

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



San Francisco (USA) January 6, 2024—Healthcare workers protest against US-funded Gaza genocide in front of San Francisco General Hospital.

COMMUNIST HEALTH WORKER IN INDIA INSPIRED BY GAZA STRUGGLE

I was among twenty comrades who met in New Delhi with our comrade from the US and discussed deadly air pollution here. Capitalist governments are hiding the human costs of pollution. So, I did research to shed light on it.

But before that, I want to let readers know that I was a medical student in Sumy, Ukraine when the war broke out there. We were evacuated to India. At the airport, a comrade gave me *Red Flag*. Months later, after a persistent struggle with comrades, I joined ICWP.

However, returning with no medical degree brought shame and disappointment to my family. My parents had taken out a huge loan to pay for my degree. I was unable to find a job. I became very depressed. I became less active in politics as I lived far from Delhi.

See: INDIA COMMUNIST HEALTH WORKER, page 4

Then came the devastating Gaza war. I saw civilians, including women and children, brutally bombed in hospitals. I finally got a job in a hospital as a physician assistant. I had finished four years of medical school but had to accept much lower pay. But the Gaza war woke me up. What capitalism does to humanity is incomprehensible.

Red Flag letters and articles about the imperialist wars in Gaza inspired me to be active again. I circulated our Gaza pamphlet to my co-workers and staff. They, too, were very impressed, and we formed a small circle of ICWP friends.

After our meeting in Delhi, I researched what capitalist media will not publish as headlines. In Delhi alone, 170,000 children under the age of five die because of severe AQI (air pollution). According to a

DEVELOPING NEW COMMUNIST LEADERS WORLDWIDE

CENTRAL AMERICA, December 2024— “The history of the class struggle shows that we must rely on the masses. Industrial workers and soldiers are key for communist revolution.” said a comrade to open ICWP's International Communist Conference.

We live today in the geopolitical context of Israel's genocide in Gaza, of war in Ukraine, Yemen, and elsewhere. This makes the struggle for Communism more urgent. The imminent threat of a third world war is increasingly present. The US, Russian, and Chinese imperialists are fighting to the death for profits, territories, and resources.

Conference discussions aimed to advance our struggle for communism, organizing to build the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP).

A young comrade presented a video of the Party's political activities around the world in response to

capitalism's horrors. It put forward the vision of a new communist world.

Workers from three garment factories, from the countryside, and other workers and youth traveled hundreds of miles overland to attend the conference. The borders that divided us were among the obstacles they overcame. “In Communism we will not have divisions. We need a world without borders,” said a worker during the trip.

“Revolution will not fall from the sky. We have to organize more workers to achieve it,” said a comrade farmworker. Reports and comments from comrades in South Africa, Spain, Mexico, the US, El Salvador, and Costa Rica, in person and via Zoom, emphasized this need.

Comrades in South Africa

“We need to build relationships with other communities around the world. This is a vision I have come to understand,” a comrade said.

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Breakout Group
ICWP International Conference, December 2024

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ICWP INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, from page 1

“We are more the same than different. More women are now part of ICWP here. We have been more consistent. The more understanding we have, the more trust there is among comrades.”

“The industrial work at Volkswagen has shown us more exploitation, layoffs, the results of crisis, and with it, crime to survive. This most affects those who live in the poorest neighborhoods.”

Garment Factories in El Salvador

Comrades talked about the work of the collectives. They outlined the difficulties they face due to the fascism implemented by the government. “We have exceeded a thousand days of the regime of exception (fascist measures), but they don’t stop us. We always implement new methods of struggle and so we are able to meet.

“There are bosses who treat us

more liberally, but they still always keep the products of our labor power to increase their profits, like in the factory where I moved to and where I have an opportunity to organize more workers for the Party,” commented A.

Learning about Communist Dialectics to Understand Contradictions: Reform versus Revolution and the Need for ICWP to Grow

“I heard workers at the conference using concepts like ‘capitalism, communism, dialectics.’ How do they learn about these terms?” asked a comrade.

A worker answered, “We have extended meetings of cells outside the factories, where we discuss why Communism is necessary, and we read *Red Flag*. It has analyses of our struggles that are the source of our developing knowledge.”

Comrades from Mexico

“The communist system will put an end to the capitalist system. Wealth will no longer be in a few hands. Instead, the wealth of the planet will be in the hands of the working class,” said a comrade from Mexico.

