

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

LETTER FROM GAZA: "TWO MILLION PEOPLE ARE LEARNING TO LIVE COLLECTIVELY"

Greetings comrades,

I am still alive. I have not been able to communicate regularly with you. We are constantly moving from one site of massacre to another. I have seen people next to me just hours ago getting blown into charred human flesh. My ability to have cell phones recharged is limited. I must take my flash drive to a location where the internet is available. Several small children in the refugee camp volunteer to take the flash drive. The cell towers are targeted by Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) snipers. But small children take the risk.

I can report to you of horrors beyond the imagination, of the wailing and inconsolable grief one hears when the IDF deliberately targets the most densely populated refugee areas with the help of Artificial Intelligence. Then there are frantic scenes of injured people, their agony of amputation without anesthesia, doctors and hospital staff desperately trying to save every life.

This imperialist genocide has brought out the best in the working class. Money has lost its meaning. People are collectively learning how to survive. There are schools that teach children how to harvest rainwater, how to install solar panels from the ruins, and how to sterilize injured people. Young people are learning how to break into the IDF tank operators' conversations to find out their location and evade them.

There are thousands of volunteers and older teachers showing new skills to resist genocide. I have shared Red Flags and people say, "We did not know what communism was but what we are doing is the communist way of building our society based on need and necessity. We cannot go back to the old way of living. That way of living was based on the profit of rich people. Now we fear nothing. Our homes, hospitals, and schools are destroyed. We want to build everything but not the old way."

Thanks for sharing a recent comment from a

comrade from Israel. It was heartwarming to hear from him. Many of my friends were reassured by knowing that thousands of working-class Israelis would not support the genocide. The Israeli comrade wrote, "The Israeli government is on an insane rampage. They have alienated many. This is an opportunity to build a communist base among the masses."

I just want to say, comrades, that two million people in Gaza are learning to resist collectively. Masses of people see death as a real possibility every second. So, they value life, they are building a new way of life – collectivity.

We have to transform this opportunity into a worldwide fight for communism, as the Israeli comrades said. No Zionists can stop us. The more they try, the stronger becomes our determination to end their fascist regime. Communism is the future.

— Comrade Hamza, February 2, 2024

LONG LIVE MARCH 8: INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY



Manchester, England, February 2024: Rally demands closure of Israeli arms factory

Jerusalem, Palestine, 1930s "No negotiations or dialogue until termination of the British Mandate"

West Bank, occupied Palestine, during the first intifada in 1987



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Amidst the wreckage of Gaza and the old world order

WE MUST DEVELOP AND BECOME NEW COMMUNIST LEADERS

February 14— When the carnage in Gaza ends, the world will have changed dramatically. Israel's image as a defiant response to fascist horrors has been shattered. The USA's post-World War II image as a beacon of justice and liberty will likewise be definitively shredded.

Both images were lies. Now they are dead and buried, like tens of thousands of our working-class family, under the rubble in Gaza.

Whatever the outcome on the ground, the USA (once the world's most powerful military) and Israel (the world's tenth most powerful) will have been defeated.

It's Not Just Images

The US rulers have sent Israel over 250 cargo planes, plus twenty ships. They have delivered over 10,000 tons of munitions since Israel's attack on Gaza began. On top of its routine \$3.8 billion in military aid, the Israeli military (IDF) has bought almost \$2.8 billion in extra weaponry this year. The US government is blatantly fund-

ing this genocide.

Those US rulers are increasingly isolated. A thousand Black US pastors have urged Biden to pull back from the Gaza genocide. These pastors have the impossible task of controlling the Black masses for the Democratic Party. Working-class people, especially youths and those who experience racist oppression, see no difference between the open fascist Trump and Genocide Joe Biden.

US imperialism can still bully some countries into defunding UNRWA (humanitarian aid) and voting in the UN to support genocide in Gaza. But dozens of governments have joined South Africa in accusing Israel of genocide in the International Court of Justice. The global divide between the US bloc and the "global south" is widening.

Countries are lining up to join the BRICS alliance (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa). Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United

Arab Emirates already joined. One hundred fifty-nine countries are interested in Russia's new payment system to bypass the US dollar.

China, with 35% of the world's industrial production, is now the world's economic superpower. China, Russia, and Iran are successfully bogging the US down in Israel. They are baiting it to respond in Yemen and regionally. This is blocking US imperialism from getting more involved in Taiwan and Ukraine.

Israel is in crisis, deeply divided. More Israelis see that a Zionist ethno-

state is no longer sustainable.

By the second month of the current carnage, half a million Israelis had fled. The Israeli government had sold the illusion of safety by bombing hospitals, schools, apartment buildings (with dumb bombs) and targeting ambulance drivers, journalists, and poets (with smart bombs).

Gaza had long been the world's largest prison. It had endured four Israeli attacks since 2006. Now the hospitals left in Gaza have a new acronym pinned to many patients' beds: WCNSF — Wounded Child No Surviving Family.

By November, masses worldwide were seeing the Israeli state and the Zionist project on which it was based as modern-day fascism.

The world changed too. We saw genocide unfold on our TVs, Instagram, or YouTubes. Our outrage exploded into massive protests on every continent. Half a million marched in London. Palestinian flags were everywhere, many waved by Jewish youth. But the bombing continued relentlessly.

What can we do to make a difference?

Then came a letter from Gaza.

A *Red Flag* reader in Gaza, homeless and threatened constantly by bombs and tanks, joined the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). Weeks passed. Then came a second letter. It recounted an exciting conversation with an older Palestinian who remembered how his father had agitated, educated, and organized for communist revolution alongside a Jewish comrade, a lifelong friend.

