

# RED FLAG



## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



Tel Aviv, Israel

May 29— As Israeli bombs made in the US rain down on Gaza refugee camps with US President Biden's blessing, mass anger is exploding in the streets from Mexico to Delhi and even in Tel Aviv. "In our thousands, in our millions, we are all Palestinians!" they cry out in solidarity. In Gaza we see the genocidal brutality of capitalism-imperialism. But we also see its end on the horizon. Communist internationalism, not nationalism, must become the guiding light. In our millions, in our billions, we are the mighty international working class! Communism is our future. Let's turn the mass anger into a powerful revolutionary army: let's organize workers, soldiers, and youth everywhere into ICWP.



Manchester, England

### COMMUNIST GARMENT WORKERS REJECT CAPITALIST PARTIES

BENGALURU (India), May 27— "For the last 10 years, I voted for Congress Party. I believed that it would be a better alternative to the communal [Hindu nationalist] BJP," said Sangitha, a long-time garment worker. "Today, I am dedicating my life to communism. We don't need an electoral circus. We need to destroy the root of this barbaric system where we work twelve hours a day and, at the end of the day, we live in rat-infested slums with no toilets, no sanitation, and very little food."

The garment collective here had a very lively discussion. Political parties are spending billions of dollars on the elections to decide the next Prime Minister of India. This will be the most expensive election in the world. It is a disgusting attack on six hundred million workers who earn

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### "Our Families Fought Apartheid, But Not for This!" SUCCESSFUL ICWP MEETING PLANS FOR COMMUNIST GROWTH

QOEBERHA (South Africa), May 20— Yesterday we had our general meeting at kwaNoxolo [township] with old and new comrades. The meeting was to re-introduce and start reviving the collective on this side. We had new comrades that had never participated with us, but who were friends of the party. All the comrades who attended wanted to be there and participate in the growth of the party.

We are a small group who want a communist revolutionary change. We all agreed that we live in a capitalist system that exploits us and the working-class everywhere. The question was: How do we change this system, and what do we change it to, and is it even possible to do this?

Comrade Xola remarked, "We live in a system where people do not have houses. They stay in shacks in every urban area and in all the cities. "We have family members who fought

against the apartheid," he continued. "Surely, they were not fighting for this, to be sold by the ANC [African National Congress] and be forced into a situation where things have gotten worse. Poverty has increased, crime has increased, violence and hopelessness, with millions of people unemployed.

"Why should we live like this?" Xola concluded. "Why do we allow it?"

We all agreed that we should not allow it. We should do something about it. This is why we are building the collective and recruiting new members.

"We are here as part of our mobilisation of the masses for communism," comrade Siphon said. "We can't allow our oppression and exploitation to continue."

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## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A COMMUNIST?

EL SALVADOR, May 12—“*Red Flag* united us, opened our minds and made us understand areas where the same capitalist system in which we have grown up has kept us blinded. Our discussions have led to political growth and motivated us to participate in more meetings and, for the first time, to attend the May Day march,” commented E.

“Thank you for inviting us to the march. I was filled with joy and excitement to share with many factory workers, students, and healthcare workers chanting the slogans and collaborating in handing out *Red Flag* newspapers. Fighting for liberation from wage slavery. This made me understand what it means to be a communist,” said J. “I had misunderstood the reason to be a communist.”

“I had also misunderstood why to be a communist and how to get to communism. I always believed that to get to communism we had to go through socialism first. Now I see that would lead us to nothing,” mentioned D.

“Socialism is a mistake that has occurred over the years. That now allows us to have a starting point to not make these same mistakes. The solution for system change is to fight directly for communism, which is our main objective,” explained A.

“I am a communist and I fight for communism, because human labor is the pillar of human society and the basis of its development,” A concluded. “I fight for future generations to live in a free society under the power of the workers. And I know that only communism will liberate the masses all over the world organized in the International

Communist Workers’ Party that we are building today.”

Among all of us we discussed the importance of the unity of the collective in all the cells of our party, ICWP. It was a very important point that was reflected in the May Day March. It led us to discuss what it means to be a communist.

These discussions lead us to great results in the political struggle to strengthen and be consistent in building communist relationships among friends and co-workers. Our main goal is building more communist collectives to mobilize the masses in our revolutionary struggle.

Being a communist is hard and very rewarding political work, of struggle, of constantly building, with discipline, a collective working-class base among workers, family, friends, and neighbors. It means fighting hard to recruit more comrades to fight directly for commu-

nism. In other words, strengthening communist relations with many people, whether they are youth, industrial workers, farm workers, neighbors, or soldiers.

### What Should We Do as Communists to Develop New ICWP Members?

Be consistent and patient in the political struggle, making and meeting contacts, distributing our *Red Flag* newspaper, distributing leaflets, writing articles, being present and active in the struggle.

We must analyze how to reach and organize the masses for the growth of more communist collectives around the world. Learn to sharpen and resolve the internal contradictions that prevent us and others from moving forward.

To be active and improve the consciousness of our oppressed class. Learn from others, including people who are not yet communists.

To collectively help each other

resolve the dialectical contradictions that hold us or our friends back, so that we can recruit and consolidate more comrades. So that we become aware of communist ideology and how to be communist. This is work that we must put into practice as members of our Party.

Being a communist means commitment and solidarity every day. It is to be in a position of struggle prepared and involved with the masses, analyzing the contradictions in every situation to be faced to achieve our Communist Revolution.

A communist world is the main objective of ICWP. Today is the ideal time for our struggle. We, the oppressed masses, have built and can build the Party and be victorious. The masses have always made history. We will do so again.

The communist revolution needs you! Join ICWP today! Long live communism!



