

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



Garment workers, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2021

GARMENT WORKERS IN INDIA NEED COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, NOT ELECTIONS

BENGALURU (India), July 5— “My monthly rent of Rs 7000 (\$83) is now more than half my wages,” said Laxmi. “I work on the most demanding task of stitching collar buttons, producing thousands of shirts. If I make a small mistake in stitching, the shirt will be sold at a discount price of \$99 in the European market. I am allowed to make no more than five mistakes a month. Now you are asking me if I vote for Congress or BJP?” Laxmi was responding to the election hysteria flooding Bengaluru.

The last five years have been brutal for the garment workers. Laxmi, 43, has worked for over 20 years in the fashion industry. She and fifteen other workers attended our ICWP meeting. The hot topic was how we take advantage of the elections to build communism.

“When I see BJP, I see a bulldozer wrecking Muslims’ homes. I see BJP politicians involved in gang rapes of Dalits. I see Prime Minister Modi in a new \$250,000 suit every day,” said Arti. She was attending our meeting for the first time. “It is the same Modi who helps the billionaires like Adani and Ambani. He wants to win my vote because he claims the Hindus are in danger because of the Muslims.”

Arti did not want to vote for the BJP. Most of the 500,000 garment workers did not vote for BJP. However, she was attracted by the opposition, led by the Congress Party, which includes the CPI (Communist Party of India) and the CPM (Communist Party of India – Marxist). The leader of the Congress Party promises to defend the constitution if they come to power.

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For Capitalists, Bus Drivers and Unhoused People are Expendable

LET’S FIGHT FOR A SYSTEM WHERE ALL WORKERS ARE VALUED

LOS ANGELES (USA), July 8— “They ain’t gonna do shit! They don’t care about us. They don’t care if we get killed! Mayor Karen Bass is a liar! They aren’t going to do anything about the homeless. They spend money that’s supposed to help the homeless on themselves!” said an angry MTA (public transit) bus driver.

“They’re killing us!” said another driver.

“It’s the whole capitalist system,” a comrade said.

“Yeah. It’s the system,” the driver agreed.

MTA drivers are worried and furious. For the last few months, at least one driver each month has

been attacked (some stabbed) by a passenger. Usually a mentally ill unhoused passenger. One driver is in critical condition after being stabbed on the bus.

LA Mayor Karen Bass promised to solve the homeless crisis but has accomplished nothing. Homelessness here has climbed from 42,000 in 2022, when she was elected, to over 46,000 today. Unhoused riders are angry at the system that has abandoned them. Some mistakenly target and attack the drivers.

The rulers want drivers and passengers to blame each other. But the capitalist system, including MTA, is to blame!

Homelessness is built into capi-

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One Hour: Workers' Lives or Bosses' Profits?

WE NEED COMMUNIST PRODUCTION BASED ON SOLIDARITY AND WORKERS' QUALITY OF LIFE

EL SALVADOR, July 7— “They can't let us leave one hour early, knowing that we are on red alert?” said an outraged factory worker. “They would rather lose a human life than lose an hour of production!”

This country was in a state of high alert due to heavy rains that endangered the lives of workers and their families. Reports said that streets were flooded, with several landslides, falling trees, and that several people had died, buried by the landslides.

Capitalism's thirst for profits has caused global warming worldwide. The bosses' system, which only brings destruction and death to the working class, must be destroyed!

“All this while the profit-hungry, exploitative bosses ordered, on the fifth day of the storm, that we had to work until 3:00 in the afternoon,” said a worker. But the bosses and union leaders agreed that they would have to make up later the hour that they would miss by leav-

ing early.

Worry was growing inside the factory. Workers' residences were in very dangerous condition, making it difficult for them to return home.

The bosses' decision to reinstate this hour of work caused a lot of indignation and disagreement among the workers. About 75% of the workers did not accept it and stood up.

“We are not going to replace anything, so let them deduct the hour! We know they are money-hungry dogs!” workers shouted, leaving the garments in the machines.

All of this opened up opportunities to talk to many workers in our collective meetings about how the bosses need workers, but the workers don't need the bosses.

Industrial workers are key to communist revolution. Every ICWP action is essential to mobilize the masses for communism. In times of war, the production that generates the bosses' current wealth becomes

the strength of the imperialist armies. We need to organize the workers massively to eliminate production as a major source of the bosses' supplies for war.

Those who create everything of value are the workers. In communism, the real econ-

omy will be based on solidarity. Everything will be produced for what humanity needs collectively. It will only have a use value; there will be no exchange value.

“For the moment, we need to work for wages to survive. It is the form forced on us by capitalism. But in communism we will not be anyone's slaves. We will not work for money,” assured one worker. The Party collectives need to understand the new form of production in the communist system: We will produce, no longer for bosses' profits, but for a communist quality of life.

The workers' leadership of the International Communist Workers' Party here decided recently that we will study political economy in our upcoming political schools. How the workers in the factories produce the bosses' profits and how we will produce what is necessary to live in communism.

A comrade analyzed their factory. “In one hour, 180 units are produced per module. That is 24 production modules, which makes 4,320 units produced and packaged in that hour. Each unit of a well-known brand of shirts sells in the market for \$45.00, which adds up to a value of \$194,400 for one hour.

“In that factory there are 589 workers, women and men. The



wage paid for that hour is \$1.43 per worker, a total of approximately \$842.27. This gives a gross income to the boss of \$193,557.73 just in one hour of production by the workers!”