As Israel dropped more explosive tonnage on Gaza than the US dropped on Hiroshima, a red flag future began to re-emerge from communist history.

Through the development of its newspaper and media, ICWP is starting to organize for a communist revolution: from the masses to the masses. The new comrade and his collective, seemingly isolated in the hell of Gaza, lead an international mass party to respond to capitalist war. He takes hope from the courage and creativity of the youth, and the knowledge that his ICWP comrades are organizing around the world.

The world is changing dramatically. There is a new openness to communism. Workers and youth worldwide are seeing the horrors of capitalism in previously unimaginable ways. We must develop strong relationships with them so that they, in turn, mobilize the workers, soldiers, and youth around them.

This communist work is developing in the auto factories in Chennai, India and the maquila sweatshops of El Salvador; in working-class neighborhoods of Bengaluru, India and Gqeberha, South Africa, in high schools in Seattle, Portland, and Los Angeles, USA.

Many more readers must become communist leaders. All Party collectives must take up this work with new urgency. Let's seize this opportunity to build a new communist world on the rubble of Gaza and of the coming world war.



LOS ANGELES (USA), February 10— "This is *Red Flag*, from the International Communist Workers' Party," said a comrade at the Labor for Palestine rally. "We are mobilizing the masses for communism, to eliminate genocide, war, borders, exploitation, and everything else that affects the masses here and around the world."

He continued: "In the past, and even now, so-called 'communist' parties have not mobilized for communism. Even the Russian revolution maintained banks and wages, and supervisors and managers got paid more than regular workers. Whenever and wherever we make a revolution, we will immediately set up communist relations in all spheres of life."

No one refused to take the paper. Many were reading it. A worker approached him and said, "I'm a communist too. And I believe that at the end of the day it's between communism and fascism. There's no middle ground. Can I have a paper too?" "Of course," the comrade responded.

SOUTH AFRICA: REMEMBERING FALLEN COMRADES, RAISING THE RED FLAG

GQEBERHA, February 12— Comrade Nontsikelelo was a young mother in the New Brighton township of Gqeberha. She shared her house with her parents. She and her parents were unemployed. A member of ICWP recruited her. As he gave her *Red Flag*, he emphasized that capitalist greed creates unbearable living conditions for the working class. We all must

unite to fight for communism to create a society based on the needs of the workers, not profit.

On January 16th, gang members raped and murdered comrade Nontsikelelo. The entire community was shocked to hear this tragic news. Her neighbours, with ICWP, organized a beautiful memorial for comrade Nontsikelelo. Comrades pledged to

remember her tragic death and recruit more communist members of ICWP. Only communism can eliminate gangs and the capitalist system that promotes them.

As the community was mourning this death, just a few days later, a Mozambican worker was shot dead while buying food at the local grocery. Felijito Bulu was 22

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Movie Review: *Oppenheimer*
Zionism: A Fascist, Imperialist
Creation, part 3

Letter: Palestine/Israel: Building
working-class unity under fascist
conditions

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Auto Workers in India Organize:**MARCH ON MAY DAY TO END WAGE SLAVERY AND IMPERIALIST WAR WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION**

CHENNAI (India), January 29— “Many workers were appalled to see the devastation in Gaza. So many of our workers must spend long hours, sometimes more than twelve, to feed the family,” said Deepak, an auto worker, at our *Red Flag* collective meeting. “I can’t imagine how masses of people in Gaza without homes, food, and water, and under constant bombing can feed their families.”

Nine auto worker comrades discussed how our work is affected by the Gaza genocide. “My coworker’s family was doing construction work in Saudi Arabia,” Omar reported. “He is laid off after the disruption in Yemen. Now he is looking for work in the auto industry here.” Omar’s friend is not alone. Thousands are returning from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq.

“This is how capitalism works,” explained an ICWP comrade who distributes *Red Flag* to many in his neighbourhood. “The war in Gaza appears to be between Hamas and Israel. However, imperialists are involved. The US and European rulers are directly fuelling the massacres in Gaza. The Iranian rulers, supported by Russian and Chinese imperialists, are fighting to eliminate the US presence in the area.

“Both sides are escalating wars, as we see in Yemen and Lebanon. It is an attack on the working class everywhere. We might not see immediately how it affects us. But look at the port in Chennai. There is a 30% reduction in shipping to the Suez Canal. They are diverting it to much longer routes, raising costs 40%. Now they are laying off port workers.”

The auto unions here are not even thinking about deadly imperialist wars. So, they cannot offer any solution to end it with communist revolution. There are 181 major automobile plants in a sixty kms corridor in Chennai. They employ over two million workers. How can we reach out to these industrial workers? This is a pressing

question that comrades were trying to understand.

“We are wage slaves; we produce everything, and capitalists try to make maximum profit,” said an ICWP comrade. “They must constantly attack us to reduce our wages. They also must attack other capitalists to eliminate competition. The unions cannot resolve this contradiction because they want to keep wage slavery. They compromise with our class enemy.” This comrade had just attended a meeting of CITU, the Centre of Indian Trade Unions. It is affiliated with the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

This union meeting asked for a twelve percent pay increase. The union only represents the contract workers. Sixty percent of the workforce has no contract, and they earn less than half of what contract workers make. The non-contract workers also have no pension funds, healthcare, or housing subsidies. They are forced to live very far from the plant. Most of the noncontract workers come from other states, don’t speak the same language, and many are Dalits or Muslims.

The union settled with the owners for a seven percent pay increase for contract workers and only two percent for non-contract workers. The official inflation rate is nine percent. At this union meeting, four comrades distributed *Red Flag* and a leaflet. The leaflet explained that no matter how much unions fight, workers will still be wage slaves.

