

# RED FLAG



## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



### WORKING WOMEN LEADERS: KEY TO THE COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

International Working Women's Day.

Since 1917, 8 March has been a day of working women's struggles to overthrow capitalism, to abolish wage slavery and the domestic slavery of women.

On 18 March we celebrate the birth of the Paris Commune of 1871, the first time workers took power and used it to organize and run society in their own interest. Working women were key in every aspect of the Commune, from its beginning to its final battle.

This inspires us to fight for a communist world where all work is shared by all, regardless of gender.

Demonstrations worldwide show the strength and leadership of working women. The ICWP fights for the unity of all genders in the struggle against capitalism.

Only with communism will we finally end sexism, racism, xenophobia, and homophobia.



### Capitalism's Contradictions Attack Workers from Gaza to Bengaluru

#### **"PROFOUND OPPORTUNITY TO OVERTHROW WAGE SLAVERY" WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION**

BENGALURU (India), February 25— "Every time I produce more shirts, I see fewer workers," Anoli told our ICWP meeting. "The owner aims to increase production by 20%. How is it possible to increase production with fewer workers? We must put in more hours and work with the newer computerized system that forces us to complete our tasks at breathless speed."

Anoli reads *Red Flag* and distributes it to her co-workers and neighbours. They are furious that it's so hard to keep up with the cost of living. Many want a solution to this grinding poverty. Reading *Red Flag*, they see that workers everywhere face similar conditions.

"This is how capitalism constantly attacks workers," Mani responded quickly. She joined ICWP two years ago. "We produce more and work hard, but our wages go down. Capitalists compete against other capitalists for more production at cheaper prices. In this cut-throat competition, the owners use extreme sexism, sexual abuse, and violence so we don't complain, so we accept lower wages and long hours at the production line.

"The capitalist owners also replace workers with efficient tools," Mani continued. "In my unit, an automatic cutting machine creates six hundred ready-to-stitch shirts every 10 minutes. This used to be a manual process done by a fabric designer, a cutter, and a separator. Now the computer does everything with every design and every thickness of fabric.

"We do the most demanding, tedious work and don't even get time for bathroom breaks. So many young girls have kidney infections, as they work long hours without a break and their fingers are too numb to lift a cup of water. They become an extension of the machine.

"But we see a profound opportunity to overthrow this system of wage slavery if we understand the contradiction," Mani concluded.

"Capitalist owners' greed for profit undermines the capitalist system itself," comrade Malika explained. "It creates an army of unemployed people. It replaces workers with machines. But only workers produce

wealth for capitalists. So fewer workers mean that profits decline. This is an objective truth.

The capitalists try to overcome this contradiction by buying out their competition. In Bengaluru, only sixteen garment factories produce 80% of production. Just five years ago, there were over five hundred. These giant factories compete with those in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, El Salvador, Vietnam, East Europe, and China."

#### **Garment Workers Ask: How Is Our Struggle Related to the Struggle in Gaza?**

Some friends came to this collective meeting for the first time. They talk about the raging genocidal war on Gaza at work. They are extremely disturbed by reports of atrocities. They asked how we can help the comrades in Gaza and how our struggle relates to theirs.

Bengaluru is home to millions of garment and other industrial workers. It's also home to a few multi-billionaires who profit from the IT industry. One, Murthy, owns the company Infosys, which has a strategic alliance with the Israeli war machine. He said, "Young Indians should work at least 70 hours a week if the country wants to compete with emerging economies." His daughter is married to the British Prime Minister.

Another multibillionaire, Adani, owns Haifa port in Israel. His companies produce drones, munitions, and, in collaboration with the largest Israeli defence company Elbit, advanced avionics.

#### **The Capitalists' Contradictions Drive Them to Intensify Fascism.**

"We begin to see the connection between fascists Modi and Netanyahu," said Fatima, attending for the first time. "In Bengaluru, the fascist, sexist ruling party BJP is murderous. They threaten garment workers and especially a non-profit that works mostly with pregnant workers.

"The workers in Gaza and Bengaluru have more in common," the worker concluded. "The letter from Gaza is very powerful when it ends by saying communism is the future."

Sathya said, "Mass unemployment forces workers to look for jobs in very dangerous areas around the world. Last month, many

See INDIA: PROFOUND OPPORTUNITY, page 2

## SEE INSIDE

**IMMIGRANTS  
AND NON-  
IMMIGRANTS:  
UNITE TO  
DESTROY  
CAPITALISM,  
PAGE 2**

**COMMUNIST  
REVOLUTION,  
NOT  
ELECTIONS!  
PAGE 3**

**INDUSTRIAL  
WORKERS AND  
SOLDIERS: KEY  
REVOLUTIONARY  
FORCE,  
PAGES 4, 6, 7**

**GAZA:  
COMMUNISM  
WILL DEFEAT  
FASCIST  
IMPERIALISM,  
PAGES 3, 5,  
7, 8**



**Workers of the World, Immigrants and non-Immigrants:****DESTROY CAPITALISM-IMPERIALISM  
WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION**

LOS ANGELES (USA), March 5— “I am a newly-arrived immigrant to the United States. In Colombia I was in the army. Here, I had the opportunity to meet a comrade who had the patience to talk to me about communist ideas and practice. I am now a member of ICWP. I have Colombian and Venezuelan friends here and in Colombia with whom I am sharing the ideas and *Red Flag*.” This comrade’s experience shows how we can build a mass international party and mobilize the masses for communism.

**Imperialists Everywhere Need Immigrants**

William Frey of the influential Brookings Institution reported in December that as the Anglo population ages, the US needs all these young people from Latin America, Asia and elsewhere to strengthen its workforce.