We also must add the purchase costs of raw materials and transportation. These factories do not pay taxes to the state, nor do they pay for basic services such as energy and water.

“For a moment, I only thought about the \$1.43 they pay me for an hour of work. But now that we are talking about it with the comrades, I realize that we are the ones who produce the profits for the bosses. We need to recruit more workers to ICWP and the struggle for communism,” said a young worker.

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Strengthening Communist Relations to Build a Mass ICWP

“We are motivated and inspired by reading the letters from our comrades in South Africa. We are doing well by breaking the divisive boundaries of capitalism by strengthening ourselves collectively,” said R.

“To advance the communist struggle within a capitalist system is no easy task. We know very well what our goal is,” commented C.

To mobilize the masses for communism, we need to build solidly based, healthy collectives of work-

ers, students, and soldiers of all genders and races. We must collectively struggle with each other to advance the fight for communism. “If we individualize, we are just broken branches, but if we unite collectively, we are an oak tree that will not break,” said A.

We must all remove the “chip” that we have been taught, contradictions that we will overcome in our struggle for a communist society, by destroying the roots of capitalism. This in turn will lead us to cultivate the new generations that are our future, with communist ideology.

We must completely eradicate this system of destruction and fight for a communist society that puts an end to the exploitation of the working class, with its wage slavery and the climate crisis.

Building ICWP is key to achieving our goals. This will happen if we are determined and consistent in our work. With the distribution and discussion of *Red Flag*, strengthening communist relations with the unity and collectivity of industrial workers, youth and soldiers as the party's revolutionary strategy to break the chains of capitalist slavery.

ICWP fights directly for communism and to develop thousands of communist leaders around the world. We do not believe in a single leader or a small group of leaders. The party fights to foster and build integrated communist relations. If you are not yet part of our party, join us and let's struggle together! Long Live Communism!

Revolutionary greetings to all our red comrades around the world!

— Comrade Readers of *Red Flag* in El Salvador



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ICWP Tells “Cancel RIMPAC” Conference Participants:

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS KEY TO CANCELING IMPERIALISM WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

LOS ANGELES (USA), July 29—“I like your idea of organizing soldiers to turn the guns around,” said a workshop participant. An Army veteran comrade had called for more purposeful organizing and mobilization of workers, soldiers, and students for communist revolution. The workshop was part of the “Cancel RIMPAC” conference in San Diego.

RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) is one of the most comprehensive war exercises, led by the US along with 28 other partners worldwide. This summer was the 29th RIMPAC exercise since 1971.

“Cancel RIMPAC” mobilized workers and students from different organizations under the banner of “Peace, Solidarity, Self-Determination! Fight for Lives, Livelihood and Sovereignty! Resist War and Militarization!” That is a lot, but it does not clearly make the connection between resisting war and the role of sailors and soldiers. Four ICWP communist veteran soldiers led a group of about a dozen comrades who put our party line on organizing in the military at the forefront of our participation in workshops and our literature tables.

“We need soldiers,” said a comrade in another workshop. “Soldiers are the sons and daughters of the

working class, and we need to reach out to them and organize.”

A participant responded, “It seems really hard to build a base with soldiers and the working class.”

“It’s really not that hard,” responded an Army veteran comrade. “Our party, ICWP, has decades of experience sending party members into the Army to organize soldiers.”

“But soldiers are already won to nationalism,” someone responded.

A second Army veteran comrade chimed in. “That’s not really true. Most soldiers enlist because this is the only way they can sustain themselves with a full-time job. And recruiters target low-income workers with limited financial resources, especially Black and brown men and women in the inner city.”

A third Army veteran comrade, in another workshop, stated that everyone in the workshop must know someone in the military. There were about 20 people there and most nodded their heads in agreement.

“We must build stronger political relationships with these soldiers and sailors that we know because they could very well be sitting next to us agreeing that imperialist wars are not worth dying for,” added the veteran comrade. “We must infiltrate armies around the world and

organize soldiers to turn the guns around!” A handful of people clapped.

A comrade made great use of our poster depicting sailors in the famous 1972 USS Constellation rebellion during the Vietnam war. The comrade

brought people to the poster, where two comrades (one a veteran) staffed a literature table.

One attendee thanked the comrade for a copy of *Red Flag*. About thirty minutes later, he came back to say, “I read the article. It reminded me of what I’ve learned about the Russian revolution and the Potemkin.” Next time, we should have a gallery walk of similar rebellions of soldiers and sailors in history.

The conference criticized imperialism as the culprit of war, but all ICWP members pinpointed the cause of imperialist war: capitalism. Comrades also linked RIMPAC exercises to genocide today and in the past.

A presenter in the Students for Justice in Palestine workshop discussed imperialism and “settler colonialism.” A comrade said that imperialism was a necessity at the highest stage of capitalism. “Settler colonialism” may be one form of imperialism, but not the only one. The genocide in Guatemala—definitely not a “settler colony”—was perpetrated by the US and Israel. She emphasized the need to get rid of capitalism and all imperialism with communist revolution..

Overall, ICWP was able to mobilize comrades along with mobilizing workers and students during the Cancel RIMPAC. We distributed hundreds of copies of *Red Flag* and of our Gaza pamphlet, and dozens of copies of our military and sexism pamphlets.



