

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

THE POWER OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS



SOUTH AFRICA:

MASS DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNIST LITERATURE BUILDS CONFIDENCE AND ENERGIZES NEW COMRADES

GQEBERHA/PORT ELIZABETH (South Africa), December 7—Our collective had a successful *Red Flag* distribution around the township of Korsten, where there are all kinds of “races” including Indians, Somalis, Pakistanis, and Lebanese. We had planned to do a protest, but some comrades that would have loved to join us could not because of work-related issues. So, we had to opt for a distribution instead.

It was our first time doing this in a multiracial area. Thirteen comrades (nine women and four men) distributed many copies of *Red Flag*. It was also the first time that women comrades took the leading role.

A lot of new comrades partici-

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pated. They all had positive feedback and shared how excited they were with the experience, seeing that it was their first time distributing Red Flags.

Comrade N said, “I wish we can do this more often. It was so exciting, and I can’t wait to receive more newspapers, so we do this again.”

Comrade A added, “I’m so grateful to be a part of ICWP because we are different from all the political parties that we have here in South Africa. We don’t promise people a better lifestyle just for votes, but we promise change for all, and change has to start with us for us.”

Comrade P said, “I’m so glad, too, to be in ICWP. I can see

From India to El Salvador and Beyond:

COMMUNIST GARMENT WORKERS UNITE THEIR LIVES WITH THE OPPRESSED MASSES

BENGALURU (India), December 13—“When I was 17, I came to Bengaluru from a small village in the north,” said Parvati. “I had never seen a city in my life. I borrowed all my parents’ money to rent a shared room in a slum. The next week, I got a job in a garment factory. For four years, I worked in a factory producing thousands of shirts. When I saw that I could not even save enough money to send a shirt to my little brother, I cried all night.”

Parvati told her story at the beginning of our recent ICWP meeting. It started a very insightful discussion about why we must build our party.

“What brought me to my first ICWP meeting was somebody was

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distributing *Red Flag*,” she continued. “Because I had cried all night, my eyes were red and swollen. I could not read anything. However, the *Red Flag* distributor took the time to talk to me. I was so distraught.

“The next day, I started to read *Red Flag*. I saw a story of garment workers in El Salvador. I thought they were talking about me! In that story, a garment worker said, ‘I have a fever, but I have to go to the factory like this. So, I take a pill, and I go inside.’”

Parvati remembers that many of her coworkers have to go to work sick. They have left their newborn babies behind in the slums. The El Salvador article said that this is ruthless capitalism. The capitalist

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Imperialists and National Capitalists Fight Over Syria

WE NEED TO OVERTHROW ALL WARMAKING EXPLOITERS WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

December 16— In Syria, a coalition of military units led by the Islamist Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) just toppled the Assad government. This makes an already unstable war-torn world even more dangerous.

There are increasing chances for direct confrontations between major regional capitalists and among the major imperialist powers. There is greater opportunity and need for workers' communist revolution. That begins with building collectives of the International Communist Workers' Party.

Masses in Syria are celebrating the downfall of the brutal, hated Assad regime while anxiously searching for survivors of its hellish prisons. The regime's own soldiers massively deserted in the face of the rebel offensive.

However, under the new HTS rulers, the Syrian masses will remain exploited and repressed. HTS will continue to count on sectarian and ethnic divisions among the masses. But if workers and soldiers fight instead for communist internationalism, they will lead the way for many more in the region and worldwide.

Assad's main support had come from Iran and Russia. Israel had weakened Iran and Hezbollah. Russia remains mired in Ukraine. The HTS victory is another blow to Iran's "axis of resistance."

Iranian workers say that the US-led sanctions and consequent inflation are literally killing the masses there. There are many strikes, usually unreported. Masses blame the Iranian rulers' huge military spending. Even some Iranian soldiers are growing resentful of years of war.

This is an opportunity for us to convince masses in Iran, Syria, and beyond to fight to end imperialist wars with communist revolution. And to build a communist society that meets the masses' needs. We must reach out to everyone we know with ties in the area and ask them to help our party grow.

Capitalist and Imperialist Powers Seek to Profit from Syria Crisis

The US-backed Zionist military is grabbing more land for Israel in southern Syria. It massively de-



stroyed Syrian military stockpiles and its navy (but didn't touch the Russian navy).

The US has moved more troops into oil-rich, Kurdish-controlled northeast Syria. It has launched air strikes there. An entire US naval Carrier Strike Group is offshore. All this strains relations with European allies who are eager to do business with Syria's new rulers.

Even the US rulers are in direct contact with HTS. In short, they can't get out of the Middle East even if they want to.

Türkiye's rulers are, so far, the big winners. They openly back the Syrian National Army (mainly against Kurdish forces) and covertly backed HTS. Türkiye is a US ally in NATO, but also a member of the China-led BRICS trade group. How long can it play on both sides?

Russian imperialism is strategizing to cut its losses in the region and regroup while prioritizing Ukraine. China's imperialist rulers are poised to profit. Perhaps they hope to sit out most of the war and win the peace, as US imperialism did in World War I.