May Day, El Salvador 2024

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### “Long Live the Communist Youth”

I have been participating in the May Day march for five years. I began participating when I was a student. My parents are workers and have been members of the International Communist Workers’ Party for several years.

They inspire me a lot. This year I marched as a worker. I am learning about all the exploitation to which we are subjected. Before, I only heard about it in the meetings my father had with the other com-

rades in the factory.

I work in another area, but the conditions of exploitation are the same or worse. They make us work many hours more than the established hours, without pay.

This May Day, it was my turn to work the shift, but I didn’t go. I decided instead to march with my class brothers and sisters.

I was very inspired by the party’s participation this year. There was a lot of enthusiasm among the comrades.

We young people have the duty

to fight to change this oppressive and exploitative system.

During the march, I heard several chants calling for organizing more workers for the communist struggle. And some about the genocide in Gaza to which, as young people, we cannot be indifferent.

I am already part of wage slavery, but I am also part of the International Communist Workers’ Party, which gives me the strength to fight for a change, for the Communist system.

We reached the end point of the march. I found it incredible to be able to participate once again. I hope to have the strength to be able to be in the next marches to come.

We young people should follow the example of strength and determination of the workers and comrades who mobilized from the interior of the country to be able to demonstrate on May Day, International Workers’ Day.

Long live the communist youth!  
—Red Youth in El Salvador



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## LET'S ORGANIZE WORKERS TO JOIN ICWP, NOT TO VOTE!

MEXICO, May 27— On May 15, Teachers' Day, many teachers attacked the headquarters of all the electoral parties in Chiapas. However, they will still vote. Claudia Sheinbaum is the official candidate of MORENA, the party of Obrador, current President. She considers herself elected and sees the June 2 vote as a mere formality. Xochitl Gálvez is the candidate of a wealthy opposition. Reportedly, she also has a US subsidy. And Jorge Álvarez Maynez is candidate of the Movimiento Ciudadano (Citizen Movement) party. *All represent the capitalists.*

In distributing *Red Flag* and our communist leaflets among school workers, teachers, and students, we

have discussed that elections do not help the working class become aware of their reality of the use and even abuse of their labor power by the capitalists.

Every few years the capitalists and their oppressive governments lead us to elect new executioners. Some four billion voters in the world are called upon each year to vote: almost half the world's population.

Due to many years of deceit and despotism by the governments, the pro-capitalist parties have lost influence among voters. Many believe that politicians only seek their own self-interest and should go away. On the one hand, they represented corrupt governments; on the other

hand if they came to power, they did not improve the workers' situation.

We workers must organize ourselves completely apart from the capitalists and their governments. We must become a CLASS, that is a PARTY. Joining ICWP and mobilizing the masses for communism is our task and our future.

### Bosses' "Progress" Means More Exploitation for the Working Class

Technological development and the capitalists' need to sell their increasing production led them to try to maintain consumption. This changed the life of the working class a little. Millions "came out of poverty." This also changed, a little, workers' attitude towards elections. In the 21st century, they have returned to the polls. In Germany, USA, and Mexico, around 60% of eligible voters voted.

The surplus value or "profits" that the capitalists have extracted from the workers have multiplied so far this century. During the pandemic, the richest billionaires doubled their wealth. On the other hand, real wages have been reduced. Millions who lost their jobs have taken new jobs with lower wages. Technological development has done the other part: as the working day has intensified, workers produce their wages in less time. So that the part left to the capitalists (surplus value) is greater.

One million young people are of age to join the labor force each year in Mexico. Yet only two-thirds can do so formally. The rest join the growing floating or surplus labor force. This industrial reserve army survives by selling the capitalists' goods without a wage relationship, without a steady job.

### A Communist World Without Exploitation

We must break through our limitations in bringing communist class consciousness to the workers. Many who sympathized with communism reneged on it and promoted pro-capitalist politics. That led to support for the National Democratic Front from Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, Ifigenia Martínez, and Muñoz Ledo to AMLO.

Workers' participation in the elections only demonstrates the degree of consciousness they have. No more! Elections cannot emancipate us from the capitalists or their exploitation.

Workers must break the prisons of their own exploitative workplace and the prisons of unions to which the capitalists have subjected them. We must participate in protests against the massacre in Gaza, in the obstruction of ships carrying armaments, and both economic and political strikes, to fight to turn the imperialists' battles into revolution for communism.



Mexico: Teachers attack offices of electoral parties

## INDIA: COMMUNIST ORGANIZERS, from page 1

less than Rs.100 a day (\$1.20).

Manisha also changed her opinion. "I do not doubt that this rotten system needs to be destroyed. Only the communism of ICWP is the answer. I now know that I was like a blind person when I voted for BJP. My parents brainwashed me to believe that Muslims were the problem. When I started working in the garment factory, I worked with immigrants from Bangladesh. I saw that they were making half of what other workers were making. How can they be a threat to the Hindus?"

Comrades like Sangitha and Manisha joined ICWP after lots of struggle in the collective. They believed in two political parties in

India with opposing viewpoints. BJP represents openly fascist Hindu supremacy while the Congress Party advocates for a multi-ethnic democracy. But we struggled in our collective to show that neither of the parties represents the working class. Both have presided over major attacks on the working class.

Dedicated ICWP comrades brought Sangitha and Manisha to our collective. They had known them for years. When we talked about how dangerous the Congress Party and BJP were, they did not agree with us for a long time. However, the personal relationships we had with them allowed us to advance the struggle for communism.

Now Sangitha and Manisha are circulating *Red Flag* in their workplace. They know from their own experience that any electoral party is for the rich capitalists. They can struggle at a higher level with the masses.