Poster shows: “Sailors Rebel Against Racism, San Diego, US 1972”

But there are more important numbers. Dozens of conference attendees gave us their contact information to stay in touch and continue receiving *Red Flag*. And we were able to provide leadership opportunities to four younger comrades, including three veterans.

What do we do next? We have already begun to reach out to our contacts and are sending them this new issue of *Red Flag*.

The real undertaking is the organizing that we do in militaries around the world. This takes strategic planning and base-building. ICWP plans to conduct a forum about organizing in the military and recruiting soldiers around the world. That includes South Africa, the US, India, and El Salvador, where we are working to build close contacts with the military.

The Cancel RIMPAC conference demonstrated the need for our presence. We are the only ones urging activists to organize soldiers, and this is the only possible way that we can cancel imperialism with communist revolution.



Read our pamphlet:

Soldiers, Sailors, Marines: Key to a Communist Workers' Revolution

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf

INDIA GARMENT WORKERS, from page 1

“For workers like Laxmi or Arti, the elections give an illusion that electoral political parties can change workers’ lives,” said an ICWP leader. “They have spent more than \$20 billion on the elections, making it the world’s most expensive election in one of the poorest countries.

“All the MPs are millionaires who defend the capitalists,” he continued. “The Constitution was written to guarantee wage slavery. We need to spread our *Red Flag* to workers to wake up their eyes. Forty percent of the MPs have a criminal record,” he said passionately. “It doesn’t matter which party they belong to.”

We have produced thousands of

leaflets in Bengaluru, Delhi, and Chennai, calling for a communist revolution and not parliamentary elections. Many workers are fed up with the high unemployment and unbearable inflation. They are looking for an alternative to the capitalist bosses’ election circus.

Working-Class Soldiers: Key to Communist Revolution

In Delhi, our collectives are very active among the youth and farmworkers. We pointed out that over 13,000 college graduates die by suicide every year. Youth unemployment is 60% and many remain unemployed for life.

Many young students join the army as the only way to survive grinding poverty. “My father’s

small land will be sold to a capitalist corporation. He will be homeless,” said a soldier. “I joined the army to support them. And the army is asking me to defend India against China? I cannot even defend my father’s land!”

This young man reads *Red Flag*. He read the ICWP pamphlet on soldiers with great interest. He said he had many friends in the army. “They are my lifelong friends. I will talk to them about this pamphlet.”

The fascist BJP did not win a majority in the Indian elections. It had to form a coalition government. The Congress and the opposition are stronger. But almost 40% of the population did not vote at all. It shows that large masses are totally dissatisfied with electoral politics.

“The bosses have their wars of

necessity – we have ours!” says our ICWP military pamphlet. The BJP fascists, with their reduced majority, are more attracted to BRICS. Modi will meet Putin in July in a world rife with talk of nuclear war. The rapid decline of the US imperialists and the rise of Chinese imperialism force all the capitalists to choose sides. The Congress party is now more aligned with US imperialism.

ICWP has our own plan of necessity. It is to organize a massive communist party from Bengaluru to El Salvador to end wage slavery. That will be accomplished by the youth building our Red Army from South Africa to the US, India, and beyond.

Communist Philosophy and Class Struggle

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS' PARTY COLLECTIVE PLANS TO DOUBLE ITS MEMBERSHIP

GQEBERHA (South Africa), June 24— “We work, work, and work, but the bosses are always trying to underpay us,” said comrade Sima, whose factory burnt down. “They give you a target and you meet it, they then increase the targets, and you meet them, but they don’t increase your money as the target increases.”

Our collective started our weekly meeting with a discussion around Dialectics, the philosophy of struggle. We were about fifteen comrades, newer and relatively older, women and men.

In these meetings we discuss the *Red Flag* and plan the week’s activities. Discussion of dialectical materialism will be ongoing as part of our communist classes. We do not just read notes and lecture. We are more interested in the thoughts of new comrades and the contradictions they have in their workplaces and in their lives in general.

Comrade Sima’s example showed the most important contradiction, which is the contradiction between the workers and the bosses.

“As we have learnt in dialectics,” comrade Sbu responded, “in capitalism there is a unity between the workers and bosses. They need us to make profit and we need them for a salary. But there is also a conflict, as the bosses need to pay us as little as possible, while we need as much as possible in order to sur-

vive.

“Therefore, the conflict side is the most important,” comrade Sbu continued. “This is the reason why under capitalism there is no rescuing of workers. The solution is the revolution, as we learnt that contradictions must be resolved.”

“We have just read from the Lenin quote,” comrade Xola interjected, “that the conflict side of the contradiction of opposites is absolute. For this same reason, reformists and union reps are lying and fooling us with their ‘let’s work together’ slogan”.

This sparked a lively discussion about unions. “I really love these dialectics already,” comrade Vuyo mentioned. “It’s my first time ever hearing about them but what is said here is true. It happens every day. Union reps have offices next to management. They spend more time with them than with us. And every time we strike or want something, they always say we must be ‘reasonable.’”

“They say that because they want to give us what the bosses want, not what we wanted,” comrade Vuyo continued. “Indeed, they work with the bosses. That’s why they always want to make it as if bosses are our friends. But we know they are planning to fire you if you talk too much during a strike”.

Comrade Sima asked a question. “Comrades, we know that these unions don’t care even if they see

what things we suffer from work. What can the party do, now?”