“The crisis of capitalism provokes the need to organize. To fight to achieve changes at the roots. Not only the illusion, but to see the re-

ality.”

Comrades from Mexico made an important contribution to the discussions, and there is a significant potential for ICWP to grow there.

Workers and Peasants Movement of Costa Rica (MTC)

They presented struggles they have carried out, including for jobs and housing.

“The bosses are all the same, like those at the pineapple companies. After they kicked me out of the pineapple plantation, they no longer give me work in any agribusiness,” said a worker.

“What we have lived through is not just happening to us. By uniting in this space, we gain more strength from the Party.

“We need to critically and collectively transform and empower ourselves and to grow. Every comradely relationship, every word, experience, is equally important in our lives and our struggles for communism,” the worker concluded.

Red Flag

After a young comrade gave the *Red Flag* report, each group discussed two questions:

1. How to overcome the contradictions so the party grows, and how can *Red Flag* be used as a rev-

olutionary tool?

2. How can we encourage and develop more writers and encourage them to take more leadership?

Important suggestions emerged. These included:

*Guaranteeing audio media (audio readings or podcasts of *Red Flag* articles)

*Using technological platforms, especially with young people

*Workshops with specific guidance on how to write articles

*A commitment to increase the distribution of *Red Flag*

Military Work

A comrade veteran of the US Army during the Iraq war said, “Why are we dying in this imperialist capitalist war? The interests of the elites are not our interests. Organizing in the military is possible and it needs to be guaranteed all the time.”

We have to see who can join the army and what are the concrete possibilities of organizing soldiers. How to guarantee this effort in our families. We need a plan to raise awareness among the youth.

The conference consolidated communist relations among more comrades. It increased the potential for new struggles, more *Red Flag* writers, and the growth of ICWP internationally.



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

Red Flag

I am a garment worker. I am sending fraternal greetings to all comrades of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

I have been working in the factory for many years and living the exploitation by the capitalist bosses. While they make enormous profits, our life is becoming more difficult.

The work pressure, the environment we have there, the high temperatures and lack of ventilation is the daily life of all the workers.

I have attended the meetings of the International Communist Workers’ Party. Every time I attend, I can see the importance of being part of this struggle.

That’s because in these meetings, like the International Conference, we can see the possibilities we have to organize ourselves to make the changes so necessary for the working class.

And we can also see that worldwide ICWP is organizing the workers to fight for Communism.

Reading *Red Flag* is very useful for us, we get informed and see how other women in other countries are doing great work.

The International Communist Workers Party teaches us that we have to be united to defeat capitalism and also that we must be prepared for when we achieve that moment which is so important, so we can build that change that we all need.

The conference for me was a great opportunity to live together with comrades from other countries. To know that we are in the same struggle was very gratifying!

Comrade worker

ICWP Conference Important for Political Development

A cordial greeting to all the comrades around the world, organized in the International Communist Workers’ Party!

I am a worker in a factory in El Salvador. As a party member, I attended the annual ICWP confer-

ence, which was held this year in a nearby country. With great effort by the party organization, it was possible to make this trip successful and to share knowledge and strategies that will help our communist struggle grow.

Participating together with workers of Costa Rica and Mexico was very interesting because they told us about the situation of the workers in those countries. The most important thing was our political development.

It was a long and tiring trip, but very important because of the topics we discussed. These will serve as a tool to win more workers for ICWP.

We were received in the best way by our comrade hosts. Everything was beautiful, very well organized. As a comrade from El Salvador, I enjoyed the conference. Through this letter, I thank the comrades who made this trip possible.

Long live *Red Flag*!

—Maquila worker.

• These letters and articles are on the website: ICWPREDFLAG.ORG

• The “Healthcare” System Is Killing Us

• What Does it Mean That Thousands of Israeli Soldiers are Refusing to Serve in a Genocide?

• Gaza Genocide: How Can Comrades Elsewhere Organize Effectively?

• Not Imperialist “Internationalist Solidarity” for War, But Real Workers’ Internationalism for Communism

• Lone Terrorist Attacks New Orleans Revelers while US and Israeli Terrorist Imperialists Attack the Gaza Masses



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International Conference Discusses Boeing Strike:

ADVANCING OUR COMMUNIST WORK

December 27—“The communist work during the Boeing strike is an advancement for our party,” assured an enthusiastic participant in the ICWP International Conference in Central America.

Comrades and friends there wanted to hear more about this work. A long-time Boeing worker highlighted the recent changes in the industrial workforce, opportunities for communist industrial work, and building the party.