None of those murderers is any worker's friend!

There will be war and more war. No worker or soldier should fight for any of these profit-hungry vultures. We must turn their imperialist wars into communist revolution as the Bolsheviks did in Russia in 1917.

Lessons of the Arab Spring: Fight for Power, Build Communist Society

A series of anti-government protests, uprisings, and armed rebellions rocked the Arab world in 2011-2012. This "Arab Spring" responded massively to poverty and corruption. It toppled the governments of Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, and Yemen. US imperialism backed this movement.

The Arab Spring sparked the ongoing civil war in Syria. Türkiye, the Gulf states, the US, Israel, Russia, and Iran all jumped in.

The newly formed International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) said then:

The audacity, courage, and innovation of the Arab Spring inspired masses around the world. It demonstrated once again that history is made by the masses in motion. Nevertheless it also demonstrated that without taking power, everything is illusion.

The masses need the leadership of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) to destroy the old state machinery. Only this can create conditions that allow new social relations between human beings to flourish. Otherwise, any movement, however

massive and effective, will find itself confronted with the evils that it fought against—only more sophisticated and better prepared to defend themselves from the masses....

We must learn from the lessons of the past, how to take power and build the communist society that workers in the region and around the world need.

All still true! And now there are ICWP *Red Flag* collectives in Tel Aviv and Gaza, South Africa, India, El Salvador, the USA, and elsewhere.

We ask every Party collective, every *Red Flag* reader, to help take advantage of this critical moment. What can you do now to step up the fight for communism?

Nationalism and Inter-Imperialist Rivalry in Northeast Syria

December 15— What is the Syrian Democratic Force, the Kurdish forces allied with the US in Syria?

Why do anarchists and western leftists support Rojava—the Kurdish-led Autonomous Administration in North and East Syria?

READ THE REST OF THIS ARTICLE ON OUR WEBSITE:
ICWPREDFLAG.ORG



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ISRAEL: COMMUNISM CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

We meet every Sunday in our apartment building to discuss *Red Flag*. Yesterday, eight people came to our weekly meeting. We had just heard that Assad had been overthrown in Syria. Everyone wanted to know what *Red Flag* would say about this.

We know many reservists and conscripts who are in combat duty. A close friend told us that an IDF (Israeli "Defense" Forces) soldier sent an SOS message to his family saying he was contemplating suicide. He saw the masses of starving people who were so feeble that they could not even ask for food or water.

This tragic story captured everyone's attention. A comrade said, "The choice is obvious. Genocide by starvation and suicide, drug abuse by IDF, or ending the very



source of wars; that is, capitalism. *Red Flag* trains all of us to choose communism to end this unending devastation."

People who were at our apartment kept discussing *Red Flag*. But on Wednesday night, we got the news that IDF was advancing

in Syria. The TV channels in Israel reported that IDF was on the outskirts of Damascus.

It is no surprise that the Assad regime has collapsed. The brutality of capitalism saves no one. An average soldier in Syria earns \$7 a month, and a general makes \$200

monthly. They had no desire to fight.

We look at IDF. Last month, only 75% of soldiers reported to combat duty. It used to be 100%. Now, many soldiers are tired, worn out, and depressed. They don't see any victory that the extreme right wing is claiming.

What we learned from our continuous discussions is that we can change the world so that no capitalist bloodsuckers can survive. And the change we want is the destruction of capitalism: NO IDF, NO Hamas—only the

Red Army. The Red Army and the masses will create a new communist society where Palestinians and Jews will unite to give life without hunger or starvation, and with a communist harmony for all.

—Comrades in Israel

Iranian Masses Fed Up with War and Economic Hardship

In India recently, I met many people who had been to Iran. The Iranian regime has made it easy for Indian citizens. Cheap flights, very cheap food, hotels, and travel expenses make Iran very attractive for many Indian travelers.

They, and some of the *Red Flag* readers in Iran, have said that the US and European Union sanctions, and the extraordinary rise in living expenses, are literally killing the masses in Iran. Inflation is unprecedented. Daily strikes go unreported, but there are many of them. The major strikes in the last year were by oil workers, nurses, and steel workers.

People in Iran resent huge military spending. They see it as food taken out of their mouths. In 2021, Iran increased soldiers' salaries by 50% to calm uneasiness and growing resentment among them.

Earlier this year, there were "tit-for-tat" missile attack exchanges

between Iran and Israel. But Iran didn't answer Israel's second round of attacks. Its rulers only said they would act "with fierce determination at a time of their choosing."

Iranian oil facilities are sitting ducks for the Israeli "Defense" Forces (IDF). Military installations guarded by nuclear sites are more complex. However, the Israeli attack was a warning that the next round would target the oil facilities.

The fact that the Iranian rulers held back emboldened the IDF which went for blitzkrieg in Lebanon. Their main aim was to cut off supply lines from Iran to Syria. These routes supplied arms from Iran to Hezbollah and to the Palestinian West Bank. After the IDF defanged Hezbollah, the vultures were hovering and the hyenas lurking around Syria.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz, citing the Wall Street Journal, reported that the incoming Trump administration is contemplating a

nuclear strike on Iran. That was his stated goal during his first term as US president.