Because of our success with these new ICWP recruits, we are reaching out to hundreds of workers who are disgusted with the electoral system. We point out that the capitalist parties are only interested in Google Analytics, Television Rating Points, and social media to prepare their speeches. Even after spending billions of dollars, almost half the electorate is not voting for anybody.

Regardless of who wins the elec-

tion, the workers have a huge opportunity to put communism on the agenda. We have formed three garment collectives that are responsible for the mass circulation of *Red Flag*. Most of this is done by trusted comrades. We have produced thousands of leaflets calling for communist revolution to smash the bosses' capitalist parties. These leaflets are widely circulated.

In response to this leafletting, more than thirty new workers attended our last meeting. Comrade Manisha opened it. People were moved by her experience of leaving BJP. She said, "The politics of Temple and Mosque is a direct attack on the working class. They want us to forget that more than three hundred million people are unemployed. Join ICWP because together we will destroy the capitalists and their ability to control us. Without the bosses, the working class will be able to create the foundation of new communist relations."

We are forming a study group with the new comrades to introduce them to the science and politics of change — dialectical materialism. The personal and political relationships we have with the new attendees will expand into a bigger ICWP.



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### Distributing Red Flag Builds Confidence in the Workers and ICWP

Today's mobilization, distributing of *Red Flag* at VW, was one of the best. Each and every time, I meet new faces. And each and every time I do meet those ones who you have to explain who we are: we are not an electoral political party.

A worker was going in to start his shift. When I tried to give him the *Red Flag*, he said that it's those politicians, those political parties, who are always promising us things. I tried to make him understand who we are and how we are different from the (capitalist) political parties. He was smiling at me across the road. He was overwhelmed by the information I was giving him. He liked it.

I met mostly coloured\* workers today, and what I like about them is that they're not aggressive. They are easy and patient. There in VW, the coloured workers took the papers, started reading them, and some put them in their bags to read later.

I'm getting used to those who question me. That doesn't stop me. It keeps me going forward. Most of the coloureds are starting to recognize us. I'm getting more experience than last year. *Red Flag* can help everyone, most especially the workers. If they can read the *Red Flag* articles, they will see why we are ICWP, and they will understand our main points.

I'm working with such amazing guys. We share our work. We assist each other and then we guide each other.

In the distribution, no one is forcing anyone. We are not forcing the workers to take the paper. But as we are explaining to them about

ICWP, most are walking in with a smile because they are understanding the meaning of our party. I won't lie. I think we need to be greater in numbers next time so we can distribute all of our *Red Flag* papers.

I will leave it here for now. I just want to say thanks to the guys who gave us examples of what we are supposed to do when we distribute *Red Flag*.

There is no training fee. We learn what it means to be a member. It means to be with us and do what we are doing: to mobilize the workers. Not everyone is blind, not everyone is stubborn to open their eyes.

Today for me was superb. Only three of us distributed two hundred papers. If there had been seven of us, we could have distributed hundreds more. The workers took the papers quickly. I think we have to be better in numbers, so that next time we can distribute all our *Red Flags*.

Doing the distribution, I'm happy to be part of ICWP. I wouldn't know about such a thing if I weren't part of the Party. I'm happy to be an ICWP member. I'm glad to know the comrades and the way they explain everything to me. They were transparent to me and that's how I am when I distribute *Red Flag* to the workers and talk to them. I would love to distribute more papers to industrial workers.

—A Comrade in South Africa

**NOTE:** "Coloured" was a legally defined "racial" classification during Apartheid. It

refers to people of mixed ethnic ancestry. The separation of "Coloured" from "Black" workers is an important part of racism in South Africa today.

### How Workers Will Build Communist Society Without Money

Ever since I became a member of ICWP, it has become clear how the capitalist system has brainwashed us into thinking we cannot do anything without money, that we need bosses to survive, that we are nothing without the bosses. But in actual fact the bosses need us more than we need them. They won't be able to run the business without us.

In COMMUNISM there will not be bosses. You are probably thinking how is that possible? Well, that is very much possible. Look, for instance, at the big company VW. If all those workers would step out of the company, would production continue without them? NO!

Workers from VW are not doing the same job. Some are doing body parts, other tires, engines, glass, lights, etc. It is possible for them to gather and build transport that is of value to be used by everyone (e.g., buses to fit a lot of

people) without making profit.

How wonderful life would be without crime, corruption, greed, and exploitation by the bosses! We are a lot of people with different talents. We have teachers, doctors, farmers, seamstresses.

All of us worldwide could divide ourselves. Those who can farm, farm for everyone (planting fruit, vegetables etc.) Doctors to provide free medication and consultation (even though when living under communism we won't be needing much medication).

Now the bosses are making money from us being sick, making money from us to having to provide for medication. They are even making money from us dying. How do they do that? It starts from the poisonous food we consume to the medication prescribed for us to become "better" not *cured* to passing away. They make money out of all that.

To have more understanding about communism we need to read the *Red Flag*, have constant meetings with the collective, and spread the word to our friends, family, and colleagues because together we can do it.

Red Salute!

Comrade in South Africa



## SOUTH AFRICA: COMMUNIST GROWTH from page 1

### "What is Freedom?"

"We have to be united in order to win against capitalism and the bosses," said comrade Mandisa. "Our grandparents won because they were united against apartheid. Also, we have to change our mentality and consciousness [into class consciousness]. We grow up being told that we are free because now we can go to a beachfront and there is no sign that separates people according to their race. They say we are free, but we are not free. Maybe we are free 70%."

This sparked a dynamic discussion. Comrade Asanda said, "We are not even 70% free. Maybe we are less than 50% free, because how are we free when we don't have anything to eat?"