Boeing employs over 170,000 workers in 47 countries. They produce weapons and commercial jets. Before the strike, the workforce had not received a wage increase in 16 years.

Changing Workforce Opens Communist Opportunities

Fifteen years ago, we wrote a paper, “Invigorating Work in Basic Industry.” Its purpose was to start a campaign for young party members to work in non-union subcontracting factories.

Then, supply-chain workers were paid a third of what workers in US heritage plants were getting. Manufacturing had shifted to subcontractor plants. These were built mostly on the backs of millions of Latinx, Black, immigrant, and women workers. The southern US, from the Southeast to the West Coast, became a vast region of super-exploitation.

“We can’t predict exactly what the US industry will look like in 10-20 years,” the paper warned. How-

ever, now we know how geopolitics has changed, creating a greater potential for successful communist work.

Today, Boeing workers are younger and more diverse. Their families come from all over the world. These workers and many of their friends are interested in what’s happening internationally, not just in the factory.

US imperialism is a declining power. More industrial workers are essential for the capitalists’ profits. As competing imperialists bolster their militaries, they need much larger workforces to produce weapons of war. For the first time in many years, the US government has seriously funded schools for industrial workers.

The collapse of one country after another is on these workers’ minds. When we distribute *Red Flag* to them, we talk a lot about communism. There are many discussions about what communism would look like and what it will take for the international working class to win a communist revolution.

These discussions sparked interest among many of the 33,000 aerospace strikers and others in the base built over the past year. Some friends have volunteered to help with party work. Others are intrigued, like a Boeing worker from Palestine who wants to share coffee with us and discuss ICWP and communism.

We learned how to do this from



Workers of the World, Unite!

ICWP-led communist maquila collectives in El Salvador that showed the way. When faced with layoffs, comrades took jobs at other plants to build new collectives. Our international party never abandoned industrial work. Just the opposite. The struggles in the maquilas inspired the whole party.

Expand Communist Struggle

Our Seattle collective has long incorporated comments from friends in *Red Flag* articles. After the Boeing strike, we noted that friends could contribute more than just comments. We are working with quite a few new friends to build a local *Red Flag* collective. Some of the new writers emphasize the need to focus on a post-strike campaign to build social and political relationships with the Boeing workers and other friends.

Among the most popular *Red Flag* articles on the picket line were

the communist solidarity statements from around the world. They showed that ICWP is one international communist party.

We are proposing a short new pamphlet about international industrial work. We can start with written contributions from industrial workers in El Salvador, Costa Rica, Mexico, India, South Africa, and the US. This will help define the international nature of worldwide communist struggles.

Boeing retirees and friends agree that this pamphlet must chronicle our successes and obstacles in building industrial collectives. It will build an international platform from which to launch more communist struggles.

Distributing it will advance our communist practice. This will be key to recruiting and expanding our global base.

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What is “the Party Line?”

A comrade teacher said, “Younger comrades have real fear about being sanctioned for their articles.” They fear, he explained, that their contribution might be rejected if it doesn’t follow “the line.”

“The line” is our collective understanding of the political, economic, and societal landscape we currently live in. And what we have collectively agreed to do about it at this time.

This is based on a lot of thought and struggle. On the input of thousands of comrades based on decades of experience and study over many generations. The line is not going to change on a whim.

However, we should all know that the line is not made of stone. It’s a platform from which to launch communist ideas to test in practical struggle. It can and must be changed by new comrades and new ideas, as the world changes around us.

Billions of working-class people all have their own experiences and input to give. If we think that we have it all figured out, then we fail to acknowledge the contributions they could make to the line if they

join the revolutionary communist struggle.

Some with much to contribute have been told by capitalist society that their experiences and expertise as workers are not important. They therefore lack the confidence to state their ideas and suggestions in a seemingly ‘academic’ forum like *Red Flag*, or even a study group. We have to actively work against this anti-working class feeling by respectfully and genuinely listening. We must acknowledge their contributions to our discussions and ultimately to the line.

We must keep this in mind when struggling with those who are willing to engage but disagree with parts of the line. Let’s acknowledge that we don’t know everything and that we may make mistakes. That does not mean that we have “lost the argument” or have “given in to capitalist ideas.”