How will the Iranian regime respond now? How does China see this escalating war? These are the big questions.

It seems that the Western powers made many attempts to foment "color revolutions" in Iran.

The Iranian masses are fed up with unending wars. The Israeli rulers can barely hide their hatred

for the working class, not only in Gaza and the West Bank but also from Iran to Syria and even in Israel itself.

Wherever we wage a consistent struggle around communism, it can and will have a tremendous effect on the working class. It can rouse them to end World War III with a communist revolution.

—Comrade traveler



Iran: Nurses on strike, September 2024

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bosses make a profit from us. That is why we cannot send a shirt to our children. Our kids are sick and hungry, and we have to report to work when we are ill. The only thing for us to do is to destroy this ghastly system.

Building the International Communist Workers' Party

Many workers are attracted to the idea of organizing to change the system. Parvati and other workers have joined a local garment workers union. Every contract season, the union demands more wages, better working conditions, and pen-

sion funds. Every time they settle for less. Inflation eats away at the wage increases. It is an unending cycle that takes us nowhere.

Recently, the bosses have been trying to recruit more garment workers here. They say that we need to produce more garments. According to them, workers in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are "lazy and don't want to work. They protest every day. So, we have to work hard because Christmas season demands are heavy."

Many of the women at our meeting know about our organizing ef-

orts to build ICWP in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. "The lazy people are the capitalist bosses who sit in their air-conditioned rooms," they say. "They don't even know how to stitch. Our misery is their joy."

We have to spread our *Red Flag* to many of these garment factories in Bengaluru. We distribute around five hundred copies, but there are 250,000 workers in our area.

We learned from Parvati's example that we must listen to the workers. Their lives must become part of our lives. We oppressed people can feel the pain and suffering of the

capitalist system. And when we become part of their lives, we are building for communism and spreading *Red Flag*.

Parvati reminded us that our numbers will grow if we do this work consistently. She said she is a different person from when she met us four years ago. Now, she is more confident in talking to other workers about communism.

From Bengaluru to San Salvador and from Dhaka (Bangladesh) to Colombo (Sri Lanka), we are spreading the *Red Flag* of communism.

Vigilantism Won't End Capitalist Healthcare or Any Workers' Problems

ONLY COMMUNISM CAN PROVIDE THE UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE ALL WORKERS NEED

USA, December 14— “I believe everyone is focusing too much on the killer instead of what he was fighting for. There’s way more issues in our society than healthcare, but I think he got the conversation started,” a student told their teacher as they discussed the killing of the CEO of UnitedHealthcare.

Luigi Mangione, the man arrested for the killing, has sparked mass vocal anger among US workers. Many call him a martyr, a hero who took drastic action to expose the corruption and greed of the healthcare system. For the capitalists, especially the liberal media, his actions are an unjustifiable crime. But communist analysis brings clarity to this situation.

Mangione is not a martyr. He is a vigilante, fed up with a healthcare system that has failed millions of workers including him. Acts like his show profound lack of confidence in the working class. They impede our ability to mobilize for communism. But the outpouring of support has revealed the working class’s true feelings towards the elite.

Workers have called the McDonald’s worker a snitch for tipping off the police. This reaction comes from workers’ frustration. We know all too well the brutal reality of the healthcare system designed to profit from our suffering. We pay into it every year, only to be denied life-saving care when we need it most.

“I’m not saying what he did was right, but I understand why he was so angry,” another said in class.

Liberal Media Can’t Grasp Class Contradictions

The liberal media struggles to un-

derstand Mangione’s actions. Their “never kill anyone” moralizing reveals a deep disconnection from workers’ struggles. Their outrage reflects their inability to grasp the scale of the suffering felt by so many who live in a system that rewards corporate greed over human dignity. The media fail to see that Mangione’s act was not mindless violence but a response to the crushing weight of inequality and a medical system that treats our lives as expendable commodities.

Mangione came from a privileged background but eventually saw the inequities of capitalism. His actions reflect the contradictions in capitalist society. Although he was not a revolutionary, Mangione was motivated by a growing awareness of the failures of capitalism. He saw firsthand the devastating impact of healthcare CEOs, like the one he killed, who use their power to deny essential care to millions through AI programs.

However, we must also acknowledge the reality: Mangione’s symbolic act will not change the system. UnitedHealthcare will replace their CEO with another, and the corporate machine will continue to run.

The root problem— capitalism that incentivizes corporate greed— remains firmly in place. The essential issue remains unsolved: how do we ensure that all workers have access to life-saving healthcare?

“The rulers actually want healthcare reform, like Medicare for all,” said a comrade. “Like eliminating some of the obscene profit for health insurance companies and having most doctors work for them instead



During the Cultural Revolution in China, healthcare was transformed. These barefoot doctors worked alongside their fellow peasants and brought lifesaving healthcare to them. The left in the Cultural Revolution fought for many aspects of communism: to abolish money and wages, to serve the masses.

of tons of separate offices, billing, and insurance companies. Then they can more efficiently ration healthcare.”