“Comrade we are sympathetic to the workers,” comrade Dudo answered. “However, we are not a union, and we can’t individually help workers at a certain factory for things like wages. And we do not plan like that. It would make us behave like reformists. It’s like treating the symptoms instead of getting rid of the disease.

“We have to get rid of capitalism,” comrade Dudo concluded, “and we know we cannot solve workers’ suffering by doing what unions do. That is dangerous for us and the working class. It delays us and the revolution”.

Comrade Sbu added, “That’s why we are here. This is part of the solution we bring, spreading communism and communist ideas and learning about how change happens and what we can do to change the system and the world through a communist revolution”.

“I want to recruit more and more people,” exclaimed a new comrade.

We have agreed to double our numbers by September, when we



attend the international meeting. Comrades took notes. They are enthusiastic about the *Red Flag* distribution this week and next Sunday’s meeting. After today’s active participation of all the comrades, we are getting more confident that our target of thirty is too low.

The enthusiasm continued over the next days as comrades kept calling and talking. We want to keep the momentum and overcome our own internal contradictions, because only those can hinder our progress. We continue to struggle collectively and build communist relationships with new comrades.

LOS ANGELES TRANSIT, from page 1

talism. If we can’t produce profits for them, the capitalists won’t hire us. Without a job (wage slavery), there’s no wage (money). If you don’t have the money - no matter how much you need something - you can’t have the house, the food, clothes, or medicine.

In the 1980s, many US public mental institutions were closed. They dumped hundreds of thousands of mentally ill patients on the streets. For the capitalists, unemployed and mentally ill people are expendable. So are all workers.

Today, US rulers spend \$billions on Israel’s genocide in Gaza and

war in Ukraine. Politicians don’t build hospitals for the mentally ill or use the 16 million boarded-up houses that are rotting in the US today to house homeless people. Instead, they encourage them to ride MTA buses all day.

Cops Are Not Our Friends

When drivers are attacked, they call MTA for help. They get none. When they call the cops, they take an hour and a half to get there. The only protection drivers have is a flimsy piece of plastic. But they don’t want the LA Police Department on the buses.

“MTA talked about putting plain clothes cops on the buses. We don’t want that either,” said a driver. “But it would be good if the cops were around outside the buses and could come immediately when needed.”

“The cops serve and protect the private property of the rich, not us,” answered the comrade. “When fami-

lies call 911 for a relative who is having a mental health issue, the cops often shoot that relative or another family member.”

MTA just announced plans to form a new MTA security force. But they say it will take them five years to train! They said the same thing fifteen years ago, but it never happened.

Instead of relying on the bosses’ racist cops, drivers need solidarity and unity with other drivers and regular riders to collectively keep the buses as safe as possible while fighting for a system that meets our needs.

The only way to have security is to end wage slavery and the genocidal rule of money with communist revolution. In communism, everything, including transit, will be free. Nothing will be bought or sold. Everything will be produced and distributed only to meet workers’ needs, based on comradely relations, not money.

Mass transit will be safe, clean and plentiful. Many will help transport our class wherever we need to go. Without profit or bosses, society will guarantee the safety and health of transit and all workers.

No one will be unhoused or un-

employed. There will be needed work and housing for everyone. Our collectivity, brains and labor are all we need to get to live dignified, creative and productive lives.

Communism is Humanity’s Future. Let’s Fight for It!

More drivers are reading *Red Flag*. ICWP invites them, and all readers, to join the fight for the system where no worker will be treated as expendable garbage. Where everyone will contribute what they can and receive what they need.

As the dollar loses value, as the rulers spend more on weapons to murder workers in Gaza, Ukraine, and Russia, and prepare for World War III, our situation will get worse. There will be massive rebellions. MTA workers who have been reading *Red Flag* for years can give communist leadership to the whole working class, including soldiers.

Workers can organize strikes and work stoppages against racist capitalism that makes more people homeless, puts drivers in danger, and wages genocidal wars for profit. Only communism can end these attacks. MTA workers can help organize revolution and communist society. Join us!



CAPITALIST PARTIES DIVIDED OVER IMPERIALIST LOYALTIES, UNITED IN ATTACKING THE WORKING CLASS

GQEBERHA (South Africa), July 9— “There is nothing better that this coalition will bring,” said a comrade at a meeting discussing the May 29 South African elections. “We had them govern Gqeberha. They changed mayors monthly. It brought chaos, gangsterism. We can expect the same thing again but on the national scale”.

For the first time since the end of Apartheid in 1994, the African National Congress (ANC) did not win an outright majority. It got only 40% of the vote and had to form a coalition government with the rival Democratic Alliance (DA) and smaller parties.

Many people in South Africa and around the world still view the ANC as a saviour. Or at least as a “better” evil than the DA, which they view as racist. However, the ANC is no better than the DA. They preside over the racist capitalism that has subjected millions of masses to poverty, crime, and desperation for thirty years.

Only 59% of those registered cast votes, a historic low. This is testament to the fact that most people, millions of people, reject the ANC and the capitalist racist sys-

tem it governs.

There is no difference between the ANC and the DA apart from the fact that they are backed by different groups of local and international capitalists who are in conflict. It is for this reason there was a stalemate in forming a government or cabinet, as they were trying to get departments that will enable them to better serve their respective capitalist imperialist masters.