The capitalists-imperialists are taking advantage of climate change, political and economic instability, war: that is, all the aspects of the world capitalist crisis that have in-

creased human migration to unprecedented levels.

As of December 2023, the United States had 9 million job openings, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Immigrants will fill these positions as a super-exploited workforce.

The capitalists-imperialists need this “labor force” for all their industries, especially their war-production industries. Machine operators, assembly line workers, and technicians are essential.

The US capitalists-imperialists must now plan a war against China as well as Russia. This requires large quantities of ammunition since the wars in Ukraine and Gaza have depleted US stockpiles. Now the US military is planning to increase artillery shell production, from 15,000/month to 100,000/month by next year.

Rebuilding weapons stockpiles requires a workforce that the US does not now have. “Stockpiling weapons is impossible given the shortage of skilled American labor.

Defense contractors have struggled to recruit workers for years in an industry that often requires vocational training or two-year degrees from their employees.” (Foreign Affairs)

Globally, the need for immigrant workers and soldiers for the capitalists-imperialists is growing by the day. In Europe, millions of immigrants from Asia and Africa fill the factories, and in many cases the imperialist armies. Israel is heavily dependent on migrant workers; the foreign-born account for 26% of the population.

According to RPP Newsroom, Russia’s army is recruiting Indian citizens for the war in Ukraine. Recruits become farmers, food company workers, or the unemployed. The article describes how a shopkeeper from Hyderabad had no news of his 30-something younger brother. Then the brother called from the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don, near the Ukrainian border, to say he had been brought to the front line.

“He left so he could give his fam-

ily a better life and now we don’t even know if he’s alive,” the shopkeeper said.

**Immigrants in the Struggle for a Communist World Without Borders**

Many immigrant workers (our working-class siblings) bring with them a spirit of revolution and an experience of struggle against exploitation. Immigrants have historically played an important role in the radical fight to end capitalist exploitation and building communism.

The comrade quoted at the beginning of this article shows the way forward. Comrades in South Africa have recruited immigrant workers from Mozambique and Zimbabwe to the ICWP in the struggle to mobilize the masses for communism. These comrades are reaching out to their countries of origin to recruit others.

Thousands of migrants from India are now crossing the US-Mexico border. Many of them tempered in the fight against racism and fascism. This is an opportunity to get to know them and create bonds with the comrades who organize there.

Immigrants and non-immigrants, we all form the international working class. Whether we are in the factories, in their agricultural fields, in schools, hospitals, or in their armies. United, we will end racist capitalism and imperialism! We are the creators of a new communist world, free of exploitation, borders, money, and wars.

To make this a reality, we need to form collectives of the International Communist Workers’ Party all over the world and mobilize the masses for communist revolution.



Paris, France, January 2024 “No one is illegal”

**INDIA: PROFOUND OPPORTUNITY from page 1**

unemployed workers were lining up to work in Israel because north India has millions of unemployed. They take very dangerous routes to find jobs in the Middle East. Now they are going to El Salvador and Ecuador, hoping for jobs in the US.”

“This meeting gives me enormous strength,” Anoli concluded. “It encourages me to build our Party, our ICWP. I came feeling a little bit depressed by so many terrible things happening around us and in the world. But meetings like this are very powerful because we

have to eliminate this wage system.

“We need the masses with us. Only we can do it. They will put all kinds of obstacles to prevent us from organizing for communism. But those obstacles will create conditions for the masses to understand that only communism is the future,” she ended, to great applause.

**OOPS!**

The caption on the Chennai May Day picture in the last print edition should have identified it as “May Day 2023” rather than the “first” May Day.



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## Elections only change our executioners

### MAQUILA WORKERS FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD

SAN SALVADOR, March 1— “I had to quit my job in the factory to look for one where I could improve my wages,” said a worker organized in the International Communist Workers’ Party. “What I was earning was no longer enough for household expenses, even though now it means being away from home for days at a time and not seeing my family.”

“It bothers me to hear comrades in the factory saying that they are happy with the election results in El Salvador. As if this will help us workers with our difficult life under this bosses’ system!” said a worker leader of ICWP.

“We workers organized in the Party,” he continued, “must fight every day to win a world where the conditions of exploitation that we live, which are produced only to generate profits for the bosses, are changed into communism, the system of the working class. In communism, what we produce will be

to help our lives. We will distribute to each according to their need and we will work according to our commitment and ability.”

The government in El Salvador carries out electoral struggles all the time. The election for President and deputies recently passed. Now we are approaching the elections for mayors and deputies to the Central American Parliament. Only 52% of potential voters participated in the presidential elections, where the highest number usually votes.

Does it change anything for the working class when you vote for a candidate? No. The workers’ lives continue to be submerged in exploitation. Voting only changes the executioners who will dedicate themselves to repressing the working class.

A friend of the Party who helps us with *Red Flag* said, “In five years, out of one hundred promises, the government has only fulfilled one. I don’t want to know anything

about electoral politicians.” The government has militarized the streets and imposed the regime of exception to repress any attempt to denounce this situation. Government propaganda makes many believe that this country is living in the “first world.”

Fascism is increasing with the measures of these capitalist governments. Laws are presented to “stop delinquency” and “generate security.” In reality, they have the final objective of, at a given moment, repressing the communist ideas that proclaim that the whole working class must have a world with adequate food, housing, and education.

In a meeting with some young ICWP leaders in the maquilas (sweatshops), the comrades discussed the reality that the costs of all eleven products in the “basic food basket” have increased by over 27%. The minimum wage of a worker is \$10 a day, and they have to spend it daily on food.

The legislative assembly approved \$130 million for the 2024 elections. That money could have been used to supply medicine to hospitals that greatly need it, or to rebuild many schools that are in poor condition.

However, those who seek the votes that will allow them to continue living at the expense of the masses make promises, if they even make them, that they will never keep.