“Yes,” another comrade replied. “So they can keep young working-age people healthy and cut care to older people who are retired.”

As long as we have capitalism, which is profit based, we will not get the universal healthcare we need. The answer is clear: we must dismantle the capitalist system that led us to this point and replace it with something radically different. We need communism.

In communism there will be no money. No buying and selling anything. We’ll produce the necessities of life and share them based on need. Healthcare will not be a commodity

but a part of collective life.

Mangione’s act is an isolated incident, an individual outburst of rage in the face of capitalism. Until we are mobilized massively to uproot capitalism with communist revolution, the healthcare crisis and all other symptoms of capitalism will persist. It won’t matter how many CEOs are replaced or how many lose their lives.

cannot strike out on our own. We must be organized in fighting a fight we can win collectively. The students who participated in the classroom discussion asked about *Red Flag* (which they saw outside school). They and others like them can be recruited to the solution: joining the International Communist Workers’ Party.

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clearly now because I know that I’m being exploited at work and treated unfairly because of the colour of my skin. That proves to me that racism, sexism, and hard labour are a part of capitalist soci-

ety. And in order for us to live and enjoy life peacefully, the option and chance we have is to be a part of communism.”

“I was afraid that the event wasn’t going to be a success,” said

comrade AL. “Even the weather, it almost rained. But what a success! Yoooh!” she exclaimed. “Comrade Q pushed so much. We managed to distribute Red Flags to different ‘races.’ We need to do that more often next year. People in Korsten are interested in learning more about the party. We showed them the contact to write to the website.

“Even new Comrades were excited during the distribution, hoping for great results and commitment as we struggled for communism,” AL concluded.

We have agreed that, going forward, the need to spread the word and have classes about communism is much more important, building confidence. And all comrades learning about the differences between Capitalism and Communism so they can easily build masses is the main issue that needs to be tackled.

We have learned that not everyone is going to see this vision that we have as communists. The masses will agree and partake. They

will question and challenge our ways of doing things. That is why we need to be consistent with regular meetings, reading of *Red Flag*, and the writing of articles and letters.

“The journey of being a communist is not easy,” reflected Comrade Q. “One goes through challenges among the comrades that they struggle with. Being committed comes with challenges, consistency, and patience. The comrades can easily disappoint you and cancel on last minutes without even having a valid reason. Some are around just to test your leadership role and how much heat you can take. That requires one to be calm, dedicated, persistent, and confident with what you are doing.

“The vision that you have needs to be clear to everyone,” she continued. “That way you can never be easily shaken, but the challenges are there to see how much you have grown and how certain you are being a communist.”

Together we can!! Red Salute!



“REUNIFICATION OF TAIWAN”: WHAT KIND OF UNITY?

The Chinese imperialist rulers say that “Taiwan is a sacred part of China.” Capitalist, imperialist President Xi Jinping once said, “Only when the country and the nation are good will the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait be good.”

The rulers talk of unity, but their plans will result in the deaths of workers in both mainland China and Taiwan. **The rulers want the masses to unite with them for war.**

For mainland Chinese workers and their children (wherever they live), who grew up with this idea, this nationalist ideology is hard to defeat. Especially since capitalist leaders sound as if they are actually promoting unity for something positive. But what kind of unity are they really promoting?

After the Chinese revolution, before the present capitalists took over, **the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) supported working-class internationalism.** When the victorious Red Army, led by the CCP, took power in 1949 in China, US-backed Kuomintang capitalist dictator Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan with his defeated army and supporters. The Kuomintang took over Taiwan and subjugated the masses there to their rule. The communist Red Army tried to invade Taiwan to liberate the Taiwanese masses. But they were stopped by the US imperialist naval ships that sailed through the Taiwan Strait to prevent that.

More than forty years after Mao’s death, the current Chinese imperialist rulers again advocate “reunification” of Taiwan — this

time, for their imperialist war plans. However, like in all capitalist wars, the capitalist rulers will draft mainland Chinese workers into the military to kill working-class siblings in Taiwan whom the Chinese rulers view as “separatist.”

The small island of Taiwan has been a bone of contention between the US and Chinese rulers since 1949. The Chinese imperialist rulers want to use Taiwan to launch their blue-water navy into the Pacific Ocean and worldwide. The US imperialists are desperate to prevent this by encircling China. They are arming the Taiwanese independence government with military weapons and soldiers, just like they are funding the Ukrainian fascist government. The imperialists will potentially escalate these regional wars into a nuclear World War III, which would be disastrous for all humanity and Planet Earth.

The “reunification” war would damage the economies and negatively impact the working-class in mainland China, Taiwan, the US, the Philippines, and beyond. Many workers and soldiers would be killed. The working class would become even poorer, while the capitalist warmakers would become richer. It is the workers who suffer in every capitalist war. Working-class families are torn apart forever.