From a communist perspective, the ANC-DA alliance reinforces the need for a truly revolutionary party, ICWP. A party that prioritizes the interest of the working class rather than compromising with the forces of oppression and the DA. This alliance clearly demonstrates that the ANC has completely abandoned its liberation roots.

Masses have already rejected the imperialist ANC-DA coalition. Our job is to mobilise for communism and win them over. We must bring the communist alternative to the



masses and grow our collectives.

We have an opportunity to win hundreds of people in just a few neighbourhoods. This starts with having a real, consistent struggle with friends, family, coworkers, and neighbours.

Some people are celebrating the loss of the ANC majority as some kind of a punishment for its neglect of the masses and its embrace of liberalism. We need to show the masses the futility of elections and the dangers of capitalism. We’ve been voting since 1994 yet nothing has changed. Or, should we say, things are changing for the worse?

Only a communist revolution led

by ICWP can end the horrors of capitalism worldwide, not just in South Africa. As more and more workers lose their jobs and more young people struggle to find work, we need to present our party as the only alternative. Only communism can free us from this brutal system.

As ICWP we must redouble our efforts in building more collectives in industrial plants and recruiting young people in schools, colleges, and universities. We must put more emphasis, too, on recruiting soldiers to the party. Without them, we can’t hope to win.

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A Glimpse of Communism: No Sexism, No Bosses

The weekend away we had with some of our comrades, old and new, was a great success. I had a glimpse of how wonderful the world will be under communism. Growing up in my culture (Xhosa), men are always praised. There are certain duties that men “can’t do” because there’s a woman around. For example, cooking, cleaning, looking after the kids, making sure the men’s needs are attended to at all times (sexism).

But this weekend away was a great experience, a wonderful time with the comrades. All of us were equal sharing the duties on our stay. Male comrades prepared food for all, and some took turns washing dishes. That is very rare because in the capitalist society we are told men are superior, along with being rich, you get more respect. But that weekend gave us a glimpse of what a com-

munist society will be like: everyone being equal, sharing of duties, no sexism, no bosses, no racism, no crime, no poverty, just a peaceful living and caring and loving one another.

We need to have more of those outings to build a stronger bond and a strong collective for bringing this capitalist society to an end. Red Salute!

—Comrade M in South Africa

Learning About Our Communist Future

I am writing with a heart full of gratitude and happiness, as I was in a trip with nine other Comrades in what I call a togetherness or unwinding weekend. I call it a togetherness because of how close we were and that is how we form unity. It was very good to have ten people talking about the same cause and enjoying learning more about the party/ movement that gave us an opportunity to be one as communists.

It also taught me that communism is the future for the next generations: to live where there are no capitalists, and everyone is equal in a very peaceful community.

I have learnt a lot during this weekend. I know with the classes that we are starting we will learn more about it. And for us to gain more comrades, we must spread more about the ICWP so that more people can be more informed

about the movement.

As we distribute and mobilize, we must look out so people can be interested in us. And having unity and patience will also benefit the movement.

I had never been on a Zoom meeting before. Being present at that meeting was a great experience for me. It didn’t feel like others were in other parts of the world. It felt like we were all in one room with a goal to fight for what we believe in and what is right for us and the next generation.

—Comrade in South Africa

Capitalist Rulers Create Homelessness and Unemployment

MTA drivers are worried. They have grown accustomed to all sorts of issues with passengers. But in the last few months there has been an increase in extreme violence against bus operators. At this moment, a few operators are out of work because they are still recuperating from aggravated assault and one operator who is barely alive. We are not sure that he is going to survive.

The USA has the highest percentage of rich people per capita in the world. Does it make you wonder why most of the workers are struggling to make ends meet? There is enough money to basically create anything, and yet the

main idea of capitalism is to scare us into believing that we are not entitled to even our basic human needs.

Everyone could be employed if the government and big business wanted to. But no; it’s best for them to create scarcity. Thereby having us stress all the time. An unchecked stress issue can turn into a mental problem.

In the 1980s, then-president Ronald Reagan cut government costs by eliminating mental health assistance for most workers and veterans. He closed mental institutions. The weather and other state governments helped create growing issues of homelessness in Los Angeles as we know it today.

Just think for a moment how smart is the Supreme Court, the “think tank” of our society that just made homelessness illegal.

Most of the out of state homeless are in tropical LA weather because they want to survive. The government agencies of those states do not want people who cannot work. Or just because they are different. A lot of them are not able to deal with the cost of living in California and end up on the street.

Capitalism creates homelessness and tries to brainwash us into believing that it is the individual’s fault.

—A retired Los Angeles MTA Driver

Read our
pamphlet:

The Communist Fight Against Sexism

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/sxse.pdf

HURRICANE BERYL: CAPITALIST DISASTER DEMANDS COMMUNIST SOLUTION

Stronger than expected. Faster than expected. Earlier than expected. And we can expect many more.

At least a dozen people died, mostly in Jamaica. Whole Caribbean islands were flattened. Neighborhoods flooded from the Cayman Islands to Yucatan to Texas.

Capitalist companies and imperialist armies continue to dump carbon from fossil fuels into Earth's atmosphere. The air heats up and we suffer unprecedented deadly heat waves. The oceans heat up and hurricanes gain strength.

Islands and coastlines flood. Marine plants and animals, which we rely on for food, die off. Millions of people must migrate from their homes, trying to survive. Wars over water and other resources kill even more civilians than soldiers.