In communism, the working class will cease to be wage slaves. Nobody will be an autoworker all their life. Without profit and greed, the working class will only produce what is needed for

society.

Under capitalism, since profit is the main drive, many useless things are produced. This creates inefficient cities choked with unwanted cars, congestion, and environmental disasters. The result is racism, sexism, and imperialist wars for more profit.

We were able to talk to many auto workers. Some know us. They were all disappointed in the union’s sell-out proposal. We engaged with them and invited them to our next meeting. Our goal is to concentrate on our close comrades, so they become active members of our party. We proposed to continue to discuss dialectics of change, and how a small party can become a mass party for communism.

The first May Day in Chennai was celebrated 101 years ago in memory of the workers’ struggle. It still inspires workers everywhere. We plan to bring to the workers in Chennai our communist vision that capitalism/imperialism are creating conditions for its own demise. The International Communist Workers’ Party will build a mass party for communist revolution.



Chennai, India. May Day 2023. “When will there be 8 hours of suffering in the factory?” “Monthly instead of daily wages for hotel workers”

SOUTH AFRICA, from page 2

years old when he died. Just a week earlier, Feljito met with several comrades from Mozambique who are interested in organizing ICWP. We explained to these workers why we need a mass international party that will fight racism, sexism, and xenophobia. We gave as an example the genocidal war in Gaza to show that only the working class, led by ICWP, can end imperialism and wars.

Many Mozambican friends met at the house of ICWP members to raise money for the burial. We collected money from neighbours. ICWP members from other areas also contributed. With this help, comrade Feljito’s body was returned to his hometown in Mozambique for burial.

ICWP comrades have been regularly active in this township. After the successful toyi-toyi organized last month, more workers are getting to know communism. Many new workers are look-

ing at *Red Flag* as a symbol of hope to create a communist future.

We met some workers from Zimbabwe and Mozambique. They live in the township and face severe racism. ICWP comrades have been building a strong relationship with them, teaching them Xhosa and helping them defend against physical violence. When a worker from Mozambique was robbed, an ICWP member was able to retrieve his cell phone and cash the next day.

All these activities give us confidence to fight xenophobia as more workers are organizing for May Day. The capitalist bosses have given up on the masses of unemployed workers here. Their solution is gang violence, closing schools and clinics, building more prisons, and a bleak future.

We know that the working class produces everything, and only the working class under communist leadership can meet our needs. This May Day will herald a new era of a mass communist ICWP from Gqeberha to Gaza. Long live communism!



Remembering comrade Feljito



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INDIA FARMERS: BACK TO THE BARRICADES, COMMUNISM WILL LEAD THE WAY

DELHI (India), February 12— Hundreds of thousands of farmers from over nine states have converged in Delhi. They protested in huge numbers in 2020-21 against privatization that threatens to end their livelihood.

The fascist government, learning from the past, has created an impenetrable fortress around Delhi. At the entry point to Delhi's freeways, the police have created massive layers of security: concrete road barriers, iron barricades, barbed wire, nail beds, containers, hydra cranes, and drones armed with tear gas.

ICWP members went to Delhi's outskirts, where we met the masses of farmers. We had *Red Flag* and a leaflet calling for communist revolution.

"We are going to be bought by corporates like Adani and Ambani," said a farmer. "We will starve to death. We are here to stay no matter what happens. It is life and death for us. We have huge debts; our prices are falling. We are doomed. Our children have no jobs."

"How do you want this agitation to end?" an ICWP member asked one of the many young

people who have gathered at these massive rallies.

"We want change in these profit-hungry corporates," was the answer. "We are ready to die for this change."

"We need to change the system, to a system where there are no corporates, no profit, no bank," the ICWP member replied. "This is communism. Punjab has a revolutionary history of 150 years. Young communists in Punjab led millions to end capitalism all over India and what is now Pakistan and Bangladesh. But they did not know that to end capitalism, we must abolish the wage system, not build socialism where land is distributed, and the farmers are still at the mercy of the markets."

Our agitation is just beginning. All our ICWP members are stationed at strategic locations. We are armed with Red Flags and

our leaflet calling for communist revolution. The masses are open and willing to put young people in charge of the future.

Despite all the massive preparations that the Delhi Police have made to fortify the city, the farmers have found ways to diffuse the barrage of tear gas shells. They have found sideroads and lanes to bypass massive roadblocks. They have created pathways in rivers to combat the rulers, who are finding it difficult to contain the masses.

We must put communism at the forefront of our battle.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNIST RELATIONS AND BUILDING NEW COLLECTIVES

EL SALVADOR, February 11— "Welcome to our home, comrades. We hope you will always come back to meet with us," said the mother of the workers who had invited us to meet there. She and her daughters had participated in the recent international conference held in this country.

This warm welcome gave us the confidence that allows us to strengthen communist relations with members and friends of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP).

Several months ago, one of her sons had an accident at work. "I thought I was going to lose my arm," explained the young worker. "They made me operate a machine without any experience. My fingers and much of my arm are damaged." He has had to fight to get medical



attention and to avoid being fired from the factory where he works. It was a serious accident and the bosses wanted to fire him. He and his wife attended this meeting.

Comrades of ICWP have provided him, and will continue to provide him, with support. The Party collectives in the factory were attentive to the state of his health, supporting him however they could. The principle of communist solidarity in our Party was the beginning of our relationship with this family.

Those who have read a majestic work by Maxim Gorky called "*The Mother*" will identify with this mother and fighter for communism.