Schools, serving the capitalists, teach racism, nationalism, and patriotism to win the masses to support imperialists. Nationalism unites workers and capitalist exploiters together. It divides workers against workers. The greatest death toll from nationalism comes from

imperialist wars, where workers are mobilized to do “our patriotic duty” to kill other class brothers and sisters for the capitalists’ profits.

Working class unity and “national unity” are opposite types of unity. Working class unity means that mainland Chinese, Taiwanese, US, and all workers recognize our common class interests and turn the guns on our respective ruling classes.

“National unity” means uniting workers and capitalists in mainland China and Taiwanese supporters of “reunification” together to kill and displace Taiwanese workers who disagree with the Chinese ruling class propaganda.

Working-class communist internationalism.

Workers and capitalists never have common interests, no matter what lies the rulers spout. We workers are wage slaves. We work for a wage to survive. The capitalists are social parasites who exploit, brutalize, and murder workers. They make wars for maximum profits and control of markets. Together, the workers of the world are our brothers and sisters. We share the common class interest of ending wage slavery, imperialist wars, genocides, and exploitation everywhere.

Real communism will eliminate all nations, borders, classes, money,



and wages. It will abolish all racist, nationalist divisions. Capitalist ideologues posing as scientists promote the lie that “race” and “nationality” are biological realities. In contrast, communist science will show there is only one race, the human race.

In communism, we will work, live, and make decisions collectively. We will share the fruits of our collective labor to meet everyone’s needs. Real communism will allow us to consciously choose communist collectivity and develop our full human potential.

For more on this topic, see :
The Nazi Anschluss of Austria: German Fascist Expansionism for World War II Was Like China’s Promised “Re-Unification” with Taiwan
 at icwpredflag.org

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South Korean Friend Explains Crisis There and Shares Red Flag Here

I have known a friend from South Korea for more than thirty years. We became friends when we both worked on a project to design a computer system for standardized testing for K-12 schools. She knew that I was a communist. While she had seen our communist literature, she did not show much interest.

After I left the company, I kept in

touch with her. We would meet at least once a year and discuss family, kids, and friends. We enjoyed our lunch of Korean food.

On December 3rd, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeon declared martial law. I immediately called my friend to discuss the crisis in South Korea.

She said that while many people in the US were surprised by the event, there were signs of impending crisis for a long time. A Samsung worker, Choi, committed suicide in 2014 over harsh conditions and

oppressive labor laws. In response, six thousand Samsung workers went on an indefinite strike.

Fierce demonstrations of Samsung

workers are ongoing in South Korea over unbearable living conditions. In 2023, they staged the largest demonstration in 56 years. They also went on strike in July 2024.

My friend said that the working class in South Korea was stunned by the genocide in Gaza. It reminded many of the civil war in Korea. An estimated three million people were killed, and the US imposed military rule over South Korea in 1953.

Many workers in South Korea resent the continued presence of the US military base. They see it as a continuation of US/Japanese imperialism. Many demonstrations took place in South Korea to oppose genocide in Gaza. They galvanized large numbers of Samsung and Hyundai workers to strike.

There is a growing sentiment among South Korean workers to support Russia. South Korean capitalists led by Samsung are prohibited from selling Russia electronic chip technology, which is crucial in making drones. When Putin of Rus-

sia decided to send some North Korean troops to fight in the Ukraine war, it created panic in right-wing President Yoon, who people see as a US puppet. But workers need to understand that imperialist Russia is not their friend either.

The views expressed by my friend give me courage to struggle with her. Many people like her sympathize with the idea of Korean unification. There is no unification until the working class is united under communism. When I said this, she sincerely wanted to know how to achieve the communism we discussed.

I gave her a copy of the ICWP Gaza pamphlet. She was so eager that she read it while we were having lunch. I also showed her *Red Flag* and talked about our work in other countries. She gladly took five copies of *Red Flag* for her friends. Her insightful thinking gives us ammunition to struggle with millions on how to build our party.

—Comrade in California (USA)



Samsung workers on strike, 2024

Fight over Mining in El Salvador

COMMUNISM WILL USE NATURAL WEALTH FOR THE MASSES' NEEDS, NOT FOR PROFIT

EL SALVADOR, December 12— “We, the working class, are the only ones who can make a difference! We are the majority. United we can end this oppressive and murderous system!” said D. “In our meetings, we have discussed *Red Flag*. We know that we need to organize ourselves with more commitment. The revolutionary struggle to mobilize the masses for communism is urgent.”

Fascist President Bukele has highlighted the economic potential of the mining industry. According

to him, gold deposits in El Salvador are worth more than \$131 billion, That is equivalent to 380% of the national GDP. He claims that the ban on gold mining is “absurd.” He claims that El Salvador is the only country in the world with such a policy.

“Look at the hypocrisy of the fascist Bukele!” A commented. “He says that we have natural wealth due to our location in the so-called Ring of Fire, which must be taken advantage of by reversing the mining ban to supposedly ‘create thousands of jobs and promote the development of local economies.’”