Elections don’t resolve anything. The working class must organize in the International Communist Workers’ Party and fight for the communist system.

Only Communism will resolve this precarious situation that workers face. In the face of growing fascism, the workers organized in ICWP, women and men, are fighting to win a new world that will meet the needs of all the masses.

### MOBILIZING FOR A COMMUNIST MAY DAY IN SOUTH AFRICA

GQEBERHA (South Africa), March 4— Comrades here are glued to the news coming from Gaza. Some of us lived in the apartheid state of South Africa. What we learned from that experience is extremely valuable to build our party in the fight for the communist revolution.

“When I was a young fighter in Cape Town, I was recruited by South African Communist Party (SACP),” comrade Bumza told a group of young ICWP members. “Masses were gathering in the street in the 1960s. After work and on the weekends, massive numbers of industrial workers used to protest. Women helped organize these rebellions by encouraging young boys to fight the apartheid regime.

“We were very militant, brave, and fearless,” the comrade continued. “But after the African National Congress (ANC) came to power and Mandela was president, everything changed suddenly. Masses re-

alized that apartheid was gone but racism was more vicious, and the oppressors were ANC.

: So, when I met ICWP for the first time, I got a copy of *Red Flag*. And then the comrade who was distributing it asked me to join and invited me to study dialectics. I spent twenty years in SACP but never knew what dialectics was. We were told that it was for more advanced workers.”

Our collective is learning that the study of dialectical materialism is not difficult, but the masses can advance our understanding. Hamza’s letter made it very real. How the comrades in Gaza are learning to harvest water and install solar panels teaches us how quantity turns into quality. It starts with a few comrades teaching each other. They teach more, and the masses learn a new way of doing things.

There are many such examples of dialectics in comrade Hamza’s letters. Our collective found it very useful to look at the recent history



Johannesburg, South Africa, March 2022

of the working class in the Middle East. A young street vendor in Tunisia killed himself, fed up with high unemployment and his inability to earn a living for his family. This triggered an uprising and armed struggle in the 2010s that involved millions of industrial workers in the Middle East.

In Egypt, the corrupt government ended the regime of Hosni Mubarak when textile workers went on a violent strike in the Suez Canal area. This struggle directly affected the working class in Israel, when 10% of the population was actively par-

ticipating in the fight to unite Palestinian and Israeli workers.

This shows the enormous potential of the industrial working class, armed with dialectics, to end the system of wage slavery. We are concentrating on these most oppressed workers in our townships by introducing *Red Flag* regularly. Our third toyi toyi protest is planned in two weeks. We will unite industrial workers, soldiers, students, and migrant workers from different areas of Africa. This march will culminate into a bigger May Day of 2024.

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#### Stop the Genocide in Gaza! Let’s Fight for a Communist World!

“*Red Flag* is my source of information, since I share the same communist ideology,” R commented. “Most importantly it tells the truth about the genocidal atrocities being carried out by the imperialist powers. And the struggle of the working class to survive in an oppressive capitalist system.”

“I appreciate the commitment of *Red Flag*, and the constant struggle to keep us informed,” added J.

“I got the new pamphlet about Palestine. I feel that it must transcend borders and reach everyone so that they wake up and open their eyes to reality. For how long will the imperialist powers continue to be complicit in the genocide of Palestine?”

The complicity of the imperialist powers with the genocide in Gaza is rooted in their own interests. There is no reason for this systematic and cowardly slaughter. None of the imperialists is less evil or a friend to the working masses. All are fighting to become the most

powerful and exploitative imperialist powers. Their goal is to control and to enrich themselves without caring how much blood they spill.

We will only be free when the working class overthrows capitalism, which profits from our labor. That’s why it is urgent to build and become a mass party.

To create ICWP collectives in all parts of the world, especially among workers, soldiers and youth. To destroy our class enemy, the capitalist class. To organize the communist revolution and prevent this bloodbath. Ending this geno-

side by means of a revolutionary war for communism by forming a Red Army.

We must be unequivocal and put an end to nationalism, fascism, xenophobia, sexism, and racism by building a mass international party that is capable of making a communist revolution.

Join the International Communist Workers’ Party! We cannot and should not continue to live this way.

Let’s Fight for a Communist Revolution!

Comrade Readers in El Salvador



## EDUCATORS, YOUTH, INDUSTRIAL WORKERS RETHINK THE PATH TO REVOLUTION

SEATTLE and PORTLAND (USA), March 3— Friends and comrades have responded well to the ICWP call to rejuvenate communist political struggle among industrial workers. The more we talked about communist revolution, the more our friends became interested in helping to expand industrial collectives.

Boeing workers and young activists are helping to update a pamphlet about a massive rebellion of Boeing workers in 1995. In what came to be known as Rolling Thunder, ICWP comrades organized unprecedented marches through the plants chanting “Shrontz (CEO) got the gold, and we got the shaft!” Black women led these marches and then joined communist collectives.

Industrial workers and soldiers have revolted often. They played key roles in the Russian Revolution, using the weapons they built to advance the revolution. ICWP comrades have organized several labor insurgencies. Writing about the strengths and weaknesses of these rebellions will help convince new comrades to join the struggle in the factories.

### Building Communist Relationships With Workers

At a Portland (Oregon) collective

meeting, Peter, an anti-racist educator, described a professor he’s known for many years. This professor is disconnected from the working class, so his ideas come solely from what he reads. He hopes for a revolution. Yet he’s told Peter that industrial workers cannot be a leading force for revolution.

Peter sent him a recent *Red Flag* article about how crucial communist relationships with young industrial workers are to building for revolution. The professor loved the article.

Students and educators can learn from gatherings, forums, and picket lines organized by industrial workers. Relationships can develop and class consciousness will grow.