We can't continue like this. But capitalism knows no other way. No way but competing for maximum profits off the workers' labor, whatever the cost to the environment and to workers' lives.

There is another way: communism.

How a society organizes produc-

tion shapes every aspect of life. Capitalism produces commodities to be sold to realize profits. Communism will produce necessities for workers to share according to need. Share. Not buy, sell, or barter.

Capitalist wage slavery forces workers to labor for paychecks to buy what they need – if they can. Communism will organize us to work for each other. For ourselves and our siblings and children worldwide.

Do workers need ginormous energy-gobbling servers to feed AI? No. Do workers need planes, ships, tanks, and bombs to make war on each other? No. Can workers make do with lower energy usage at home? Many of us already must!

In capitalism, like earlier class societies, "governments" are organizations of the capitalist class to rule over and suppress the masses. And to protect some group of capitalists. In communism, nobody will rule over the masses.

Instead, we'll "rule" ourselves. Today's International Communist Workers' Party will become the organization of the world's masses. No nations, no borders. Everyone who wants to build communist society will belong to a collective.



Activists protest at home of US Vice President Kamala Harris, 2024

Our web of collectives will work together to figure out what's needed – and then to carry out our plans.

Ending capitalist wage slavery will rip up the material basis of racism, sexism, xenophobia, communalism, selfishness, and so much more. How will we carry out the struggle to wipe out these evils completely? You and people like you will figure that out.

How will we mobilize masses to prepare for deadly hurricanes? To practice evacuation drills and quickly move help where it's needed. To build sturdier homes and public buildings. To relocate communities if necessary. You and people like you will figure that out.

How will we develop, create, and deploy sustainable sources of energy? You and "class-conscious" people like you will figure that out – not a few "cost-conscious" experts.

How will we mobilize the masses for armed revolution to take power and organize that communist society? You and people like you must help figure that out now!

We can't wait until we think we have all the details ironed out. The crisis is too urgent. The stakes are too high. If you agree, nothing should stop you from joining the International Communist Workers' Party today. And recruiting more people like you.

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

Capitalist Plastic Recycling: Deadly for Workers and Consumers

I live in an area where many garment workers are employed in the recycling industry. They make fibre from plastic bottles of Coke, Pepsi, and other manufacturers. These are shredded into fine particles and then a microfiber. This microfiber is used in many football (soccer) fields, paper bag replacement, rugs, artificial lawns, etc. The manufacturers of these plastic bottles get special subsidies for 'saving the environment.'

The entire neighbourhood is full of sick garment workers who are having difficulty breathing. Many show signs of lung cancer. Young people are complaining of shortness of breath.

The profit-hungry capitalists knew about the danger of microfiber, and there are some studies linking microfiber to lung cancer.

These greedy capitalists advertise these microfibers as a solution to the unbridled use of plastic bottles. They have found ways to build huge freeways using these deadly microfibers.

Capitalism can never solve the problems that it has created. Only the working class, with communist framework to eradicate the capitalists, is the solution. Our party is vigorously confronting this blood-sucking scheme to lure the work-



ing class into believing that capitalism can be good for the environment.

Capitalist greed for profit harms workers and consumers. I resolve to use *Red Flag* and distribute it to the masses. Capitalism is the enemy; communism is the solution.

—Comrade in Bengaluru (India)

To friends in South Africa: My embrace, greetings, respect, and admiration

Having the opportunity to listen to you is always an immense learning experience. With your knowledge and practical experience, you become an example. You show that our struggles are integral when, in our daily lives, we achieve a dialectical balance be-

tween all dimensions of our lives. That includes: the political, the ideological, the organizational, the spiritual (objective/subjective).

From this perspective, we make it a primary task to "know ourselves in depth" at home, in the factory, in the street, in other scenarios of social, workers', popular, student and indigenous peoples' struggles. And more: who we are, how we feel, how we think, how and from where we live, exist and relate to each other.

In synthesis, you are my great teachers, an example in praxis of this dialectical relationship between the political, the personal, the social and the cultural. The base to bring in more sisters, brothers, men and women friends, neighbors, and family members to the construction of society with a

new order and logic. One that breaks or transgresses all kinds of imposed relationships, starting from the capitalist system and its multiple expressions, which has torn and violated our identities.

This opens the possibilities of transforming ourselves to transform the world, in a community based on dialogue (discussion) under horizontal relationships and reciprocal learning. A world, a common home without borders, where there is no longer the slightest space for any trace of inequality, subordination/exploitation, or discrimination.

Together with you I have learned that our dream for equality goes beyond a precise manifesto, beyond a debate. It goes beyond our words. We sow and cultivate it so that it may bear powerful and permanent fruit every moment of our lives and in every space where we move. So that it may take the pulse of our times, rhythms, hearts, and knowledge with rigor, respect, and revolutionary love.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart! You always open my intellect and my heart to continue unraveling and weaving without borders. You are my main teachers about the struggle. I wish to be at your service, experiencing that the ocean that separates us is only a physical matter.

—Comrade in Costa Rica, Central America, June 8, 2024

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ICWPREDFLAG@NYM.HUSH.COM

Organize Workers to Fight Directly for Communism

"I work in a warehouse with about 20 people," a young woman told me at the Cancel RIMPAC conference. "How can I organize against capitalism," she asked, "when it's hard to get them to talk about politics?"