She is a strong pillar in this family. She shared her family history, which has been a life of struggle in this exploitative system, to keep her family of seven workers, women and men, united together.

This was an opportunity to be able to meet with workers who are already at new factories and were previously part of party collectives where they worked before.

A comrade worker said, "I have been working in the other factory for three weeks now, and I hope to be able to do good work for the Party there. In this factory there are no unions, and we hope to be able to distribute the *Red Flag* news-

paper to more workers."

A worker leader replied, "We have readers there and have distributed leaflets there. We hope that the distribution of *Red Flag* can begin as soon as possible."

All these workers attended the international conference. This is a way of continuing the political follow-up work. It is producing an effort to organize in the community where they live, to massify communist ideas.

During the meeting, we discussed how the comrades in South Africa have shown that same principle of solidarity with workers from Mozambique. These workers are looking for better working conditions due to the crisis of capitalism that forces them to migrate and look for work in other countries.

The ICWP comrades in South Africa have responded in accordance with our struggle that in communism no worker will be called a foreigner. They are supporting these class brothers and sisters. All these actions of workers organized in ICWP count.

After sharing the family history with the mother of our comrades, we were invited to eat some delicious pupusas. The mother had dedicated a great part of her life to working in a tourist area, where she had made them.

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

23 years of service: MTA Operators' Expiration Date

Business in general doesn't like workers. After the 1980s, there has been across the US a negative change against labor.

Depending on how long you have been in the company, you would easily notice the gradual negative changes and attacks on the worker.

The Los Angeles government transit agency MTA (which runs on taxes) is just a name front. We are the instruments they use to generate profits for their businesses by taking their workers to work and people to shop in their stores. Even though we as drivers provide such a vital service to the economy, we are not treated or rewarded as we should be.

If the company hired you when you are in your 20's or 30s, they know you will meet your

23 years of service before age 65. It's not about how old you will be when you retire. It is that your body, after 23 years of wear-and-tear, becomes a liability to them. For the company, 23 years of service is your body's expiration date as a driver. They use us and then they throw us away.

Do you think that the hostile work environment is just coincidence? No, MTA management wants to keep you under pressure. It messes with you because they need you to leave as soon as you reach 23 years of service. Even before is better if they force you to quit or get fired. That way they get to keep your pension! That's the system for you!

The reality is that there are a lot of drivers that are not able or will not be able to retire because of the medical issue. They will be forced

to work beyond the "promised" 23 years of service.

To get some of these operators to retire, management provides some medical incentives (bribes) according to the age when retired. If you retire before the age of 55, you have no company-paid medical insurance. At 55 they pay 50%; at 58, 75%, and at 62, 100%.

The part that management does not get, or care to, is that driving for the public is a daunting task. If they provide a better working environment for the driver and incentives for the public, the result would be less traffic and less wear and tear on drivers' lives and health. But MTA and the capitalist system aren't in business for the workers' or public's health!

—MTA retired bus operator, Los Angeles (USA)

California State University Strike Ends

COMMUNIST STRUGGLE WITH TEACHERS AND STUDENTS CONTINUES

LOS ANGELES (USA), January 22 — “We got sold out hard on this one,” said a teacher, “The ‘wage increase’ of 5% was effectively a wage cut. Inflation was officially 9.1% in 2022 and we only got a 4.4% raise that year. We are making less now, in terms of purchasing power.”

“It stinks that these deals are made in secrecy,” added another. “Union elections are a sliver of democracy, much like our US electoral system.”

Teachers are angry that the California Faculty Association (CFA) cancelled the planned week-long strike at all 23 CSU campuses. They were even angrier because on Monday, they and some students had enthusiastically picketed in the pouring rain.

Late that night, they were notified that the strike was cancelled because a tentative agreement had been reached. Everyone we talked with agreed with us that the strike was canceled because the CSU Administration, CFA officials, and the rulers were panicked at the specter of hundreds of thousands of students, teachers and other workers striking, picketing, and marching

together.

“It could have helped create a potentially revolutionary situation,” said our leaflet, “because workers in struggle, facing the wrath of the state, question capitalism more critically. The union leaders’ job, therefore, is to prevent the fight between us and the capitalists from exploding into open warfare. They must try to persuade or force us to accept whatever serves the rulers’ interests.”

“Their greatest betrayal, however,” it added, “is political. They push the rulers’ rabid anti-communism, patriotism, and belief that voting will solve our problems.”

In conversations with teachers and students, we emphasized that, “Unions only negotiate the terms of our exploitation. They don’t fight to end it.” To end exploitation they need to join ICWP and organize a communist revolution.

We talked about problems workers and students face, and the need to fight for a communist society. Most agree with some aspects of our communist line. Some are meeting with us and thinking seriously about joining.

Students are demoralized about the CFA officials’ betrayal. Demands to benefit students played no part in the tentative agreement. We discuss the futility of reform struggles, no matter who leads them.

We talk about the revolutionary potential of students if they unite with workers and soldiers to make a revolution for communism. We describe communism. There will be no tuition. Education will be free and a lifelong process. Everyone will contribute what they can based on commitment and ability and receive what they need for free:

housing, food, health care.

A student leader questions our ability to organize millions for revolution because we don’t believe in coalition building, but instead building a mass party. Another friend argues that China and Russia are “capitalists, but not imperialists.” She thinks they have no history of militarily invading other nations. These political struggles continue.

Capitalism in crisis means fascism and war.

For this US rulers need docile industrial workers to produce their military weapons and patriotic soldiers to fight and die for their profits and empire.

Therefore, we explained, one reason for the cutbacks and other attacks on students and faculty is that capitalism in crisis doesn’t have jobs, or only low paying ones, for many college graduates.