Only revolutionary communism will end the racism against, and exploitation of, students and workers. In communism, the wall between academic learning and vocational training will crumble. Whenever possible, educators should start to demolish this obstacle to class consciousness.

### Teachers, Students Consider Communist Organizing

Comrade Jane reported on conversations with three people who are seriously considering joining ICWP. Two are teachers.

These teachers are used to steer-

ing their working-class students away from industry and the military. After discussing the revolutionary role of industrial workers, they saw the need to re-think their position. There can be no revolution without expanding communist collectives in the factories and among soldiers.

Another new friend, Olivia, a student activist, also said that this approach was new to her.

The discussion led her to ask questions about how communism will function, and how revolution would happen. She asked how Party members answer when people say, “Communism didn’t work.” They discussed how it was socialism that failed, not communism. Our party has confidence that workers are smart and can adopt communist ideas and run with them once they understand them.

Olivia liked it when Jane asked her to question everything, including the comrade. She asked, “What do you say when people say communism was invented by white people?”

Jane talked about communist leaders and thinkers who were not white. She plans to talk more about the masses in Africa, Latin America, and Asia who have fought for what they hoped was going to be

communism. About the party’s growth today worldwide.

These discussions help our friends think about how they can help mobilize young people to play key roles in communist revolution. After these discussions, Olivia distributed ICWP literature to her friends.

### Beware Of Enemies Bearing Gifts

A retired boilermaker now helps design training programs for vocational high schools. He warned us that the ruling class is not spending billion\$ on industrial training out of the goodness of their heart.

The US military has fallen behind their imperialist competitors, especially China. A draft of the new National Defense Industrial Strategy says, “The problem stems from insufficient production and insufficient supply chains.”

*Foreign Affairs* clarifies: “Stockpiling weapons is impossible given the dearth of skilled American labor.”

As proxy wars and the threat of world war expand, building communist collectives in industrial settings takes on a new urgency. Building these industrial collectives and relationships is key to revolutionary work.

## INDUSTRIAL WORKERS’ KEY ROLE IN THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION AND CIVIL WAR

The Putilov Works was the biggest industrial factory in Petrograd (now St. Petersburg) at the time of the 1917 Russian socialist revolution. Workers from this plant had helped start the revolution of 1905 and February 1917. That revolution overthrew the Tsarist regime and began the buildup to the Russian Revolution in October 1917.

The Putilov plant had manufactured most of the tsarist regime’s weapons. When the revolution started, the workers took the weapons they made to the front lines. They taught Red soldiers how to use them. They fought side by side with them on the front line.

The core of the Bolshevik Red Army came from these factories. The outlook and commitment of the Putilov workers spread to other industrial workers.

Their support buoyed the Bolshevik Party. By late October 1917, the Bolsheviks successfully led the revolution to overthrow capitalism.

Putilov workers proved their revolutionary loyalty by joining the workers’ militia, the Red Guard. This was organized and led by the Bolshevik-led Military Revolutionary Committee.

An observer told of meeting militia soldiers who identified themselves as being “from the Putilov

works.” He described the dedication and power of these factory workers turned militia. “The streets were full of armed detachments of Red Guards from the factories, marching in the direction of the new front” to counter the forces of the revisionist Kerensky.

The workers at the Putilov Works published a resolution signaling their support for the Military Revolutionary Committee. The establishment of this military committee essentially handed military control of Petrograd to the Bolsheviks. It can be seen as the first step of the Bolsheviks’ seizure of power.

This is an example of how industrial workers, especially those in arms factories before and during a world war, were a key force for revolution. Along with soldiers and sailors, they will be a key force today.



New elections to the Petrograd soviet at the Putilov factory, 1917. The left banner reads: "Long live the Party of the universal Army of Labor." The right banner reads: "To create a locomotive means to bring close to the end hunger and misery, as well as to give a final blow to capitalism."

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## ZIONISM: FASCIST, IMPERIALIST CREATION, PART III

In 1906, Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, urged workers in Jaffa to oppose those who wanted to organize, instead of excluding, Arab workers. He emphasized the "evil of mixed labor." In 1930, one of his followers bragged about "attacking Jewish housewives in the markets and smashing the Arab eggs they bought."

### Zionism and the Nazi Holocaust

Ben Gurion welcomed Hitler's rise in Germany. He saw it as an opportunity to build a Jewish state in Palestine. In 1933, Zionists wrote to Hitler, "We too are against mixed marriages and for maintaining the purity of the Jews." Nazi and Zionist ideology are both fascist.

The Nazis, in turn, allowed Zionist organizations to function while banning all other gatherings of Jews.

Most German Jews rejected Zionism but didn't see its full danger. Without the complicity of the Judenräte (Jewish Councils, mostly Zionists), the Nazis couldn't have massacred six million Jews.

These Nazi collaborators convinced masses of Jews to passively board the trains, lying that they would go to "work camps" instead of death camps. Some of these traitors then got passage to Palestine.

In 1943, the Jews remaining in the Warsaw ghetto organized an uprising. Led by communists and anti-

fascists, their resistance became massive when they began executing the Judenräte. They were poorly armed, receiving only a few weapons from the Polish underground. Yet they held down a whole Nazi division for weeks, inspiring other ghetto rebellions.

Nazis bribed "trustworthy" Zionists like Rudolf Kasztner. He made a deal with Nazi Eichmann. For telling Hungarian Jews to go quietly to the "work camps" (gas chambers), he got safe passage to Palestine for himself, his family, and six hundred "prominent" Jews whom he chose. He is responsible for the deaths of many thousands whose surviving relatives say would have escaped if they had known they faced certain death!