“When bricklayers lay bricks in various parts of an enormous, unprecedentedly large structure, is it ‘paper’ work to use a line to help them find the correct place for the bricklaying; to indicate to them the ultimate goal of the common work; to enable them to use, not only every brick, but even every piece of brick which, cemented to the bricks laid before and after it, forms a finished, continuous line?” – Lenin, *What Is to Be Done?*

It shows that we believe that the working class learns and grows through struggle. That we respect the experiences and ideas that the people we are talking to can bring to our collective understanding. Our gut reaction cannot be to “defend the line at all costs.” We must think very carefully about what they say and acknowledge how it can help us to grow.

The line is not a dogma but a guide to action. Dialectical materialist study reveals that even the main contradiction in the world changes over time. So do secondary contradictions. The idea that we wouldn’t change our line with the ever-changing world is undialectical.

Even in communism, collective work for our collective needs may develop a different

view of “human nature.”

Dialectical materialism teaches that all knowledge begins with collective practice. When we engage in real-world struggles like strikes and work actions, our communist work among the masses opens the door to modifying our line. And sometimes to different ideas of what communism will look like. These struggles both nurture political and social relationships and test the soundness of our revolutionary ideas.

We must welcome these changes enthusiastically.

—Another Teacher



Capitalist Healthcare Is Organized for Profit

ONLY COMMUNIST REVOLUTION CAN KEEP THE MASSES HEALTHY

USA, January 5— Israeli forces destroyed the last hospital in Northern Gaza in December 2024. Many more will now die. Israel and the US media claimed it was a Hamas terrorist command center and therefore “self-defense.”

The charges against Luigi Mangione for allegedly killing United-Healthcare CEO, Brian Thompson, on December 4th have been upgraded to first-degree murder in furtherance of terrorism. We also see healthcare corporations denying care and killing patients, but that’s not called terrorism. Why?

Healthcare is supposed to help and heal people. But that is not why it was developed during capitalism’s early industrial revolution. It was developed to keep the wheels of production turning when urban conditions were crowded, polluted, and rife with infection. Sanitation, clean air, food hygiene, and domestic cleanliness were all missing from the physical living environment.

The means of production are mostly privately owned. So are most insurance companies. The requirement of society in capitalism is to ensure wage earners’ efforts yield profits for the owners of capital.

At the heart of the healthcare debate is that those who need it most are the least able to pay. Internationally, many people don’t get formal healthcare at all.

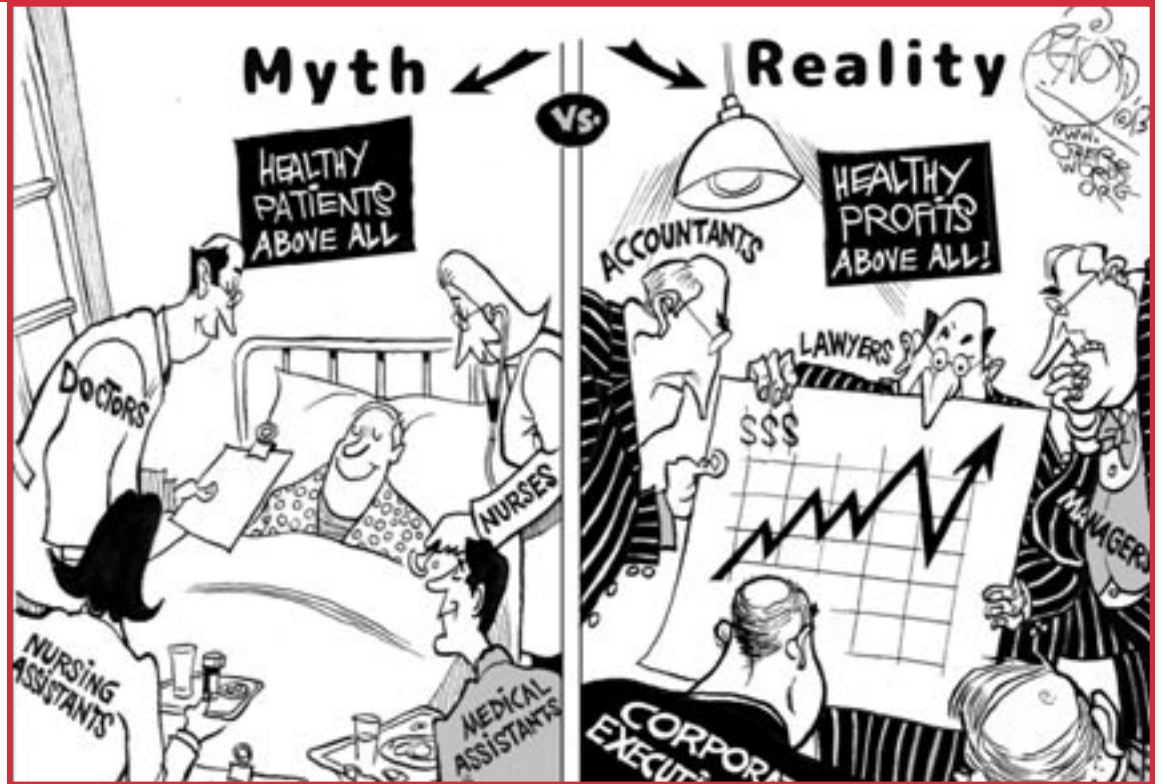
The rules for healthcare are changing. Capitalists make the rules to benefit themselves. Some who favor commodifying healthcare at the same time argue that the cost of providing care for aging populations is unaffordable. Meanwhile they work to create demand for their healthcare products among those who are essentially healthy. There is shrinking profit in health-