“This is creating a social time bomb. Tunisian unemployed college graduates in 2011 started the Arab Spring. Massive rebellions and armed uprisings spread throughout the Arab world. The potential for communist revolution was there, but with no communist party to lead it.

“Today, things could be different. Millions of US youths consider themselves anarchists, socialists, or communists. Tens of thousands are protesting the US-backed Israeli government genocide in Gaza. The ICWP is striving to mobilize these masses, together with industrial workers and soldiers, to fight for communism.”

The working-class victory in this reformist struggle: All contacts we made are reading *Red Flag*. Some who are considering joining us, are distributing it to friends and are inviting their friends to meet with us.

‘A luta continua, vitória é certa’ The struggle continues. Victory is certain.



Cal State Los Angeles, December 2023

CAPITALIST PRODUCTION DIVIDES WORKERS COMMUNISM UNITES US

EL SALVADOR, January 26— How would we resolve an incident between workers in a factory in the communist system? That question arose in a meeting of an ICWP collective. We had witnessed an incident between a male and a female worker in a module. There had been an aggression against the males comrade because he wasn’t working fast enough to advance in the production.

This incident was provoked by interest in earning a little more money. It is not the only such incident that has happened in the factory.

When the workers saw this, they went to an ICWP comrade to tell her what happened. She made it clear to them that in this system of capitalist exploitation, the bosses like and urge violence so that we workers are divided, because they are terrified of workers’ unity.

“We should pass our newspaper *Red Flag* to these co-workers who were involved in this fight and explain to them whom the division of workers favors,” suggested a comrade.

“Problems between workers are sometimes unavoidable, but the way we resolve them will make the difference,” answered another comrade. “We are training ourselves along communist lines, with discipline and respect for our co-workers. In the communist system, first of all, we will not produce for profit. If there is a problem, we will stop production and solve it collectively.”

The factory bosses create production modules of 10 to 15 workers each, to speed up the production of garments to be sold. In communism, collectivity will be for our class interest, not for the bosses’ profits.

Sometimes the problems at work are caused by fatigue due to long working hours, and because of the demands of the boss to increase production, setting higher goals. All this causes the workers to be stressed by the

pressure to achieve these goals and to earn a little more money.

This case is a clear example of the super-exploitation suffered by both men and women workers in the factory. It was a reaction of an exploited worker with a yoke around her neck. The stress and fatigue caused an argument with a co-worker so she could meet the production goal.

We are the working class. In communism, all the problems that arise will be solved in a comradely way. All the divisive ideologies and practices will be eliminated by putting an end to the wage system.

That’s why those of us organized in ICWP try to incorporate more workers into the collectives. There we discuss how to have better political education and better relations between workers. We seek to have a classless society and live in a world without money, where we will put an end to wage slavery.

The struggle against capitalism, to overthrow it, is only for communism. United we will win! We will not work for profit, but on the basis of meeting workers’ needs. The working hours will be only those necessary!

It is our challenge to continue advancing, mobilizing the masses for our communist revolution.

Long live the Communist Revolution! Death to Capitalism!



Zionism: A Fascist Imperialist Creation, Part II

ALL WORKERS HAVE MORE IN COMMON WITH EACH OTHER THAN WITH ANY CAPITALIST OR IMPERIALIST

Capitalism Promoted Pogroms

The Russian imperial government organized pogroms (mass racist massacres) against working-class Jews in Russia, Poland, and Ukraine, starting in the nineteenth century. These began after Imperial Russia first acquired territories with large Jewish populations from the Ottoman Empire and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Russian rulers made these areas into the “Pale of Settlement” to control Jews and exclude them from the cities. They invented racist lies to win workers to intense antisemitism, scapegoating Jewish workers and peasants for capitalism’s failures.

They lied that Jews were “Christ killers,” “baby killers,” and “cruel money lenders.”

Feudal nobles thought themselves above handling money. They used Jews as money lenders. Christian churches prohibited believers from lending money with interest. Jews loaned the nobles’ money with interest, keeping some as profit and giving the rest to the nobles. Then, the nobles confiscated all the money, calling Jews “greedy usurers.”

Many Jewish workers fled to Europe and the US in response to pogroms. Large numbers joined the Bund, a Jewish socialist group. In the 1880s, thirty percent of Russia’s socialists were Jews. Many later left the Bund to join the Bolsheviks and helped organize the 1917 Russian Revolution.

That year, Winston Churchill, head of Britain’s navy, said that the creation of a Jewish state by the Jordan River under British protection “would be in harmony with the interests of the British Empire.”

In 1919, an estimated 100,000 Jews were killed in pogroms in Ukraine and Poland. They were accused of being Bolsheviks. Many were.

Founding Myth

Jewish and Christian Zionists push the myth that the Biblical story of Jews being enslaved in Egypt and expelled from Palestine was historic fact. They asserted that Jews had remained true to their beliefs despite “wandering” for 2000 years, and thus had the absolute need and right

to return to their “homeland.”

There is no historical evidence of this. There is evidence, however, that Jews, Muslims, and Christians lived in Palestine side by side for over a thousand years. During the Ottoman Empire, some Jews converted to Islam, partly because Muslims paid lower taxes.

There is also evidence of the existence of Khazaria, a vast Khazar Kingdom (c. 650–965 CE). Not wanting to be subjects of either the Muslim or the Christian empires, the Khazars converted to Judaism. They also converted many others to Judaism in the Caucasus, along the Volga River, and in what is now Poland. In *The Invention of the Jewish People*, Tel Aviv University historian Shlomo Sand shows that Eastern European Jews originated from these areas, not from Palestine.