Tens of thousands of Jewish resistance fighters did escape to the forests to join communist-led partisans. Stalin's Partisan Order in 1942 declared a "peoples' war." It reversed the Soviets' previous reluctance to accept civilians, minorities, including Jews, and women as fighters. Up to two million others escaped to eastern Russia.

### Israel: Founded by Attacking Palestinian and Jewish Masses

In 1948, the UK imperialists backed the founding of Israel. From 1947 to 1949, the Israeli government violently evicted 750,000 Palestinians from their homes. It was the racist Nakba (Arabic for

"catastrophe"). In southern Israel, Palestinian refugees were forced into the Gaza Strip. After 2006, it became the world's largest open-air prison.

That ethnic cleansing continues today! Since Oct 7, the US-backed Zionist government's massacre has left 100,000 people in Gaza "either dead, injured, or missing and presumed dead" from bombing raids, fighting on the ground. (World Health Organization, February 5, 2024)

Zionism is against the interests of Palestinian, Jewish, and all workers. But many Israeli Jews support Zionism: the fascist settlers who murder and displace Palestinians in the West Bank, and those soldiers who have swallowed Zionism's poisonous racism.

Destroying Gaza will also allow Israeli rulers to control the enormous oil and gas fields off its coast.

### Communism Will Abolish Racism, the Mortal Enemy of All Workers

The only answer to the racist genocide in Gaza today is communist revolution to wipe out *all* capitalists and imperialists, including from China. All are complicit in this disaster. No "peace" or "resist" movement can end genocide, imperialism, or fascism. But revolution to end capitalism will.

**From its very start, Zionism has been a fascist ideology.** It is

anti-worker, racist, nationalist, and anti-communist. It has always been pro-imperialist and capitalist. It is anti-Muslim and antisemitic. Zionist leaders were responsible for the deaths of thousands of Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe and tens of thousands of Palestinians today!

The masses, armed with communist ideology and weapons, will defeat Zionism and all fascism.

**It has always been possible for Jews to join in solidarity with their Palestinian brothers and sisters.** More are today. This must and will be the future! Palestinians and Jews, and all workers, need to build communist relations of friendship and solidarity in our struggle for communism.

Our victory depends on the ideology of the mighty working class, especially industrial workers, soldiers, and the youth.

Let's spread *Red Flag* and build communist collectives to unite Palestinian, Jewish, and all workers, soldiers and youth for a communist revolution.

These will lay the basis for a Party of millions of workers, soldiers, and youth leaders. They will abolish racism and nationalism—mortal enemies of all workers. We will end all capitalism's horrors and build the communist world that we deserve. A world of cooperation and sharing, without imperialism, money, profits, borders, or nations.

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO  
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### Palestine/Israel: Building Working Class Unity Under Fascist Conditions

It's been seventy-five years since the ethnic cleansing of Palestine and the establishment of the Zionist state of Israel. Unsurprisingly, the movement against the genocide in Gaza and the violent occupation of the West Bank often takes the form of Palestinian nationalism.

We've learned bitter lessons from too many national liberation struggles worldwide. One example: Cyril Ramaphosa led a miners' union in apartheid South Africa. He now heads the government that sent the military to murder striking miners in Marikana in 2012.

The South African government has made itself look good on the world stage by bringing charges of genocide against the Israeli government. But capitalism lives on in South Africa with its racism, poverty, and exploitation. In South Africa and in Palestine/Israel, ending racism and exploitation will take a united working class led by a revolutionary communist party.

Today we see the seeds of working-class unity in Palestine/Israel: in the mass organizations and

social interactions that bring Jews and Palestinians together, especially the organizations of former soldiers breaking the silence. That's why *Red Flag* emphasized the history of working-class unity under the British Mandate (1922-19487) in an article in Volume 14 Number 16.

As the lead author of that article, it now seems to me that we made it look easy. And that's a distortion. While Arab and Jewish workers marched together in the streets of Tel Aviv, Zionist terrorist militias, organized under the Mandate, were attacking Palestinian villages and Jews they accused of being "too friendly" with Palestinians. These terrorist militias became the backbone of the Israeli "Defense" Force

Similar fascist attacks take place today. Settlers violently displace Palestinian families from their homes on the West Bank. Mobs block trucks from delivering life-saving aid to starving children in Gaza. Israeli student mobs attack Israeli educators for pro-Palestinian posts on social media.

The historical struggle of the in-



Abou Ghosh, Palestine, 1937—Workers vote for a general strike against British rule. This strike developed into the Arab Revolt which shut down the entire country. It was brutally crushed by the British Army, aided by the Haganah and the Irgun, Zionist paramilitaries which later became the basis of the Israeli "Defense" Force..

ternational working class has been the fight for working-class unity for a world without capitalist exploitation, national borders, and imperialist war. This movement has grown despite, and in opposition to, fascist gangs who threaten our class. We have suffered casualties. We continue the fight in memory of our fallen comrades.

We salute the comrades in Palestine/Israel and elsewhere who are planting the seeds of the revolutionary class struggle. United, we will defeat fascist capitalism and build the communist world that we need.

—Internationalist comrade in the US



## Nuclear World War III – Or Communist Revolution

### WORKERS AND SOLDIERS MUST DECIDE!

LOS ANGELES (USA), March 4— “Can I have a paper?” asked an MTA bus operator at Division 15.

“Sure. There’s a leaflet about your last contract. It shows the futility of fighting for reforms and the need for a communist revolution,” said a comrade.

“I agree. We need a revolution. All it will take is 3.5 percent of us to do it,” said the worker.

“Why don’t you join us?”

“I’m in a hurry. Next time I’ll give you my info.”

The leaflet explained that their salary’s purchasing power at the contract’s end date— despite MTA’s “wage increase” over five years — will be less than their starting salary in 2022.