What actually motivates Bukele and all capitalists is their thirst for profits and desire to magnify their bags of gold. The danger is growing for everyone who lives where there is gold, silver, and other metals.

The capitalists/imperialists care little about the environmental damage caused by the projects they develop, both in mining and hydrocarbons. They don't care about the exploited working class.

“None of them is a lesser evil. All capitalist rulers seek to become the greatest power with the most commercial power. Hence all these imperialist wars that we are suffering, so much genocide. And it makes us reflect: How much is the life of the working-class worth in this system?” asked J.

Red Flag reported on the five community leaders of Santa Marta who were imprisoned for being the main force behind an anti-mining law passed in March 2017. After many protests and without grounds for their apprehension, they were released after more than a year. Their freedom did not last at all. The



Garment workers from L.A. & Bangladesh
Let's destroy wage slavery

Comrade Don Juan Presente!

Our beloved comrade spent a big part of his life fighting against capitalism and fighting for communism. He worked in the garment industry in Los Angeles. His spirit and his dedication will continue to inspire our struggle.
Long live communism!

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

Communist Revolution Is the Only Escape from Stress and Fear

We, the masses are not safe anywhere under capitalism. With the victory of Donald Trump, a wave of fear has spread in the different media about the massive deportations that he assures that he will carry out under his “mandate.”

I have had opportunities to talk about this issue with workers from different parts of Latin America. With each of them, we have concluded that we live with repression in any part of the world.

There is fear that here in the US, they will come to our workplaces, and we will be deported, separating us from our children and other family members. This is the same fear that one feels when arriving in El Salvador and becoming one more of Nayib Bukele's prisoners. And likewise in every country, no

matter which electoral political party is in power, the measures are just as repressive.

This situation is stressful for anyone. But we cannot remain as victims. Instead, we need to become fighters against fascism and for a communist world. We have to convert that feeling of fear into communist class consciousness, anger, and struggle. We need to see that it doesn't matter if we go back to our countries of origin. We must continue to do the work, devoting ourselves to it with much more commitment.

Those who deport us will be sending organizers to different parts of the world to fight for communism. Because only in a communist world without borders will no one, including the children, be committing a crime by seeking a better life.

—Comrade now in the USA

ruling was annulled, and they will go to trial in 2025. Always for capitalist interests.

Now, due to Bukele's decision, three hundred people demonstrated on December 10 outside the legislative seat. They demanded that the deputies not repeal the law that prohibited metal mining. They shouted, “for life, no to mining” and “gold isn't for drinking, water is!” Police prevented the demonstrators from reaching the headquarters.

Despite the constant protests, there is no response. In a capitalist system, gold is worth more than life. Profits are worth more than the working class and the environment. We don't need to fight for reforms – that's not the solution. The only solution is to fight for communism.

ICWP fights directly for communism, for eliminating everything that capitalism has created. To wrest power from the capitalists. “Power to the working class!” We do not want to change capitalist politicians, nor any reform.

Mobilizing the Masses for Communism: The Only Solution

We all concluded that workers, like soldiers, are all our class sib-

lings. They are exploited and turned into cannon fodder for the capitalists' profits.

Therefore, we must fight to completely eradicate this system of destruction and fight for communism. Communism will end environmental degradation, exploitation of the working class, and wage slavery.

In *Red Flag* letters and articles, we see how our comrades in South Africa expose how miners risk their lives every day. The conditions in which they live. They inspire us with their struggles to unify us and fight against all this injustice. This encourages us to resist and fight.

Capitalism will not stop exploiting these miners and mines, which sicken and kill masses with their water pollution. We have to fight for communism, where we will only use the resources that are needed to improve the lives of workers, not to enrich any exploiter.

The whole working class can unite and fight massively with ICWP to end capitalism. To eradicate it definitively and build communism. Join our ICWP party, help distribute *Red Flag*. Let's organize for communism!



LOS ANGELES (USA), December 18— Comrades and friends of ICWP participate in pro-immigrant march to the US federal immigration detention center. Workers and activists eagerly took all the literature they brought, three hundred copies of *Red Flag/Bandera Roja* and twenty-five copies of our pamphlet *Fight for the Day When No Worker Will Be Called 'Foreigner.'*

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Communists Must Prepare Workers for War and Revolution

The comrade in Canada raises an important question in a letter (previous issue of *Red Flag*) that says we should stop saying that World War III is imminent. The comrade points out that communists have been making that declaration for decades and yet the whole world is not yet again inflamed in a singular conflict as it was from 1914-1918 and again from 1941-1945.

Well, comrade, I beg to differ. The very definition of imperialism has war as an essential component. What did Belgium do to workers in the Congo? Mass murder. Britain in India? Murder of millions. France in Africa from Algeria to Morocco. Spain throughout Latin America, Portugal in Brazil, Russia in Poland, Japan in Korea, the US throughout its “own” territory and Central and South America, the Philippines, Hawaii. The list goes on—centuries of imperialist war and plunder taking and destroying the lives of hundreds of millions, perhaps billions. The competition that is the lifeblood of imperialism is the destruction of the world’s working class.