Zionists and imperialists used the founding myth and the “wandering Jew” stories to justify a Jewish state in Palestine. As nations and nationalism developed throughout Europe, they popularized the identity of “the Jewish people.”

Jewish Workers Fleeing Fascism Forced to Go to Palestine.

Many Jewish workers who fled fascist Europe in the 1920s and 1930s did not know anything about displacing Palestinians. They only hoped to start a new life, safe from pogroms and genocide. Neither the Ottoman-era Jewish residents, who lived for centuries alongside Muslims and Christians, nor most of the newcomers thought of starting a “Jewish state” to serve the interests of any imperialist.

To create a Jewish state, Palestine needed more Jews. British and US imperialists conspired to make Palestine the only place Jews fleeing antisemitism could go. The US slashed immigration of Jews to only 8,000 yearly in 1924. Britain also drastically restricted Jewish immigration.

Topping this, the US Zionist organizations opposed the entry of Jewish refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe to the United States!



TEL AVIV (Palestine/Israel), 1970s—Members of Matzpen, a socialist group uniting Jews and Palestinians, demonstrate against the occupation, Zionism, and expanding settlements after the 1967 war. Sign in Hebrew says “Down with the Occupation.”

In those decades, Jewish and Palestinian workers often united in struggles against British, Palestinian, and Jewish capitalist exploiters, especially in the port city of Haifa.

Jewish and Palestinian capitalists attacked these anti-racist and communist workers. Zionist goons attacked and killed many Jewish workers for fighting alongside their Palestinian brothers and sisters.

Communism Will End Racism, Nationalism, and Imperialism

Capitalism is based on competition for maximum profits, made from exploiting workers. Competing capitalists capture rivals’ markets or destroy their industries through war. The rulers build nationalism to make us think we’re defending “our country” when we fight other workers to defend the rulers’ profits and empire.

Capitalism’s wage system needs racism and terror to divide and weaken our class, and pay some less, to keep us from uniting for revolution.

When the Palestinian and Jewish masses, and all workers, unite for communist revolution, we will eliminate genocide, production for profit, competition, and the wage system. We will create the material basis to abolish racism and nationalism. The communist masses, without nations or borders, will collectively produce only to meet humanity’s needs!

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Pushing on Walls and Changing in the Process

“If I push a chair, it moves...because of the real outside pressure I apply. ... but to end here would be mechanical materialism,” said a comrade in a recent report on dialectical materialism.

“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.”

Physics shows that if I exert force on a chair or wall, that object also exerts an equal and opposite force on me. The resultant motion (or not) also depends on the internal composition of the person(s) pushing on the object. If they are seated on a bulldozer, for example, they can move or even destroy the wall. Many in Gaza and India know this firsthand.

Here’s why this matters. Over a hundred people here in Pasadena have been protesting weekly. They are pushing Rep. Judy Chu to

sign a Gaza ceasefire resolution. It’s like pushing a wall.

“Yes, we are pushing on a wall with a hand, and it’s not moving,” commented an activist. “But this analogy fails because hands never change. Here the ‘hand’ is changing, and people are getting radicalized.”

He continued: “When we tried to get Chu to move towards a ceasefire, she didn’t, and that is the unmovable wall of the American institutions. But we (the organizers) were changed by the course of events. Through rain, or storm, or cold, we have been protesting every week, and have found a genuine community.

“To complete the analogy, we need to actually see what has changed among the people. There’s more awareness. There’s cross-age organizing. Often students are very radical and older workers are not on the scene. But now we have people from Pasadena City College and Caltech organizing with people from churches and mosques. People come with their families. I think that would be the materialist analysis of what has happened so far in the consciousness of the people who are challenging this genocide.

“But fundamentally no relationships have been changed. Right now we’re voicing dissent, and we still have a way to go in building power amongst ‘the people.’”

The “wall” (Chu) is immovably committed to the Democratic Party and their imperialist project. Focusing on that could lead to cynicism and passivity.

But, looking at the “hand” (protesters), we do see change. There are conversations about whether the movement should be nationalist or internationalist reformist or revolutionary. What’s the long-term goal? How would the movement have to change to destroy the class relationships of imperialism?

Many have read our answers in *Red Flag*. Some ask for the new issue. Some say, “we’re communists, too.” We are developing relationships at the weekly gatherings and beyond.

Opposing forces are two sides of a dialectical contradiction. Our communist practice focuses on resolving our side’s internal contradictions. That’s how we’ll create a force capable of destroying the capitalist “wall” and building the communist world we need.

—Comrade in Pasadena (USA)

“KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON” WHITEWASHES CAPITALISM’S SYSTEMIC RACIST ATTACKS ON NATIVE AMERICANS

“This was as bad as *Mississippi Burning* (1988),” said Lucy. “The FBI is the hero. No wonder it’s being promoted.”

“The big oil companies like Phillips Petroleum were let off the hook,” said Gloria. “It’s all about one bad guy.”

“About two white bad guys,” said Tina. “It should have focused on Mollie, the Indigenous woman who was the real hero. The focus is always on white people.”

Scorsese’s *Killers of the Flower Moon* has ten Oscar nominations. It’s a long piece of ruling-class propaganda wrapped in amazing production values.

It distorts the true story of the Indigenous victims of an evil white “pillar of the community” (Hale) and his gutless nephew (Ernest). They conspire to murder a whole family to get Osage people’s oil rights and are stopped by the FBI.

As Tina suggested, this is a deeply racist movie. Native women appear as dehumanized victims. Mollie is mainly shown as passive and foolishly trusting. Scorsese concentrates instead on Mollie’s murderous husband Ernest’s “moral dilemma.”