Comrade Xola answered, "We are free to go to Summerstrand (mainly

white upper middle class area) but we don't have the taxi fare to go there, and we don't know what we will do when we get there. We cannot be free like that. In fact, we don't have any freedom and we cannot have it under capitalism."

### How Will Communism Look?

"In communism we will live without money," said comrade Amanda. "We will go anywhere we want without worrying about money."

"In communism, workers will own the factory. Now, workers produce everything. At VW, the bosses don't do anything. On farms the workers produce the food and in food factories workers produce the food. And they can do that even in small household gardening. You can see that workers have the skill to produce and survive.

"We have to own the material," she continued, "that is, the means of production, in order to be able to produce using our skills. That's the only thing preventing us. We don't need bosses to survive; we only need them to survive under capitalism."

"We need them only for wages," said comrade Arthur. "If we cut money, there is no need for bosses. That means we have to own the means of production they currently own."

### Where to Start?

To change to communism, we must start by organising ourselves and our colleagues and friends and family. We won't win people if we cannot even win them from our neighbourhoods.

This meeting is a start. We are small group but if we meet regularly and consistently and grow together and forge communist relationships,

we will be strong. If we follow up on the workers who have shown interest in the party, if we build new collectives, we can change the tens into hundreds into thousands and to millions of party members.

We have to understand change, how it happens and how we can shape the future and build a world without exploitation. But to get there, we have to bring the army of the people we know individually to the party. We have to recruit more people. We have to struggle with them and go to them. If we don't show interest, they won't stick with us, comrades concluded.

The meeting was a huge success. New comrades have vowed to invite even more people, learn more about the party, attend more meetings, and forge and build communist relationships with other comrades.

## From Gaza to Guatemala:

# INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKING-CLASS SOLIDARITY WILL DEFEAT IMPERIALIST GENOCIDE

PASADENA (USA), May 18— “We lobbied politicians. Cities passed ceasefire resolutions. And nothing happened. We didn’t know what to do next. Then the campuses exploded!”

Nearly 100 young people jammed into an independent bookstore. They came to learn about anti-fascist struggles in Palestine and Guatemala. Most already knew that the Zionist Israeli regime defends US imperialist interests in the energy-rich Middle East. Many were shocked to learn how it also defends US imperialism in Central America.

In Guatemala, the elected Arbenz government instituted a modest land-reform program in 1952. It aimed largely at the United Fruit Company (now Chiquita). Indigenous peasants, effectively serfs, demanded and started to take more land.

US imperialism’s CIA overthrew Arbenz in 1954. The US Secretary of State and his brother, the CIA head, were on the Board of United Fruit.

An insurgency began in 1960, based in the countryside. It included workers and armed guerrillas. It was inspired by the Cuban revolution and backed (indirectly) by Soviet imperialism.

By 1977, US imperialism had lost its war in Vietnam. It was widely discredited. “Humanitarian” President Carter decided it could no longer openly back the Guatemalan military dictatorship. He outsourced that job to Israel.

An Israeli minister of economy offered: “In places where you cannot sell arms directly, let us do it. Israel will be your intermediary.”

General Rios Montt’s 1982 coup

escalated the counterinsurgency into a genocide. Government forces murdered 250,000 indigenous Maya and others in 626 separate massacres.

Israeli-trained Guatemalan military officers spoke of the “Palestinianization” of post-massacre Maya lands. With Israeli help, they forced survivors into “readjustment” communities for surveillance.

An Israeli general explained: “Israel has given its soldiers practical training in the art of oppression and in methods of collective punishment.”

The 1982 coup succeeded, Rios Montt declared, because “many of our soldiers were trained by the Israelis.”

When US imperialism interrupted arms sales to fascist regimes in Nicaragua and El Salvador, or to Central American police forces, Israel stepped in. Military relationships with Israel helped maintain ties between Central American governments and Washington.

The Guatemala-Israel connection remains strong. The social democrat President, Bernardo Arevalo, graduated from Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He spent four years as a senior official in Guatemala’s embassy in Israel. Soon after he took office early this year, Israel and Guatemala signed a free-trade pact.

Even before Rios Montt and ever since, evangelical Christian Zionists in Guatemala have built a broad fascist base of support for Israel.

A Palestinian student presented much of this information. Her talk broadened the discussion from “Free Palestine!” to imperialism in relation to capitalism. However,



Guerrilla fighters in Guatemala

the focus was on parallels and connections among indigenous peoples’ struggles, not on an international working class confronting the same class enemy.

Another student described Israeli fascism’s role in Mexico. Specifically, the 2014 government-orchestrated kidnapping and murder of 43 students in Ayotzinapa. The Mexican rulers were early adopters of Israel’s “Pegasus” spyware. Tomas Zeron de Lucio, a key figure in the massacre, led the deployment of Pegasus to target parents and lawyers of the 43, as well as human rights activists. They feared the unraveling of the government’s Big Lie that it wasn’t involved.

The Mexican government still massively purchases Israeli spyware. Zeron has avoided prosecution for his heinous crimes by fleeing to Israel. Israel refuses to extradite him.

Another attendee noted that the Israeli government sent arms to Azerbaijan last year to support its “ethnic cleansing” of Armenians in Artsakh.

“As revolutionaries we must al-

ways build solidarity,” said the Palestinian presenter.

An ICWP comrade, in a breakout group, made that more concrete. “We are fighting the same imperialist powers everywhere, so we need to be in one international party,” she said. “Imperialism is rooted in capitalism, so our fight needs to be against capitalism.”

The comrade brought out *Red Flag* to make it clear that the party we need is ICWP. The person who spoke about Artsakh already had one. She encouraged two friends to take our paper. Another regular reader took several extra copies.

“Our weekly protests against the Gaza genocide have created space for people to think and learn more,” an organizer told the comrade a few days later. “At first, they were just very angry. Now they are beginning to understand the bigger picture.”