It explained that the main reason is the dollar’s devaluation. This is due to the drastic reduction of the value produced by US workers, as most manufacturing jobs were exported.

#### What Made the US Imperialists and Their Dollar Strong?

The petrodollar. In 1973, US imperialists got OPEC to sell its oil

only in dollars. All other oil-producing countries followed suit.

Countries needing to purchase oil had to buy dollars and keep them in reserve, making the US dollar the world’s reserve currency and enabling the US to rule the world.

#### Petrodollar in the US Rivals’ Crosshairs

The BRICS +5 trade group, headed by Chinese and Russian imperialists, is campaigning to de-dollarize the world. They trade in local currencies, plan to create a BRICS currency, and are developing an international payment system to avoid the US-dominated one.

Thus a fifth of the oil traded in 2023 was sold in currencies other than the US dollar. The biggest threats: the United Arab Emirates are selling oil in Chinese yuan, and the Saudi government may soon sell oil in other currencies. This spells the beginning of the petrodollar’s end. The US imperial crown is passing to the Chinese imperialists.

This won’t be a peaceful ceremony. It means World War III. Some say its opening shots are the

US-NATO proxy war against Russia in Ukraine, and China-Russia-Iran proxy war against US-Israel in Gaza.

Both conflicts are heading into a full-blown confrontation involving all imperialists. When it will happen is unpredictable, inevitable, and likely soon.

#### Axis of Resistance Fights US-Israel

The Axis of Resistance - funded, trained, and armed by Iran — consists of some 40 militia groups. They include Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and Shia militias operating in Iraq and Syria.

The China-Russia-Iran imperialist bloc set up the Israel-Hamas war to bog down the US in the Middle East and to eventually drive US forces out of the region. The first diverts the US’s attention and resources away from Ukraine and the South China Sea. The second will allow these US rivals to control the region.

US-Israel seems to have no alternative but to fight the Axis to the last Gazan. As this war grows, so does the danger of a direct clash with Iran.

#### US-NATO-Russia War Escalates: World War Drums Beat Louder

First, attacking Russian pre-war territory was a “red line.” Then the Crimean bridge was bombed. Now Ukraine claims it damaged or destroyed one third of Russia’s Black Sea Fleet and is striking energy facilities deep inside Russia. All this with NATO personnel participating and with US intelligence support. Still, Russia is winning.

Now French President Macron calls for sending NATO troops to

Ukraine to defeat Russia.

NATO “rejected” this plan, but their actions tell a different story. Canada, Italy, UK, Germany, France, and Denmark signed 10-year security agreements with Ukraine. They pledged to safeguard its sovereignty and its intention to join NATO.

“Quite frankly,” said the US Secretary of Defense, “if Ukraine falls, I really believe that NATO will be in a fight with Russia.”

Putin warned cynically and cold-bloodedly that “all this truly threatens a conflict with the use of nuclear weapons, and therefore the destruction of civilization.”

Russian and Chinese imperialists, like US and all imperialists, will kill us by the hundreds of millions fighting for their profits and empires.

#### Humanity at a Crossroads: Nuclear War or Communist Revolution

The international working class will be the grave digger of capitalism. Let’s organize a massive ICWP internationally to bury capitalism forever with communist revolution.

We produce all social value. We run all industries and everything that brings the world alive. Urban transit workers are crucial to take workers to work. They can paralyze cities from Los Angeles to Sao Paulo, to Tokyo, Chennai, and Beijing. Our class siblings make up the world’s mighty armies.

Workers, soldiers, sailors, and youth everywhere have no interest in supporting any imperialist ventures. They are all our enemies. Our interest and our future lie in fighting for communism. .



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

#### Aaron Bushnell and the Revolutionary Potential of Soldiers Today

I have been participating with a group that gives out food to unhoused people. After we set up and serve the food, I offer the volunteers *Red Flag*. Some want to talk about it. The last few Saturdays, I had a struggle with one young woman who likes the paper but has many questions.

We had a sharp discussion about whether US soldiers and sailors could be won to the side of anti-imperialism and revolution. I told her about the rebellions in the US military during the war in Vietnam. She said, “That was then. This is now. There are a lot of racist Trump supporters in the military.”

I said there are a lot of Black and latinx and white youth who join the military to get money for col-

lege or because they don’t have jobs and need skills. They have sharp contradictions with the racists. They have no loyalty to US imperialism. She said, “The marines are all white supremacists.”

I told her about the 14 Black marines who beat up the KKK at Camp Pendleton Marine Base in 1976 and that we defended them. She thought all that was in the past.

After Saturday’s demonstration, I stopped by to distribute our new pamphlet to the volunteers. She gladly took the pamphlet and said she would read it. Then she told me, “I thought a lot about what we talked about last week, after I saw what Aaron Bushnell did and how others in the Air Force burned their uniforms in protest of the genocide in Gaza. I think you’re right. I would like more information about the history of soldiers rebelling .



We need to work with these soldiers and vets. I see that they are angry about this genocide.”

I said that we have to show them another way: that it’s not their fault, it’s the capitalists’ fault. That they can unite with the working-class to organize a revolution to get rid of capitalism and imperial-

Read our pamphlet:

#### Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Crucial for a Communist Workers’ Revolution

Available at:  
[icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf)

ism. I promised to bring her more information about mobilizing soldiers for revolution. Next time, we will talk about how she can help do that. Not just “resist” the war, but become an organizer for communist revolution.

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)



## Turn Grief Over Gaza Deaths into Anger and Action

### ORGANIZE SOLDIERS TO FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

March 4— Veterans in Portland, Oregon (USA) burned their uniforms last week in honor of Aaron Bushnell, and in protest of the US-sponsored Israeli genocide in Gaza. Bushnell, an active-duty airman, burned himself to death on February 25 in front of the Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC. His statement that he refused to be complicit in this genocide has struck a chord.