The book behind the movie tells a broader story. Dozens of Indigenous Osage people were murdered for their rights to the oil beneath the ground in Osage County. Dozens more were murdered by their white “guardians.” The FBI solved one set of murders, locked up two bad guys, and made themselves heroes. They left the rest of the murders uninvestigated, and of course the racist social relations that set the Osage up for this massacre.

Ruling Class Media Don’t Expose Bloody Capitalist Social Relationships

The real story of the Osage isn’t about a few greedy individuals. It’s about the violent imposition of a new set of capitalist social relationships. These were based on money, commodities, property rights, and competition.

Capitalism itself paved the way for this murder and theft. The Osage tragedy is the same tragedy that capitalism has inflicted on people around the world over and over.

The Osage, like many North American Indigenous groups, had long lived communally. Land was held in common and worked to benefit their common wellbeing. Native Americans were violently evicted from their land and forced onto land less valuable for capitalist agriculture.

The Dawes Act (1887) attacked their communal lifestyle by dividing these “reservations” into private property, much of which was then sold to capitalist farmers. The Osage resisted until 1907. When they finally agreed, they made it illegal to buy or sell the rights to the oil and other minerals underground.

Oil was just then becoming a valuable commodity. The rush to drill on Osage land resulted, by the 1920s, with the Osage reaping tremendous short-term wealth from rental of oil rights.

But this made Osage people a target. Each person listed on the Osage roll in 1906 had a share of the mineral rights (“headrights”) and the profits it generated. Osage individuals could not sell or give their “headrights” to anyone. They could only be inherited. This set Osage people up for the murders shown in the film.

In addition, the federal government appointed white “guardians” to most Native Americans, including the Osage, supposedly to protect them from exploitation. This system, started in the 1830s, was justified by the racist lie that Native Americans were not competent to make their own decisions.

Many “guardians,” lawyers and businessmen like Hale, used these positions to exploit their “wards.” They approved payment of gouged prices for things their Osage “wards” bought, receiving kickbacks from crooked merchants. They found ways to become the designated heirs to their wards’ headrights, and then set them up



Osage men in Pawhuska Oklahoma, 1918

for murder.

Opposing the Osage: Forces Much Bigger than Hale, the FBI, or Scorsese Could Imagine

The Getty family (George and his son J Paul) became millionaires from Osage County oil. Phillips Oil and Petroleum did too. All the power was in the hands of the oil companies, the “guardians,” and local politicians who made deals with the oil companies.

The movie shows the murder of one family but ignores the other deaths of Osage people in what the Osage call the 1920s reign of terror.

And more fundamentally, it completely ignores the destruction of the communal society of Indigenous people in the service of capitalism.

Hollywood will never expose the bloody and inhumane birth of capitalism and its murderous reality today. That’s our task. Along with building the fight for a communist society – based on comradely social relationships, not money – that can recreate communal property and cooperation on an even stronger basis.

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We Are One International Working Class

“I don’t even want to call myself a Jew anymore,” said a terribly upset friend who was born in Israel.

“You were born into a Jewish family, but you were also born into the working class,” I responded. “Mainly you are a worker and should think of yourself that way.”

“That’s what my parents always said,” she remembered.

Each of us has a personal identity with many aspects. But we are all workers, or allies of the working class. More and more of us identify mainly as communists.

Being a worker (even a communist worker) doesn’t make other aspects of our identity disappear. It means they are secondary, though

often we struggle to remember that.

Where we grew up, what languages we speak, where we live, our life experiences, all help to shape our personal identities. We may see ourselves as culturally Jewish or Muslim, Christian or Hindu, even if we don’t practice the religion.

We may identify with others who share a skill set (surfers, poets, electricians, nurses). Or a passion (fans of Mihlali, Taylor Swift, Shah Rukh Khan, Lionel Messi, Manchester United). Most of us don’t let such things divide us from the rest of the working class.

Other things are harder. We know that “race,” gender, and nationality are socially constructed. That means they are boxes that capitalist society invented to sort us into, on purpose to divide us. They are part of the material reality of

the wage system.

So we can’t just say to someone, “You’re not Black (or Palestinian or gay or a woman), you’re a worker.” We experience capitalist oppression and exploitation differently, based on what boxes we’ve been put in. We can’t defeat the divisive ideology of “identity politics” by denying this reality.

What we can and must say is that the only way to end the oppression we each experience is to unite as the working class and destroy capitalism. To mobilize for communism and uproot the wage system.

To struggle, as a united working class, against all the “isms” that divide us. To identify ourselves first, and mainly, as workers. As my friend’s Israeli parents told her, fifty years ago.

—A Comrade

YOUNG INDUSTRIAL WORKERS from page 8

immigrants. South of Seattle, Aviation HS and Maritime HS are enrolling more women. The Los Angeles area has at least a half-dozen of these vocational training centers.

Many of these high schools are directly linked to industry and the DOD. Students may graduate with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certification. Large commercial airlines have hired students with FAA certificates straight from their graduation ceremonies.

The DOD steers these students into the armed

forces. After a short boot camp, they skip further training. They already learned in high school the industrial skills the armed forces need.

These vocational students and their educators are open to communism. “It’s going to be time-consuming work, but it’s where the party must organize,” G emphasized.

“*Red Flag* features articles about ICWP industrial work around the world,” G continued. “We need that information. The CIA mind tricks don’t work anymore with these new workers.”

“We need another way of existence!” exclaimed a retired Boeing worker. The reaction to the Gaza genocide shows how many among the new generation of industrial workers do not trust capitalism. To build seriously for communist revolution, we must expand the party’s industrial base and recruit more communist leaders.