care.

Major corporations have stepped in to replace public health programs. They are outsourcing the workforce to cheaper labor markets globally. The service industry of healthcare is becoming a medical-industrial complex. That is, businesses become entwined in social and political systems or institutions creating or bolstering a profit economy. Socialized healthcare is not profitable, and profit-makers are influencing governments. Insurance companies have the legal right to deny healthcare.

The US Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee released a report in December 2024 on “The injury-productivity trade off.” It described how Amazon’s obsession with speed creates uniquely dangerous warehouses. It concluded that Amazon executives put profits ahead of the health and safety of its workers, ignoring recommendations that would reduce injuries. Amazon of course disagreed. It employs about one third of all warehouse employees in the US and accounts for more than half of all warehouse injuries.

A 2019 delegation of US healthcare workers wrote an article for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, “Behind Cuba’s Healthcare Curtain.” Cuba has a high ratio of primary care doctors to patients. All healthcare is free. Their policy relies on prevention and active community participation. But Cuba still suffers from



lack of resources due to embargos and loss of support from other countries. Its socialized system is not communist. It relies on exporting doctors to other countries for a fee.

Communism’s goal is the masses’ wellbeing. There won’t be profit or money. Instead of a few doctors, many will learn and teach medicine and treat disease. Patients and their families will be part of the healthcare team. People with advanced medical knowledge will teach many, and also clean bedpans. Those who once only cleaned bedpans will learn medicine.

There will be less disease. Without wage slavery, society will be based on collectively meeting everyone’s needs, not competition. Relations and food will both be healthy. Everyone will be encouraged to participate in physical activity.

No capitalist reform will achieve the healthcare the masses need and deserve. Only communism, eliminating capitalist exploitation and imperialist war, can

do that.

In Gaza, hospitals, healthcare workers and outside aid have been destroyed and denied. Still, the masses there are showing principles of communist society in helping each other with what resources they have.

Israel, the US, and other governments have changed the rules of healthcare using the military-industrial complex to promote fascism. Acts of “terrorism” are subject to the rules of profit making. If you make a profit, it is not terrorism. Netanyahu and Biden are not called terrorists, but Mangione is. Socialized medicine is a reform that can no longer be sustained under capitalism.

Capitalists are fearful amid their drive to make profits from healthcare. That is why they are labelling Mangione a terrorist. They know that people are angry at the system. We can organize people to know what communism is. It is not vigilante justice that changes this. It takes a mass communist movement to make change.

INDIA: COMMUNIST HEALTH WORKER, from page 1

Swiss study, India has forty-two out of fifty cities with the highest AQI in the world.

The source of this deadly pollution is particles smaller than 2.5 microns from car pollution, industrial waste, and demolitions from construction sites. Life expectancy is reduced by an estimated twelve years. In North India, 2.1 million people die annually as a result of

capitalist-generated pollution. In pregnant women, pollution penetrates the uterus and permanently damages the lungs, liver, and brain of the foetus.

Nobody has studied what happens to the dust created by daily bombing in Gaza. But with severe winters and a total lack of clean water, electricity, and food, along with the dust, it is becoming a bru-

tal gas chamber.

This capitalist-created system has to go. We must fight for communism now. There is no time for depression.

I am not allowed to do certain tasks and procedures in my hospital because I am not a physician. But I do care deeply about the patients. I reach out to them. All of them suffer in one way or another from diseases created by capital-

ism.