Aaron's photograph and last words "Free Palestine!" are now on signs, banners and buildings around the world. He joins the ranks of Buddhist monks in Vietnam and Norman Morrison, a US Quaker, who burned themselves to death to protest the US genocide in southeast Asia.

With the deepest respect, we need to say that this is not the answer. Aaron's death is a tragedy. And while we share the grief and anger of the veterans who burned their uniforms, we want to say that they have profoundly misunderstood their historic role and their greatest strength.

**Soldiers have weapons. They can use those weapons to change the world.**

One example. In the My Lai Massacre of 1968, a company of US soldiers, won to the racist policies of the US ruling class, raped, mutilated, and murdered at least 500 civilians including hundreds of children. Hugh Thompson, Jr. was

a helicopter pilot assigned to do air support for the operation. When he realized what was happening, he landed his helicopter. He and his crew aimed their guns at the murderous US soldiers and stopped the massacre.

Hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed by the US military in Vietnam. Although the bosses claimed that My Lai was unique, that was a lie. It was standard procedure. My Lai was not alone.

Neither was Thompson alone. By 1971, masses of US soldiers were deserting. Rebellions shook stockades in Vietnam, and ships and military bases around the world. Soldiers were killing their own officers. It was impossible for the US to field a reliable army, while the Vietnamese fought on. The US was forced to withdraw from Vietnam in 1973.

Soldiers with guns in their hands can end genocidal wars by joining with revolutionary workers to put an end to capitalism and imperialism. Capitalism cannot be reformed. It must be overthrown. This requires armed revolution. We must guarantee that soldiers join with their working-class siblings to overthrow this system, rather than defending it.

Communists know this. In Russia, soldiers joined with workers to overthrow the Czar in 1917 and fight for Soviet power. This taught communists around the world that



Portland, Oregon (USA) February 28, 2024

organizing in the bosses' military was absolutely necessary. Every 20th-century communist party assigned comrades to this work. Then and now, soldiers are crucial to victory.

In every country, young workers and farmers, often from the most oppressed sectors, are recruited to defend the system of capitalist exploitation by killing their working-class siblings. This is a dangerous situation for the rulers. The US bosses in particular worry about the revolutionary potential of soldiers. Today an anonymous statement from members of all branches of the US armed forces—most certainly officers—circulated on social media. It said that "the wanton misconduct of the IDF [Israeli "Defense" Force] makes it difficult to

uphold good order and discipline within our own ranks."

We call on soldiers, sailors and marines in every military force to organize against the military "order and discipline" and build a base for communist revolution within the military. We call on Party members and *Red Flag* readers to contribute to this crucial work. Young comrades should seize the opportunity to join the military to organize to fight for communism.

Faced with a devastating genocide, if we think we are alone, we will despair. When we understand that we are part of an international working class with the power to overthrow this system, we will have the courage and the hope to fight for a better world.

## Report for ICWP International Meeting, March 2024

### GAZA GENOCIDE AND EXPANDING WARS CALL US TO MAKE RED FLAG A BETTER COLLECTIVE ORGANIZER

LOS ANGELES, March 2— We ask today, "Where were the 'good Germans' when the Nazis launched their genocide and World War II?" Future generations will ask us, "What were you doing when Israel and US imperialism carried out genocide in Gaza and started World War III? When fascism spread in India, El Salvador, Argentina, and worldwide?"

We'll answer: We were using *Red Flag* to mobilize masses for communism. We were reading it with co-workers and organizing them into party cells. Distributing it among angry youth protesting the Gaza genocide and recruiting them to party collectives. Passing it outside factories and military bases, knowing that industrial workers and soldiers are key to communist revolution.

We'll answer: We were building an international communist party through the pages of *Red Flag*. *Red Flag* enabled garment worker comrades in India and El Salvador to forge a relationship. Letters from Gaza made communist internation-

alism real for people from the US to South Africa. We were learning how to consult across the bosses' borders to produce articles that would be useful internationally.

We were producing *Red Flag* to make all this possible.

Back in 2024, we'll say, we were too few to meet the urgency of the moment. But we were struggling collectively to recruit the numbers needed to build ICWP/PCOI into an effective force for communist revolution globally. To broaden participation in the work of producing *Red Flag*, to organize that work more collectively, in line with our communist principles.

How to do that will be an important discussion at the March international meeting.

*Red Flag/Bandera Roja* is already growing stronger as more new comrades and friends contribute. Comrade Hamza and other comrades in the Mideast have brought about a qualitative change. Collectives in El Salvador are involving more comrades and friends in producing articles. Others are

too. More experienced comrades, with more practice writing, are also inspired to write more. Now we can take important steps toward greater collectivity—steps that will increase participation and strengthen the paper.

1. We should decide more collectively what to write about, and how. This may mean planning for several issues at a time. Meanwhile, we need to be ready to change plans when something unexpected arises. We continue to welcome letters, including comments on this report.

2. More of us need to distribute more copies of *RF/BR*, paper and electronic. And have more conversations with readers and include their opinions in what we write.

3. When the collective decides we need an article, more comrades should be willing to step up and help. Even if it's not directly about their work, and even if they must do some research and learn about the subject.

4. Doing this will require a protracted collective struggle against individualism in its various forms.

We must all try to pay more attention to "what the collective needs" especially when it comes to making meetings and chats welcoming to more people.

In addition to helping to write and revise letters and articles, who would help take or find pictures? Edit pictures for press? Draw original graphics or cartoons? Learn to use a layout program? Translate or polish translations? We should make sure that how we have been doing things so far does not become an obstacle to doing them better in the future.

5. Given the urgency of the world situation, we should start thinking about how (and when) we can move to a biweekly *RFBR*.