We are communists. We seek to lead the workers of the world. Our responsibility is to be out front, even at times possibly premature, in our call to organize the masses. It is our charge to warn, organize, educate, and struggle. If not us, then who? We would be useless to workers if we twiddle our thumbs and debate just how bad things are.

The fact is that there are wars on virtually every continent. These are not minor skirmishes but all-out battles reflecting major existential struggles between major imperialist camps. The world is awash with huge, never before existing, weapons of “mass destruc-

tion” already doing phenomenal murder and misery. Not to the imperialist masters but to the very workers we seek to mobilize to overthrow the source of their exploitation, wage slavery.

The current events in Syria, Gaza, Lebanon, and Ukraine have put the world closer to World War III than at any time since the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. The imperialists have avoided an all-out conflagration – so far – but it could start almost anywhere, anytime. The history of imperialism is war, war, and more war.

Marx wrote in 1850: “Whereas we tell the workers: You have to go through fifteen, twenty, fifty years

of civil wars and national struggles, not only in order to change conditions but also to change yourselves and make yourself capable of political rule.”

We are not “the boy who cried wolf” when we warn of the imminence of world war. **We are doing our communist duty.** We are not trying to make workers feel guilty, we are leading them to feel and act emboldened. There is nothing the ruling classes can do to stop the ultimate advance of the world’s working class. Let them fight their wars. The workers will bury them with worldwide communist revolution.

—A Comrade



Read our pamphlet:

Soldiers, Sailors, Marines: Crucial to a Communist Workers’ Revolution

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf

ICWP – Communism in Action

We all know people who think communism is a good idea but can’t wait – they want to see something *now!* “What do you do now?” they ask us.

Our main job at the moment is to win people to communism and to join the ICWP. Here are some activities that will help with this goal.

Most of the suggestions here are for things we already do, to some extent. But they are not always done systematically, and are often not reported in RF/BR.

Our most important activities, at present, are **writing for, producing, distributing, and (group) reading** our newspaper *Red Flag*. This we’re pretty good at, though we need more involvement in production.

The next most important activity is **fighting the bosses.**

An activity along these lines could be an on-call **picket squad.** Of course we already picket, but I suggest that collectives form squads that can be called out on short notice. As with all these suggestions, involving new people is vital.

The picket squad would be an example of what I call a *standing committee.* It would hold meetings separate from the main collective and include people who are not ready to join the main collective. The basic idea is to make it easy for people to do things with us. For example, just joining us on a picket line or even just making signs. Then, maybe later, coming to a picket squad meeting.

Social events, like dinners and

parties, are especially important. Having fun with people is a vital part of developing relationships.

The arts, especially performing arts, are a great way to involve people. Guerrilla theatre is ideal, but there are less ambitious forms this might take, like a chorus (a singing group), a dance group, or a rap group.

There’s also **sports, gaming, board games, a book club,** and so on. Whatever you like doing, consider making it a group ICWP activity. As Krupskaya said, “We should try to link our personal lives with the cause for which we struggle, with the cause of building communism.”

A very important possibility is **mutual aid** (“communist solidarity” might be a better term). Visiting the sick or fixing a car might not seem revolutionary, but we would do it as communists in the name of the ICWP.

I’ve discussed this with some comrades, and they insist that we already do these things. To which I reply, “then why don’t I read about them in RF/BR?” All I know is what is in our paper, and the evidence there is pretty thin. Apparently, we do a lot in India and South Africa, though we don’t often hear about it.

I’m especially enthusiastic about communist solidarity. I think it is important because there are lots of people we know in need of it, it’s a

little bit of communism in practice, and it’s a great way to involve new people.

—Comrade in Canada

Red Flag responds:

Thank you for your suggestions. Yes, many (probably most) comrades do many of these things. There wouldn’t be room to report every time a comrade is “visiting the sick or fixing a car.” Or organizing a social event or book discussion. Or participating in sports. But some of the most interesting articles and letters we print analyze such work, and we need more of these.

Yes, these things all help with our main task right now, which we see as building communist relationships of friendly unity and principled struggle. We need all comrades to deepen their commitment to this work, as they are able.

Comrades in South Africa and El Salvador do consistently write about their work. Comrades in India contribute reports about their important work, but communication with them is not always easy. They are working under conditions of fascist repression, and we don’t know some of the languages with which they are most comfortable.

Surely the comrade writer has some experiences to share (even if not recent ones). That would make their suggestions more helpful.



GQEBERHA (Port Elizabeth), SOUTH AFRICA, April 2023: ICWP communist collective feeds children in the township where comrades live.

Soviet History and Gaza Today Show:

COMMUNIST STRUGGLE WILL CHANGE SOCIETY AND HUMAN NATURE

SEATTLE (US), December 15—**“Is the international working-class capable of making a communist revolution?” This is an important question among the workers we speak with.**

The recent Boeing strike here lasted nearly eight weeks. During this time, ICWP comrades raised many revolutionary ideas among

the young, diverse workforce and older retirees. Even after the strike ended, these debates continue to spread among many more of our friends.