This *Red Flag* reader wasn’t sure people in the US were ready for communism. But our experiences show us that many are. And only communism can defeat imperialist genocide.

## HOW DO WE GET THE CHANGE WE NEED?

On March 21, 1960, the South African Police in the town of Sharpeville opened fire on 7,000 Black protestors against apartheid. They killed 69 people and wounded 180, including 29 children. This massacre was a turning point in the struggle against apartheid. From that moment on, it was clear that South Africa’s official policy of racial separation was doomed. But how would it end? And what would replace it?

In 1961, leaders of the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party formed uMkhonto we Sizwe, (English: Spear of the Nation). This paramilitary organization was dedicated to resisting government terror. Most of its actions sabotaged government buildings. But its militants trained in guerrilla warfare. It contained the beginnings of a strategy of armed struggle for power. Still, it was a national liberation movement, not a movement for communism.

In 1962, the majority of the United Nations passed Resolution 1761. It condemned apartheid and called for economic and other sanctions against South Africa. The UN hoped to end the legal system of apartheid while maintaining capitalism in South Africa.

**Over the next thirty years, the fight against apartheid continued on both paths: armed**

**struggle and economic sanctions.**

Within South Africa, thousands of militants, women and men, joined the uMkhonto we Sizwe. Tens of thousands took part in mass actions against the apartheid government. Hundreds were sentenced to house arrest. They were banned from participation in public life. Many were sentenced to decades in prison.

In spite of tremendous suffering, the movement continued to grow. It became more and more difficult for the South African capitalist class to govern.

Internationally, hundreds of thousands participated in “boycott, divestment, sanctions” (BDS) campaigns. They called on governments and the capitalists to divest (withdraw investments) from South Africa. Activists boycotted everything from IBM to international athletic competitions. The South African government became an international pariah. Local and international capitalists saw their profits diminish.

**It appeared that the two paths (armed struggle and BDS) were complementary. But appearances can be misleading.**

The Cold War ended in the early 1990s. That created an opening for the capitalists to end apartheid while keeping the structure of capital-

ism and racism intact.

Part of the agreement which ended apartheid was the dissolution in 1993 of uMkhonto we Sizwe. That is, Nelson Mandela and the leadership of the African National Congress, including the South African Communist Party, agreed to abandon the revolutionary struggle against capitalism. Instead, they reached an accommodation with capitalist state rule—a logical result of fighting for “national liberation.”

International sanctions were cancelled. Capitalism, now with a few Black bosses in positions of power, continued. The South African capitalist class and the international capitalists continue to enrich themselves on the sweat of the working class.

**Armed struggle and BDS were not complementary, after all. They were contradictory.** The internal struggle within the ANC and SACP was primary. When they opted to reform capitalism instead of destroying it, the die was cast.

We in the International Communist Workers’ Party dedicate ourselves to the victory over capitalism. Our organizing today will lead, when the time is ripe, to a Spear of the Working Class—uMkhonto we Udidi lwabasebenzi. That international Red Army will fight until victory. It will lead in building communist society worldwide.

## Amid Imperialist Preparations for Pacific War

### PREPARE TO “TURN THE GUNS AROUND” FOR COMMUNISM

(US), May 24— “I love hearing about Black US soldiers allying with Filipinos!” said a young Filipina at an Education Committee meeting of the coalition to Cancel RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific).

At the end of World War II, US imperialists ordered soldiers to attack a communist guerrilla rebellion in the Philippines, their former allies. Segregated Black battalions wrote a scathing letter to US President Truman. They were “disgusted with American foreign policy.” They vowed not to “take the field in league with rulers who were against the freedom revolts of oppressed peoples.”

An ICWP comrade described how multiracial masses of US troops, led by communists and armed with rifles and tanks, made sure no attack on their Filipino allies took place.

Today, the US Navy runs what is called the largest naval war exercise of its kind. Twenty-nine nations and over 25,000 soldiers and sailors will participate. Included in this imperialist war coalition are the Israeli armed forces responsible for the Gaza genocide. The newly recruited trilateral military alliance, featuring Marcos Jr.’s Philippine navy and that of Japan, will be there. Biden hopes the trilateral alliance will encircle China.

In April, approximately two hundred and twenty-five activists launched a campaign against the biennial RIMPAC exercise. “Cancel RIMPAC” mobilizations will be held in San Diego and Hawai’i in late June or early July.

#### Reach Out to Soldiers and Sailors

To emphasize the importance of reaching out to soldiers and sailors, comrades prepared for the RIMPAC coalition meeting a history of thirteen rebellions and organizing efforts inside capitalist-imperialist armed forces. Other committee members were inspired.

One suggested writing a leaflet aimed at the sailors. Another pro-



October 8, 1972, sailors mutinied on the USS Kitty Hawk in the Subic Bay naval base in the Philippines during the Vietnam War.

posed organizing a panel of veterans. She knows someone who organized during the Iraq war and suggested he be on the panel. A third knows a Vietnam War veteran in San Diego who knows a lot about the rebellions on aircraft carriers.

Our party members have a long history of sending comrades into the imperialists’ militaries. Our strategy is organizing to “turn the guns around” for communist revolution. Communists organized mass rebellions among US soldiers during the Vietnam War. ICWP members also have experience developing relationships with soldiers during the Iraq war and since.

These veterans and younger comrades can play a decisive role in revitalizing our efforts to build a communist base among rank-and-file soldiers and sailors. Without recruiting soldiers there can be no successful communist revolution.

#### Changing Minds

One close friend of ICWP initially had reservations about reaching out to rank-and-file troops. Some soldiers threatened him and others when they tried to talk to them. When he heard about the history of soldier rebellions and the personal experiences of communist friends, he started to rethink what was possible.