The relationships we build with vocational students, their teachers, and the new generation of industrial workers are key to building that international industrial base and a mass communist party.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUNG INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AND VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: KEY TO BUILDING ICWP FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

USA, February 13— “I think you’re onto something,” concluded an activist friend of ICWP. He liked the idea of our party approaching vocational high school students with our revolutionary politics.

Friends and comrades in Washington, Oregon, and the East Coast are discussing ways to develop communist leadership among industrial workers. Boeing workers, vocational educators, anti-racist school workers, and anti-imperialist activists have all contributed to the conversation.

A vocational teacher, G, has been struggling to spread communist politics among fellow educators. Many are convinced that capitalism is headed for more exploitation, bigger wars, and fascism. The same question always arises: What can we do about it?

We can bring *Red Flag* and communist leaflets to these high schools and build long-term communist relationships with the students and educators. This generation of industrial workers will play a key role in our party’s fight to end capitalism’s horrors with communist revolution.

Industrial Workers on the March

Port workers in Oakland and Tacoma refused to handle cargo shipments to Israel. Several joined the mass pickets against the Gaza genocide. Longshore workers in Genoa, Barcelona, and Belgium staged similar rebellions.

When the auto workers’ executive board endorsed Biden in a closed meeting, rank-and-file workers protested “Genocide Joe.” Protesting union members were dragged out during Biden’s conference appearance.

Industrial workers have demonstrated more



actively against the Gaza genocide than in past resistance to US imperialism. The students now in vocational high schools can add to these numbers.

US industrial workers are younger now than a few decades ago. In 2017, the average age of Boeing workers exceeded 50 years. The largest age group (a third of the workforce) is now 20-30 years old.

More of these workers are immigrants, women, and/or people of color. The Boeing blue-collar union now needs translations into Vietnamese, Khmer (Cambodia) and Spanish in its paper and at its meetings.

These changes are taking place as US industrial power declines. Meanwhile, industrial manufacture is rapidly expanding around the

world.

As imperialist slaughter intensifies, rebellions among this industrial workforce will likely intensify. How can ICWP develop communist leadership to turn this resistance into revolution?

How Can We Unleash Industrial Workers’ Revolutionary Power?

In a new trend, school districts, the US Department of Defense (DOD), and other federal agencies are spending billions of dollars building and expanding vocational high schools.

Some have thousands of students. Many are recruited from “down-and-out” areas where decent jobs are scarce. In Camden and Patterson, New Jersey, most students are people of color or

See YOUNG INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, page 7

DEFEAT IMPERIALISM FROM PUERTO RICO TO GAZA

Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, Jan. 24— Members of Communist Workers and Students for Social Change stand in solidarity with the struggle of Palestinian workers repudiating the U.S.-Israeli genocide in Gaza. We protested in front of the Martin Lockheed facility, one of the main producers of weapons for Israel.

Many organizations, politicians and individuals have shown their repudiation of the genocide in Gaza. They have called for ceasefires, boycotts and for nations to condemn Israel. However, the massacre continues.

The capitalist “democratic” apparatuses do nothing to stop this genocide. Their main interest is to maintain the system of international exploitation, not to improve workers’ lives. Israel is a fascist state. It is the guardian of U.S. oil interests and the status quo in the Middle East. Unconditional U.S. support shows how fascism is capitalism in crisis.

Capitalism-Imperialism: The Root of the Problem

Plans to extract oil from the Gaza coast; intentions to build real estate on rubble and corpses; expansionist projects of a “Greater Israel” usurping territories from other Arab countries.

Gaza is a very familiar story for Puerto Ricans who have lived through colonization mediated by a military invasion.

The U.S. occupation opened the way for U.S. capital in Puerto Rico, similarly the Israeli invasion seeks to expand its capital and that of the U.S.-EU imperialists on the backs of an exploited and massacred working class.

Biden said that if Israel did not exist, the U.S. would have to invent one. Israel is a US

military base to control Middle East politics; to have access and control over more oil, including Syria, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Iraq. It also gives it direct access and control of markets and trade routes through the Suez Canal, the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. The US uses this to counter the China-Russia-Iran influence in this region.

In addition, Israel trains death squads and drug traffickers destined for Latin America. It also trains many of the police who terrorize the U.S. working class. Likewise, Puerto Rico has served as a military base for the U.S., as well as an industrial producer of military uniforms and weapons such as Lockheed Martin.

Who will stop this genocide if not the working class?

As communists we raise the red flag of the international working class in demonstrating against the State of Israel because it is the working class, not only in Palestine, but also in the Congo, Niger, Sudan, Haiti, Argentina, Somalia, Puerto Rico and the whole world, who suffer the consequences of decaying capitalism. It is we, the working class, their wage slaves, who are kept with miserable wages to fuel these genocides, manufacturing their armaments, uniforms, and fighting their wars.

The world capitalist/imperialist system is in



Zionism is Fascism!
The Solution is Communism!

crisis and decay, divided by economic blocs (China-Russia-Iran versus US-EU). As the conflict between class interests becomes more acute, they impose fascism seeking to save their genocidal system by dividing the working class. We cannot fall into the trap of allowing ourselves to be divided on the basis of nationalist, religious or regional fundamentalism.

We have to see this from an internationalist and class perspective. We are at a historic juncture where workers realize the injustices in their living conditions and the power they have when they stop production. It is useless to demand a ceasefire from a fascist nation.

To eradicate fascism we must fight its capitalist roots. We have the capacity to create a new system free of exploitation and this is achieved by building a communist society.