Since the strike, friends and comrades have debated whether “human nature” would sabotage communist struggle. Some are reading sections of Red Bread. This

book, written in 1931, reports on the campaign for communist collective farms after the Russian Revolution and how it led to a new view of human nature. Selfishness began to yield to the common good.

Two chapters stand out. One describes how a landlord before the Soviet revolution chose to join a collective farm in a Russian village. When asked why he gave up his estate to become a herdsman in the collective, he explained how his view of human nature had changed.

“Why,” he asked, “should any

man enjoy things that his neighbor has not got? In the old days had a man propounded such a question to me, I’d have thought him a hopeless fool or maniac. I was reared in the idea that some people are better than others and therefore entitled to better things. These inequalities are wrong, desperately, brutally wrong,” he concluded.

In the next chapter, the author, Maurice Hindus, is schooled by Vera, an 18-year-old milkmaid from another collective. Hindus is skeptical about communism. He challenges her to carefully examine everything she believes. He taunts her with a list of fancy clothes that US teenagers supposedly wear.

Vera asks what the social purpose of these teenagers is. “What is the objective in their lives? Have they nothing outside themselves to live for, something for society, for the masses?” She concludes, “Living just for myself? Never.”

Some friends who read this chapter found it hard to believe that an 18-year-old could hold so diligently to the collective good and reject individualism so vehemently.

But “human nature” changes in accordance with the system of rule. What is thought of as human nature looks very different with communism than under capitalism. We currently only have a broad, day-to-day experience of human nature under capitalism, the system under which we struggle. Even so, we

have many examples of how people live out communist values. This gives us a basis for understanding that human nature will be different when we live in communist collectivity and sharing.

In communism, wage slavery will be abolished. Society will promote work for the common good, not exploitation and profits for the capitalists. Social changes like collective work for the international needs of the working-class will create a new “human nature” among the masses.

An example: In Gaza, conditions are indescribably harsh, and we might expect to see the worst of “human nature.” But quite the opposite has been happening.

In Rafah, a young girl was trapped in the rubble from bombing. When people finally extricated her, she was dizzy, disoriented, and dehydrated. Although people there were getting only one meal every other day and a liter of water to last several days, children and adults lined up to donate water to wash her. People skipped their meals so she would not go hungry or thirsty. This was the nurturing love of humanity.

Now and in the future, doing collective, communist work changes “human nature” for the better. Join ICWP to be part of that change and help build a communist future for the whole working class.



From 1966 to 1976, the Chinese Cultural Revolution adopted the slogan, “Thoroughly criticize the ‘theory of human nature’ of landlord and capitalist classes.” Millions in the factories and agricultural collectives fought to make this part of the Chinese Communist Party line.

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What is murder? Whose life matters?

On May Day, 2023, Jordan Neely was killed on a New York City subway. Neely was homeless, depressed, and suffering from a long series of mental health crises after the murder of his mother when he was a teenager. A Black man, he disturbed and frightened other subway riders.

Neely’s killer, Daniel Perry, who is white, had learned in Marine Corp basic training how to subdue a person with a choke hold. Aided

by two others, he took Neely down and choked him until he went limp. Then he kept the hold for another 50 seconds. Neely died that day.

On December 9, 2024, Perry was acquitted of even the limited charge of criminally negligent homicide. He has since been invited to celebrate with Vice-President Elect JD Vance at the Army-Navy football game on December 21. This is an open endorsement of vigilante racist murder.

Ironically, Perry’s acquittal took

place on the same day that Luigi Mangione was detained for killing UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson on the streets of New York. We can confidently predict that Mangione won’t be acquitted.

What’s more striking is that no healthcare CEO in the US will ever be charged for the crime of delaying and denying healthcare to those they insure. The British medical journal Lancet estimates this kills 68,000 people in the US every year.

Moses Harper, Neely’s dance teacher and friend, said, “The system failed Jordan.” But as W.E.B. DuBois explained, a system cannot fail those it was never meant to protect. The capitalist system is designed to maximize profits. The insurance sector does that by minimizing costs—denying life-saving care to its clients.

Capitalism has stayed in power this long by using racism, sexism, and more to divide us. Some 530,000 US families file for bankruptcy every year over medical bills. Nearly three out of five peo-

ple in the US are one paycheck away from being homeless.

Racism blinds many subway riders to the fact that we have a whole lot more in common with Jordan Neely than we will ever have with Brian Thompson, who had an estimated net worth of \$120 million.

On May Day 2025, working people around the world will march against capitalism and its horrors like the murder of Jordan Neely, the 68,000 people the US health insurance companies murder annually, and the multitudes more who have been murdered by global capitalism and imperialist wars.

We will avenge them all by killing this murderous system and building a communist world. Then human life will be our priority. Insurance companies, profit, and money will all just be a bad memory. We will build a new world on the ashes of the old. Join ICWP and fight for communism.

—Comrade in the US