This friend knows that industrial workers are key to any revolution, but once again he has hesitations. He’s had bad experiences with the leadership of industrial workers’ unions. In particular, the Longshore Workers’ and Boeing unions.

Two comrades came to talk to him about RIMPAC. Like the committee members, he was inspired. They explained the need to go to the rank and file, not to union officials.

“I’m changing my mind,” he admitted. “No matter what, we need solidarity between industrial workers, in particular Boeing workers, soldiers, sailors, and the growing opposition to the war footing of the Biden regime.”

He took extra Red Flags to distribute at his workplace. Comrades encouraged him to also show ICWP’s communist paper to his high school relatives who have already built a political club at their school.

Many young people are inspired by the hidden history of troops rebelling against imperialism. We will meet more potential communist organizers as we prepare to confront RIMPAC. The political and social ties we build now will lay the foundation to turn inspiration into action and recruitment to ICWP.

#### Revolutionary Role of Soldiers and Sailors: History We Need to Know

Capitalist armies and states spend enormous resources and time hiding the ever-present threat of mutiny and rebellion. As revolutionaries, it is our responsibility to make sure the history of rank-and-file soldier rebellions is well-known by the international working class.

To this end, comrades have prepared a list of some of the many rebellions and organizing efforts inside capitalist-imperialist armed forces. This list, although incomplete, is too long to print in *Red Flag*. We have posted it on our website: <https://icwpredflag.org/wp/wordpress/soldiers-sailors-oppose-imperialism/>

Starting with the Haitian Revolution of 1804, the list includes rebellions among Indian soldiers, Black US soldiers’ desertion at the invasion of the Philippines, and the 1905 mutiny on the Battleship Potemkin.

The 1917 Russian Revolution relied on decades of communist organizing in the Tsarist military and among industrial workers. Fourteen imperialist armies invaded the new Soviet Union. The Red Army defeated the invading imperialists, as soldiers and sailors in each military rebelled against invading the new workers’ state.

During the US war on Vietnam, the US army and navy admitted that 47% of their rank-and-file troops were either resisting orders or in outright rebellion. The commander, General Westmoreland, pleaded with President Nixon to withdraw immediately. “Otherwise, we will lose the Army,” he warned.

Their loss must become our gain! Let’s win the rank and file of all capitalist armies to our communist Red Army.

## END FORCED MIGRATION WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION From page 8

around 7.3 million.

The Congo is the second largest country in Africa, with the fourth largest population. It is strategically located at the center of the African continent. Its unparalleled natural resource wealth includes cobalt, copper, gold, tantalum, tin, diamonds, petroleum, and water.

Here, too, the major imperialists like China and the US dispute the area and continue to send weapons.

Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, and the Congo are just a few examples where inter-imperialist rivalry is wreaking havoc on the masses of the world. There are many others.

And as capitalist-imperialist rivalry intensifies, there will be more conflicts that will eventually explode into World War III.

Faced with the death and destruction of the imperialists’ World War I, the Russian masses mobilized under the leadership of the Bolshevik Party and overthrew the tsarist (and then the liberal capitalist) government, establishing the first workers’ state.

During the imperialists’ World War II, more than 14 million Chinese lost their lives. The masses mobilized under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and

established workers’ power in 1949.

But both our Russian comrades and our Chinese comrades mobilized for socialism. They could not get to the root of exploitation, which was the existence of money. The leaders of both new workers’ states received higher wages while the rank-and-file workers received less. In the end, the wage system itself – buying and selling labor – was and continues to be the problem.

ICWP has learned that we need to mobilize the masses directly for communism. Not only must we completely abolish money, but also

borders. No more nation states, nationalism, or wage slavery.

As the imperialist capitalist carnage escalates and as millions of our working-class families are displaced around the world, let us welcome them everywhere. As an immigrant comrade emphasized, “All of us together can once again overthrow the capitalist masters with communist revolution. We can establish a world of communist relations where every human being lives a dignified life free from exploitation and war. We have a world to win!”

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

**INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY: "GLOBALIZING THE INTIFADA"**

We participated in a recent conference of international solidarity with the student Gaza encampment movement. The conference called us to reflect on how to advance collectively in the political action of globalization, of the intifada, committed to the people of Palestine and self-liberation and mobilization of the masses around the world.

Five organizers spoke from Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, and the USA (Columbia University and the University of California at Irvine). They described the struggle against imperialism that is advancing as students interact internationally to communicate the importance of the student encampments in favor of Palestine.



The conference included the interactive participation of approximately 50 people from the US and all over Latin America. But we see a contradiction between the international character of the meeting and its politics of supporting Palestinian nationalism.

We participated as members of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). We fight internationally to unite the world working class in one party. We will not be able to establish communism through nationalism. We have the lessons of the past, of the failures of the Russian communists of the 20th century in not establishing communism directly. We don't need a "transitional" stage. Nationalism is not the solu-

tion and it is not a step or a ladder. We must fight directly for communism.

One of our comrades participated in a discussion segment. He

**Detroit, USA**

mentioned how from the beginning, the situation in Palestine has been a project of inter-imperialist rivalry for control of the strategic area. First Britain with the Balfour Declaration and then the US imperialist intervention that is still going on. Now we have other imperialists like Russian imperialism in addition to Chinese imperialism.

"How can we ensure that no imperialism ever penetrates Palestine and that it is truly free?" he asked. "No capitalist relations of any kind and more communist relations?" In future meetings we will continue to open spaces of ideological struggle within the group, sharpening the struggle between communism and nationalism.

