Vietnamese masses, the most important reason for the US leaving Vietnam.”

“I never thought of it that way,” said the striker.

“It continued with flooding the ghettos with crack cocaine, and the mass incarceration that followed. The destructive effects on Black workers’ lives have been generational. Only a communist revolution can end all this pain and misery for the profits of the few.”

We agreed to meet again to keep talking, after the holidays.

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

How to Talk About Communism on the Job?

I was hired at a non-profit agency over four years ago. Like every new employee, I was told that politics and religion were off-limits for discussion at work.

Ironically, we now have a new Racial & Social Justice Task Force. How do we have this task force without getting into political topics, I ask. As a participant, I often raise questions or concerns that are of a political nature, as do some

SOLDIERS: KEY FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

(Speech at the International Communist Conference, December 2023)

Raise your hand if you believe that one day weapons will be needed to overthrow the capitalists! (*Many hands up*) Those who know how to use a rifle or a machine gun, keep your hands up! (*Fewer hands*)

I never thought I would wear a soldier's uniform, especially an US soldier's uniform.

So it was a big surprise when ICWP asked me if I was willing to join the US military to do communist political work. With comrades, I had distributed *Red Flag* to soldiers, but never thought that I could be one.

I remember the first time they asked me. After a good speech about the importance of military work and the impact of having soldiers alongside workers, the only thing I could think at that moment was "F*** that!"

They were comrades that I respected a lot, so I just said I'd think about it. I hoped that would be the end of it. But every time I participated in something with ICWP, someone was talking to me about the idea. They started giving me literature from Russia, China, and Vietnam, that highlighted the importance of having soldiers by your side during revolutionary movements.

Over time, the idea began to grow in my mind. More and more I found myself thinking about military work, but I still wasn't convinced. I was about to graduate from a community college, I had a good job. I didn't see the point in leaving the "good life" I had built for myself.

What finally convinced me was meeting with other comrades who had joined the army and done the work. Listening to their experiences and seeing that there is a long history in our party of work to advance communist ideas in the military, I was inspired.

To be honest, meeting them helped me with my fear. I saw myself in them. They were exactly like me, students and workers equally tired of the capitalist system. That's when I decided that if I was willing to fight for communism, I would probably have to fight one day and if I was really willing to fight, I couldn't be afraid of the work that needed to be done.

Since I decided that I was willing to do what I could to fight for a communist world, I only had to do the hardest thing... ask my mother for permission. I mention that so that parents can begin to struggle with themselves with the idea of their son or daughter joining the armed forces to do communist military work. Although my parents weren't very happy about having their son in the army during wartime, they gave me all their support, and that was a great help to me.

As you can imagine, I wasn't able to join the army and immediately start talking to anyone and everyone about communist ideas. **It's a process.** But one of the things that gave me confidence was a question a sergeant asked us.

We were a group of about thirty. The sergeant asked, "Who's here because you're patriotic?" Only three or four raised their hands. He asked, "Who's here because you need money for college?" About fifteen raised their hands.

"OK. Who's here because you need to work to support your family?" Another ten raised their hands. And finally, "Who's here because it was your only option?" One or two raised their hands.

The sergeant wanted to teach us that although we all had our own reasons for being there, we were a team. But what I understood at that moment is that capitalism had created a ton of misery in the form of unemployment, legal and of course monetary punishment to channel all these people into the armed forces.

During my time in the army, I spoke to many soldiers about communism and each of them responded well. They always had questions, and many took our newspaper *Red Flag*.

My favorite anecdote was one time during military training, While my group was waiting for our turn, I began to explain a little about dialectics to some fellow soldiers. While I was explaining negation, I noticed that the rest of the group came closer and began to pay attention. No one said anything, but they were listening. I had to stop when it was our turn and that's where it ended.

I didn't think any more about that conversation. During free time at the end of the day, I saw a group of ten soldiers walking towards me. They were from the group I had been doing the training with. One said, "We've been looking for you. We want to hear more about dialectical materialism."

I hope that after listening to my story you'll start to think about whether you're willing to do your part in the military work so that we can win a communist world one day. I also hope you'll struggle with friends of military age to think about doing this type of work.

Raise your hand if you're ready to join the military! (*Four or five young people raised their hands. The ICWP collective that they are a part of is following up with them.*)

Read our pamphlet:

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

available at icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf

ISRAELI REFUSENIKS SHOULD FIGHT FOR THE WORKING CLASS

January 23, 2024: Eighteen-year-old Tal Mitnick has gone back to prison to serve a second thirty-day sentence for refusing Israel "Defense" Forces (IDF) enlistment. He completed his first sentence on Friday and refused induction again today. He is the first conscientious objector imprisoned since October 7.

Even Israeli government censorship hasn't prevented reports of its fascist atrocities from spreading. And of IDF's deadly incompetence, including its shooting of three Israeli hostages waving a white flag. Tal Mitnick was already active in a support network of Israelis who refuse to enlist or participate in the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Israel has "universal" military conscription, but most non-Jews are exempted. Sixty-nine percent of Jewish men and fifty-six percent of Jewish women are drafted at age eighteen. Most aren't trained as fighters. All are trained to conform to Zionist ideology. The ultra-orthodox and absolute pacifists are legally exempt. But most refuseniks get shorter sentences than Tal.

Tal's refusal, the publicity around it, and the harsher sentence show both growing opposition to the genocidal assault on Gaza and the intensifying fascism of the Israeli ruling class.

Draft Resistance or Revolt?

Jews in Israel and in the US have deep connections (despite significant political differences). Draft resistance in Israel today recalls opposition to the US draft during its war on Vietnam. For example, young people in Israel are publicly burning their draft letters as US draft resisters did in the 1960s.

Hundreds of thousands of US youths resisted the draft. Tens of thousands fled to Canada and Sweden. But the ruling class drafted other young men, overwhelmingly working-class and disproportionately Black or Hispanic, who couldn't afford to escape it by attending college full-time.

The genocidal war on Vietnam continued until rebellion within the armed forces made it impossible for the US to field a reliable military. Soldiers refused to obey orders and even killed their officers to avoid combat. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese masses continued to fight fiercely. US imperialism was forced to withdraw.

The rulers never fight their own wars. Instead, they arm working-class youth (often the most oppressed) and send them to kill their class siblings. But they don't always comply!

In a revolutionary situation, soldiers and sailors can either support the rulers in murdering other workers or join with their class siblings to overthrow the rulers.

The collapse of the Tzarist army and navy in full-scale armed mutiny was crucial to the proletarian revolution in Russia at the end of World



The rebellion on the battleship Potemkin, led by revolutionary sailors, played a leading role in the 1905 revolution and paved the way for the success of the 1917 Russian Revolution.

War I. Bolsheviks mobilized soldiers in the barracks and sailors in the ships to join with urban workers to topple the Tzar and seize state power. No revolutionary movement can succeed without taking seriously the role of soldiers and sailors.

If Tal Mitnick and his comrades want to end the Zionist military occupation and genocide in Palestine, they need to look at root causes and at strategy. Only a revolutionary communist movement uniting all workers in Palestine/Israel can achieve that goal. If you agree, join the International Communist Workers' Party! Together we will plan to organize IDF soldiers to turn the guns on the fascist rulers and fight for communism.