It was after a workshop about labor. The leaders said they were for communism, but they used up all the time on reformist US labor history and labor law technicalities.

Earlier, I had made sure that everyone had copies of *Red Flag*. I ran out, but someone who came in late was happy to get the ICWP pamphlet on the communist fight against sexism instead. We exchanged contact information.

The organizers claimed that unionizing workers was a step toward building "mass organizations" (like Cancel RIMPAC) and eventually toward revolution. They asked about our experiences in unions.

I disagreed. I described how the union I belong to diverts members away from revolution. It bogs us down in supporting contract negotiations and electoral politics. It gives money to capitalist politicians, including our bosses. The organizers didn't understand this (or pretended they didn't) and claimed my example supported their point!

The workshop ended without any discussion time. I stood up and invited people to stay and talk about mobilizing workers and soldiers directly for communism. The warehouse worker came right

over. Then another young woman joined us.

We talked about building solid relationships. About identifying key people. Finding out what they hated most about capitalism (possibly not even job-related). And not being afraid of sharp struggle. Of course we exchanged contact information. Within minutes, the second woman had sent me a happy-dance emoji.

Altogether that day, I met eleven people who wanted to receive *Red Flag* electronically. Some promised to share it with friends. Meanwhile, I sent the Mobilize the Masses for Communism document to several.

It was a day of great conversations about imperialism, Gaza, sexism, the working class, and organizing among soldiers and sailors. I look forward to being in touch with my new friends

—An older comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

Exposing Nationalism, Promoting Communism

"It's very inspiring seeing all of these young folks," I said to three young people before the "Cancel RIMPAC" conference started. "But I worry about these ideas about national liberation and self-determination."

"Worry about them, how?" one asked.

"It seems to me," I continued, "that from Africa to Asia, and the Americas, wherever successful national liberation movements defeated imperialists from the United States, England, France or even



Spain, if you look back at all of these liberated places, the masses live in worse conditions than they did before the revolution."

"Why do you think that happened?" another asked.

"Well," I responded, "after the successful national liberation revolutionary movements, social and economic capitalist relationships continued. Money, especially wages in exchange for labor, continued. Also, the market continued. As a result, just to name two examples, we can see the continuing misery of the Salvadoran as well as the South African masses.

"I don't want to offend any of you if you consider yourself a nationalist," I continued.

Quickly one interrupted: "You're not, I consider myself a communist." The other two chimed in: "We're internationalists".

I smiled. "Oh, great!" I continued, "Wherever and whenever we take power, we will immediately eliminate all forms of capitalist relationships and set up communist social relations. We'll do away with money and the market, no more labor in exchange for wages but rather labor to meet the collective needs of the masses, no more borders anywhere."

By this time the conference was ready to begin. We said to each other, "See you later!"

This exchange gave me confidence to speak throughout the conference and the workshops. And each time I got an opportunity to speak, the discourse got better.

In the last workshop "UC Divest – Lessons on Campus Organizing," I said again, "It's so inspiring to see all of these young people" and repeated some of the points mentioned earlier. And this time I emphasized that even though the

past national liberation movements did not get rid of capitalist relations, they proved that "we can take power and whenever and wherever that happens we will right away set up communist relations so that we can say that all of the bloodshed and sacrifices that we have made was very well worth it."

—Inspired Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

"Women and Migrants are Not Victims"

"What you said was really important," Ana (a young woman) said to an older comrade. We were leaving a workshop on international migration at the Cancel RIMPAC. "As women and as migrants we should never see ourselves as victims."

This was at the close of a very rich conversation that included feedback from a mobilization at the US-Mexico border fence the previous day. Ana had talked eloquently about the construction of the 30-foot fence. It was designed to make those who climb it dizzy and fall, resulting in serious injuries. She talked about how this reflected the US' deliberate attack on migrants and the need to organize against all borders.

Another workshop speaker, a Filipina migrant, spoke passionately about how international capitalism particularly victimizes women immigrants. How it forces them into dangerous situations, just to survive.

"Sister, comrade, we are never victims," I responded. "They can attack us, and they do, but we are not helpless victims. Women and migrants have played key roles in the class struggle throughout the history of capitalism. We have an important role in bringing it to the end with communist revolution."

Ana and I exchanged phone numbers. We'll be in contact to build a movement that fights against capitalism's sexism and xenophobia and builds for a communist revolution.

—Older Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)



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ISRAEL: ZIONIST BOSSES' CRISIS EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD ICWP

July 7 — Over fifty thousand adults and children in Gaza are dead. Ninety percent of Gazans have fled their homes — many more than once. Half a million face starvation. Health and educational institutions are in ruins. But the will to live is strong. And the Israeli ruling class, guilty of these crimes, is itself in trouble.

After October 7th, the Israeli rulers, led by Netanyahu, declared they would wipe out Hamas. This meant a sustained vicious, brutal attack on Gaza. It also meant organizing and arming fanatic Jewish settlers to attack Palestinian farmers and workers in the West Bank.

“Now, after nine months, Hamas is still entrenched,” says a new ICWP member in Israel. “And the Israeli working class finds itself in an unlivable condition.”

Mass demonstrations across Israel call for a ceasefire, a negotiated return of hostages, and immediate elections. Now Israelis are also learning that the IDF (Israeli “Defense” Forces) implemented tactics on October 7 that caused an uncounted number of the Israeli deaths that day.