The conference was a good opportunity to win more comrades to our ICWP Party. For that, we posted links to our party's website and our Gaza leaflet.

We got contact information for many of the participants. We will follow up to win and build communist relations under our political line. At the same time, we will continue to participate in future conferences and have the opportunity

to present our ICWP Party.

**Struggle to Win the Masses For Communism**

These encampments and conferences create openings among young students around the world for our party to build collective unity and solidarity to mobilize the masses and turn the imperialist wars into communist revolution.

We know that students, youth, industrial workers, soldiers, and sailors are essential in the global movement for our struggle against the capitalist imperialists.

We communists must be the seed that grows and stands firm in the struggle to put an end to capitalist societies that limit, oppress, exploit, and take advantage of imperialist wars for their own enrichment and power. We will put an end to their system of misery, hunger, racism, nationalist divisions, and war.

Join and fight directly for a communist society with our International Communist Workers' Party!

Long live the communist revolution!

—Red Comrades of the ICWP

**Pacifism, BDS, and National Liberation Build Anti-Communism**

We are learning valuable lessons from the hugely successful distribution of the ICWP Gaza pamphlet at the Jawaharlal Nehru University encampment. "Only communist revolution will bring Azadi (freedom) to the working class." This was the overwhelming response of some young people who flocked around us.

But there were contradictions also. Many of these young students believed that the "Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions" (BDS) movement would weaken the Israeli capitalists, opening the way for a communist revolution.

We said that the BDS movement is essentially anti-communist lies fed by the ruling class to confuse many students and workers. We need to organize our Red Army and industrial workers to communism. The BDS movement will never address how that can be done.

We gave the example of the Indian Freedom Struggle. Over a century ago, when the British capitalists ruled India, they built an iconic hotel with imposing Victorian architecture in Bombay (now Mumbai). At the entrance gate, a sign was posted: "Europeans only. No dogs or Indians allowed."

The anger of the Indian middle class took the shape of the nationalist freedom movement to sanction, boycott, and divest British interests in India.

The Congress Party (with Gandhi and others) led this movement. It was overwhelmingly financed by five of the richest rising capitalists. Their insistence on keeping the movement peaceful was, in reality, a violent attack on the Indian working class who were facing the brutality of wage slavery, famine, hunger, and imperialist wars.

India gained independence after the British capitalists ceased to be the top imperialists. The departure of the British capitalists started a rapid rise of the Indian capitalist class, which kept wage slavery with the 'nationalist' pride.

The Communist Party of India organized millions of workers, peasants, and students during this time, but it never had the outlook of overthrowing capitalism with communism. It became a cheerleader of the Congress Party after India gained independence.

The BDS movement is similar to the Indian Independence movement. Israeli rulers are extremely weak, defended by the US imperialists whose domination is in decline. This combination is creating the horrors of genocide. It is not because they are strong, it is a sign of their weakness.

As the ICWP leaflet on Gaza said, the working class in Gaza, Israel, and other areas can be organized to fight for a communist revolution. Only a communist revolution is worth fighting for.

Anything else will keep wage slavery intact. We must reject the paci-

fist BDS movement's dead-end solution, which will only reform capitalism.

Many students from the encampment movement were very receptive to what we said. Most of them did not know the history of India from the ICWP perspective. Their participation with us on May Day is a sign that we can grow and build our party.

—Comrades in Delhi (India)

**The Strait of Hormuz and the Danger of World War**

The article "From the Middle East to Europe to Asia: Turn Imperialist Genocide and World War III into Communist Revolution" (last issue of *Red Flag*) makes a clear argument about why US and European imperialists are so fiercely supporting Israel's genocide in Gaza.

It explained that to fight World War III, European imperialists will need natural gas and oil. There are vast deposits of both in the exclusive economic zones of Gaza, Israel, and Cyprus. Israel is crucial to controlling these resources. There are also huge deposits of both these resources in Northern Africa which can easily and safely be piped to Europe via the Mediterranean Sea.

This will require the US and Europe to militarily control this sea. Israel plays a critical role in this scheme.

The article, however, left out an important point which shows that

the danger of an Israel-Iran conflict exploding into world war is more imminent.

That is the Strait of Hormuz. If the Israel-Iran conflict had escalated to a more serious confrontation, Iran would have blocked this strategic strait. Twenty million barrels of oil flow through it daily, along with 18% of the world's liquefied natural gas. Seventy percent of this oil goes to Asia, supplying 95% of Japan's needs and 59% of South Korea's.

Blockage of such an important waterway would drive world capitalism into a profound political and economic crisis. If such a situation were to persist for too long, the countries most affected by this blockage would have no alternative but military force to try to solve the crisis.

The US would be the first. Its 7th Naval Fleet is in Bahrain, inside the Gulf itself. If mobilized to attack Iran, the Iranian retaliation would be quick and devastating. It would overwhelm the defenses of the US fleet, attacking it with hundreds of air and sea drones. The fleet can quickly be sunk. The US would have no other alternative but to escalate the war to a higher level. It might opt to go nuclear.

Therein lies the danger that the international working class faces and the urgent need for ICWP to grow worldwide to put an end to genocidal capitalism-imperialism with communist revolution.

—Some Comrades

## FROM MEXICO TO SPAIN: COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER WILL DEFEAT CAPITALISM AND ITS FASCIST MOVEMENTS

May 26— VOX in Spain, and El Yunque in Mexico have become important voices for fascism. VOX aims to be a worldwide leader in the growing fascist movement. It has ties with other fascist leaders. Vox's support for Putin's invasion of Ukraine and for Israel makes it a champion of fascism.