*Someday, when those of us who still survive are asked, "What did you do in the face of fascist genocide and imperialist war?" we'll be able to answer: "We laid the groundwork for the communist society we're building today." That day may be sooner than we think.*



## Hunger Isn't a Crime – Intentional Starvation Is!

### **FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM: NOT ONE, NOT TWO, BUT ZERO CAPITALIST STATES**

March 4— They're calling it the "Flour Massacre." Israeli troops opened fire on thousands waiting for trucks to deliver flour and canned food near Gaza City. They killed 112 Palestinians and wounded over 750 more. Then Israeli tanks advanced to run over the dead and wounded.

Over half a million Gazans are near starving to death. This is official Israeli policy. Israeli forces patrol Gaza's Mediterranean coast to prevent Palestinians from fishing or getting supplies by boat. Israel allows only a trickle of food deliveries through the gates of the world's largest prison. Fascist Israeli mobs block some of those trucks while officials look on.

The US government airdropped 35,000 meals. Thirty-five thousand meals for half a million starving children and adults. This, after enabling the Israeli government to drop over 70,000 tons of bombs.

The credibility of Israel and US imperialism is in shreds. For example, French president Macron's government banned pro-Palestinian protests last fall and continues to arm Israel. But now it denounces the massacre and calls for a ceasefire. Within the US, increasing numbers reject "Genocide Joe" Biden's Democratic Party.

#### **Zionist Program: Fascism From the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea**

It's not just Gaza. The West Bank is supposedly part of a future Palestinian State. But since October 7, the Israeli government and its fascist settlers have tightened their direct control even over areas run (on paper) by the enfeebled Palestinian Authority.

Zionists are about 1/7 of the population of the West Bank. Their settlements are illegal under international law, and many even under Israeli law—but the laws mean nothing. Israeli authorities help expand settlements by providing water, power, and paved roads. They steal much of that water from springs long used by Palestinians.

Israeli soldiers stand by while settlers burn Palestinian cars and houses, block roads, destroy olive trees, seize farmland, and kill peo-



Hundreds eagerly took the new ICWP Gaza pamphlet at the March 2 rallies. In LA and Seattle, we distributed every copy we had, and could have given out many more.

ple. Soldiers have murdered close to 400 West Bank Palestinians since October 7.

Israeli forces have fenced in Palestinian neighborhoods in Hebron, and even individual houses. Roads are blocked, checkpoints are everywhere. "It's a prison within a prison," a resident said.

Last February, Israeli prime minister Netanyahu put his Finance Minister Smotrich in charge of the West Bank settlements. Smotrich had declared, in 2017, his goal of making "the ambition for a Jewish state from the river to the sea an accomplished fact." How? By "establishing new cities and settlements deep inside [Palestinian] territory" with hundreds of thousands of Jewish settlers.

Some of those settlers have become shepherds because grazing sheep claims far more land than planting orchards. Netanyahu's government and half a million settlers are openly preparing to fully annex the West Bank. Smotrich said that Palestinians would have to leave or remain without citizenship rights. Violent Zionist mobs are trying to force them to leave.

In Jerusalem, Zionist developers are trying to seize most of the Armenian Christian "quarter" using bribery and lies. They are destroying old working-class neighborhoods and institutions to build new tourist hotels. Young Armenians are camping out on the land to keep bulldozers away while a legal struggle continues.

In Israel, as in India, the fascist rulers have a mass base that doesn't just vote for them but also does their dirty work. That makes communist work harder and even more necessary. We must struggle sharply against liberal Israeli nationalism as well as against openly racist and fascist ideas among the working class.

#### **Does the Fascist Israeli Regime Have a "Right to Exist"?**

No more than the Nazis did. But it's not just Netanyahu and his cronies. It's about the Israeli state.

Israeli rulers are finally admitting that they never intended to allow a permanent "partition" of Palestine or a Palestinian state. They supported Hamas to keep the Palestinian Authority from becoming one. But now they are systematically grabbing and occupying all the land that any Palestinian state might ever claim. The "two-state solution" was a cruel con.

All governments ("states") in the world are capitalist states. They exist to enable capitalists to exploit, oppress, and suppress workers. And to help one group of national capitalists compete with others. Communists do not believe that any capitalist state has a "right to exist." The international working class must overthrow all of them with armed revolution.

Only then can we build the communist society, without money or borders or nations, that we all need. From the river to the sea ... and around the globe.

#### **The World Is Split Into Two Classes**

Masses in Gaza die of dehydration and starvation. Millions worldwide demonstrate against the atrocities of the fascist Zionists and their imperialist backers. Meanwhile, as the Flour Massacre unfolded, a grotesque display of wealth took place in India at the three-day pre-nuptial ceremony of the youngest son of multi-billionaire Ambani.

The 1200 attendees included some of the world's wealthiest and most powerful: the Emir of Qatar, Bill and Melinda Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, Ivanka Trump, Bill and Hillary Clinton. They indulged in 250 kinds of food and mingled with media giants and Hollywood and Bollywood stars in a decadent display of wealth. The venue was an orchard of 10 million trees and a refuge for rescued wild animals. Rihanna serenaded the guests.

It was an apt reminder of the horrors of capitalism: misery for the masses and the destruction of the environment in every corner of the earth. These are the media Mughals who want to shape how the working class thinks. Their lies contrast starkly with how the working class really thinks when we see brutal starvation in Gaza.

Our working class can only survive by fighting for communism.

#### **READ OUR NEW PAMPHLET:**

### **GENOCIDE IN GAZA DEMANDS COMMUNIST REVOLUTION**

**AVAILABLE AT [ICWPREDFLAG.ORG/GAZE](http://ICWPREDFLAG.ORG/GAZE)**