Israel was already in decline by 2022. Prolonged infighting among political parties had created an obvious, serious, crisis. The audacious attack by Hamas highlighted this crisis. Hamas operatives also compromised Israeli strategic intelligence. The IDF was unable to recover its assets for months.

Hamas fully expected a long war and did not care about the masses getting killed. Their long-term aim, backed by the Iranian rulers, was to expel the Israel/US axis from the Middle East. Chinese and Russian imperialists, who stand to gain, supported this objective.

The so-called “axis of resistance” includes Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, and Hamas. It has a strategy of slowly ‘bleeding’ Israel. This has been more effective

than a full-fledged all-out war.

For example, Israel depends heavily on electricity generated from imported coal. Over half that coal came from Colombia — which now refuses to sell it to Israel. South Africa is another major supplier, though the best South African coal goes to Germany. Houthi control of access to the Red Sea means that South African coal can only get to Israel the long way, up Africa’s west coast and through the Mediterranean.

All-out war with Hezbollah could take the whole system down within days. Prolonged power outages would render Israel unlivable. Transportation, water supply, communications, banking, commerce, and food refrigeration would all be impacted. Israel’s “Iron Dome” probably couldn’t stop this.

Israel has never seen a war this long. To continue it, IDF had to mobilize 300,000 reservists, mostly from Israel’s critical IT sector. This contributes to a deepening slump. Many Israeli IT and travel industry workers are leaving the country.

There is a complete collapse of the construction industry, resulting in skyrocketing prices. Hostilities with Hezbollah have also led to the withdrawal of 100,000 workers in the North. Israeli rulers try to hide the outflow of Israeli workers. But an estimated half a million had already left Israel and the trend has accelerated. Possibly 2.5 million Israelis have permanently left.

Israeli bosses no longer hire Palestinian workers, creating mass unemployment and simultaneously a critical labor shortage. The settler fascists are trying to fill the long-term gap by having a lot of babies. It will be a long time before they become new workers to match the skills of displaced construction and agricultural workers.

Meanwhile, Israeli capitalists are recruiting workers in India. These workers probably aren’t told they

will be deployed in high-risk areas. Nor that Israel has a history of mistreating and super-exploiting Thai and other immigrant workers.

Israel’s Defense Minister has said publicly that Netanyahu’s goal of destroying Hamas cannot be attained. But if the Army is ordered to continue fighting in Gaza, and to prepare to confront Hezbollah head-on, it needs more soldiers.

The IDF itself has a recruitment and enlistment crisis. Growing numbers of reservists are refusing to return to Gaza. Some say publicly that the Israeli government is “endangering our lives and the lives of innocents in Rafah.” Israeli hospital waiting rooms are overflowing with recent veterans suffering from PTSD. Other veterans are dying by suicide.

The IDF is trying to organize a new brigade of 40,000 fighters. They plan to draft ultra-Orthodox yeshiva students who were exempted until a recent High Court ruling. This has sparked protests and threatens to fracture Netanyahu’s ruling coalition, which relies on the ultra-Orthodox parties.

The US Biden administration, now comatose, has continued to enable genocide in Gaza by supplying the weapons Israel uses there. It plans a warm welcome for the butcher Netanyahu. But as early as 2022, the Israeli ruling class was looking for a different partner. Netanyahu had built a solid relationship with the Chinese imperialists. China is Israel’s second-largest trading partner after the European Union and a major supplier of coal. Netanyahu also called Putin his “great friend.”

“Israeli and Palestinian workers are showing early signs of massive resistance leading to rebellion,” said the Israeli comrade. “The prospect of building the International Communist Workers’ Party is brighter. Now it is time to seize the opportunity.”

GAZA:

IS IT GENOCIDE?

Hind Rajab, 6, was trapped in a car with family members who had been shot dead by Israeli troops. Two paramedics went in an ambulance to try to rescue her. Israeli soldiers murdered all three.

They are among nearly 40,000 Gazans reported dead. An estimated 10,000 or more are still buried, uncounted, in the rubble.

The British medical journal *Lancet* notes, “Armed conflicts have indirect health implications beyond the direct harm from violence.

“Even if the conflict ends immediately,” it continues, “there will continue to be many indirect deaths in the coming months and years from causes such as reproductive, communicable, and non-communicable diseases.”

Lancet says that, in recent conflicts, indirect deaths are three to fifteen times the number of direct deaths. It estimates that the actual number of deaths in Gaza could ultimately add up to 186,000 or far more.

That would be over 8% of Gaza’s prewar population. Already some families have lost 150 or more members. Obviously, it’s not in the interest of the Israeli rulers to publicize these numbers. Nor of Hamas, which did nothing to prepare the Gaza masses for what was coming.

In 2017, Hamas declared its goal of liberating Palestine “from the river to the sea.” Forty years earlier, the Zionist Likud party had used that very phrase: “Between the Sea and the Jordan there will only be Israeli sovereignty.” Israeli politicians repeat it today, while libeling anti-Zionist protesters as “antisemitic.”

The facts on the ground are clear. The Israeli rulers are deliberately blocking food from Gaza. They are targeting health workers. Funded and supplied by the US Biden administration, with full bipartisan support, they are conducting a genocidal war on the Gaza masses.



ISRAEL, July 7-- Mass protests mark the nine-month anniversary of the war on Gaza.

Read our
pamphlet:

**Genocide in Gaza
Demands
Communist
Revolution**

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/gaze