Christianity at first posed a danger to the Roman empire because it opposed slavery. Christians were fiercely persecuted. But in 380 CE, Emperor Theodosius I made Christianity the official religion of the Roman empire. Christian leaders then embraced slavery. The Catholic church became a pillar of the Roman empire and, later, of European Feudalism and Capitalism.

Fascist movements are tools of the capitalists, especially during crisis and war. Fascism involves mysticism and religion. El Yunque in Mexico is a clear example. Created in 1952, it is ultra-secret, paramilitary, anti-communist, anti-Semitic, anti-liberal, and very right-wing. With fascist characteristics, its defense of Catholicism is summed up in its slogan: "God, country, and family."

The ultra-right in Mexico involving the Catholic Church dates to the early 20th century. It fought against the liberal ideals of the Mexican Revolution, which decreed the separation of church and state.

In the 1920s, the Mexican government set up secular schools that taught some socialist ideas. The Catholic Church and right-wing religious militias began the first "Cristero War" against the government. They demanded the revocation of the decree. Many farmworkers fought against the Cristeros. Two

hundred sixty thousand people died in the conflict.

Thousands more died (some say 200,000) in the second "Cristero War" from 1934 to 1940. The anti-fascist "Red Shirts" fought against the Cristeros and for secular education. They were founded in the state of Tabasco and formed cells in the State of Mexico. They were pro-communist.

The so-called "leftist" government of Lazaro Cardenas disbanded the Red Shirts. In 1940, when Avila Camacho, Cardenas' successor, took office, the State decreed "freedom of religion," the ending of "socialist education," and opening worship in the streets and public squares. The President himself attend masses and promoted open worship.

During these wars, clergy and civilian extremists were smuggled out of Mexico and sent to Spain, where they were sheltered by fascist clergy. They joined and built Franco's Falangist legions.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Los Tecos, another fascist organization created at the University of Guadalajara, joined with the Yunque to help the Mexican government repress student and worker movements. This included Tlatelolco on October 2, 1968, where hundreds (some claim thousands) of protesting students and workers were massacred. Los Tecos' slogan was "fight communism in Mexico."

While some see the Yunque as a social, not political, problem, it has power and control in the National Action Party (PAN). It has created mass organizations involving tens of thousands. It also works inside the PRI and Morena electoral parties.

Eduardo Verastegui, a former

actor, religious fanatic, and representative of the right wing, recently failed to get enough signatures to run for president in the next elections. However, he garnered support from more than 160,000 citizens. Verastegui is linked to presidents Milei (Argentina), Bukele (El Salvador), to Trump, and to leaders of Spain's fascist VOX party.

Vox, part of the Popular Party of Spain formed in 2013, is like El Yunque. It openly participates in elections and has gradually gained positions of power in Spain and the European Parliament. The two organizations form alliances with fascist governments in Italy, Poland, Argentina, and others.

VOX has hosted conferences like the Madrid Forum, an alliance of parties of "Spain and Hispanic America." Its manifesto successfully promoted the "communication of objectives to prevent the advance of communism in Latin America" by backing right-wingers in Peru in the impeachment of President Pedro Castillo.

**Anti-communism: main weapon of the capitalists and imperialists.**

Now, when the great imperialist powers China and the US are fighting for control of the world's markets, fascist groups are growing. **The rulers' biggest fear is that the masses will unite against their imperialist wars and their system in crisis for revolution to establish real communism.** That will end their bloody rule forever. That's why they work overtime to build fascist



Mexico City, 1930s: Anti-Fascist Youth "Red Shirts"

groups and fascist ideas to attack communism and communists.

We, the working class, produce everything in society. The capitalists and imperialists are just parasites living off our labor.

Mexican teachers are in struggle against all the electoral parties. They and millions of workers from Mexico to Spain can be won to join the fight for communism.

By building a mass ICWP of millions, we can defeat the rulers' fascism and genocidal imperialism. We need to confront and defeat anti-communism in our own ranks and among the masses by showing that real communism is humanity's future. We will collectively produce everything our class needs, without capitalists, wage slavery, or money.

## END FORCED MASS MIGRATION WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Capitalism, since its inception, has always meant forced displacement of the working masses from their places of origin. Always with the desire for domination, exploitation, and maximizing profits.

But human migration around the world has reached unprecedented levels. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs estimated the global number of international migrants at 281 million as of July 1, 2020. Recent capitalist-imperialist wars, combined with severe poverty and environmental crisis, have driven it to even higher levels. History has shown that immigrants have played, and will play an important role in making the communist revolution.

There is a contradiction for the capitalists-imperialists. They need migrant workers to superexploit, but that increases the revolutionary potential of those workers.

Our displaced working-class

families, including their children, are forming and will form the new ranks of soldiers in the rulers' militaries. And the new ranks of industrial workers in the fields and factories in the new host countries. And, united with native born soldiers and workers, they will form a new movement for total emancipation.

As of May 2023, more than 110 million people have been forcibly displaced worldwide. To date, more than 31,184 Palestinians have been killed and 72,889 injured. More than 85 percent of Gaza's total population has been forcibly displaced due to the Israeli government's fascist and genocidal military operations.

More than 10 million Ukrainians have been forced to flee their homes since the start of the US/NATO vs. Russia war there.

Nearly 25 million people, half of Sudan's population, need help and some eight million have fled their homes amid the war between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. Capitalists and Imperialists, includ-

ing Saudi Arabia, Russia, and the United States, have supplied weapons to that ongoing conflict.

In the Congo (DRC), since the beginning of 2024, another 940,000 people have been displaced by the ongoing war, making the total

See END FORCED MIGRATION, page 6

Read our pamphlet:

**FIGHT FOR THE DAY WHEN NO WORKER WILL BE CALLED FOREIGNER**

[icwpredflag.org/ffde.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/ffde.pdf)