I visit my patients every day on my rounds. My patients and staff, even some doctors, address me as ‘Doctor’ because I can do anything and, above all, I care for the patients. I politely tell them that I am not a ‘Doctor,’ I am a communist. I organize for communism, and they should join us.

—Comrade in North India



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FIGHTING SEXISM IN THE US MILITARY

“The salary inequality between male and female soldiers, the sexual trauma, the rape: they know it’s happening, but they don’t care,” said comrade Ana, a military veteran. She and I are part of a collective organizing ICWP’s military work.

We compared her military experience as a woman with my military experience as a man. We agreed that it is our responsibility as communists to discuss these issues among servicemen and -women that are now serving, just as we did when we were on active duty.

We must fight against all sexist practices in and outside the military. To be successful in a communist revolution, we need to strategically organize workers in basic industry, young people, and soldiers. That will require the unity of men and women.

Ana was introduced to communist politics after serving in the military. She had witnessed first-hand the harsh realities that women in the US military have long endured.

Ana said that she had to work twice as hard to prove herself in an extremely competitive rank structure that did not acknowledge a

woman’s strong work ethic.

Nonetheless, she was able to gain the genuine respect of one male buddy.

Amidst this oppressive and sexist environment, Ana said, she found camaraderie with a few “good men that are really rare.” In the workspace they shared, “we were equal.” This indicates the potential for ICWP to organize social and political relationships with and among male and female soldiers in the belly of the beast. A military has all the basic requirements to build camaraderie among a diverse group of workers.

I was a communist when I joined the military to organize. During my active-duty service, sexism became a point of contention even when there were no female soldiers among my ethnically diverse friend group. It had white, Black, and Latino soldiers, all males. Our social relationships had clear boundaries between men and women.

In 2022, 82.5% of US military personnel were men, and 17.5% women. These are the conditions that Ana and I experienced. It creates the same contradictions that men and women face now in the

military.

Among my male soldier buddies, society’s sexist ideas surfaced in sexist attitudes that I had to stand up against. My roommate in the barracks always made very deliberate sexist comments against the women in our barracks and the women he dated. I clearly remember opposing his views of women. I called him out when we were alone. I explained that these women are from our own working class; they are class sisters.

An odd tension is always created when a male calls out another man on his sexist attitudes. But what comes next is a deeper understanding of the relationship being built. It is not an argument; it is a struggle. This struggle desperately needs to occur among men in the military. My speaking up in a friendly but principled way against sexist language changed the atmosphere in the barracks where we lived next door to women soldiers.

As a communist soldier, it was one of my top missions to build a strong political base with my battle buddies. I was able to distribute our communist literature to these buddies, and three traveled to

Washington, DC for our annual May Day march.

Imagine if Ana and I had worked in the same unit. We would be an unstoppable communist organizing force. Capitalism already, inevitably, creates the sexist and oppressive conditions that we must always fight against. ICWP has multi-generational experience of organizing in the military. This is essential in building a communist revolution.

And it can only be done with the international solidarity of men and women. We must increase the recruitment of high school students, family members, and all military servicemen and women to rebuild our international Red Army. I look forward to the work that Ana and I will be doing with other Party comrades to build our military collective internationally.

—Red Veteran

Read our pamphlet:

**THE COMMUNIST
FIGHT AGAINST
SEXISM**

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/sxse.pdf

THE SIX TRIPLE EIGHT: A STORY OF TRIUMPH AND A CALL TO RECRUIT RED SOLDIERS

The Six Triple Eight is a historical film. It details the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion during World War II. It tells the untold story of the first all-Black, all-female battalion in the US Army. Its vital mission was to restore morale by clearing massive amounts of undelivered mail for US troops in Europe.

It captures the resilience, ingenuity, and unity of these women. It also raises broader questions about the value of labor, the fight for equality, and the potential for collective action in building a communist world.

From a Black communist perspective, The Six Triple Eight highlights a contradiction at the heart of their service. These women made great achievements under a system that devalued their humanity. They fought for recognition and respect within an imperialist war machine. Even as that machine

demanded their loyalty, it refused to grant them full equality.

The women had to prove themselves to their white male superiors. Those men often tolerated but never truly respected them. This mirrors the broader struggles of workers and soldiers of all backgrounds within the capitalist system.

Captain Charity Adams is portrayed with strength and nuance. She embodies this call for leadership and vision. She refused to accept the limitations imposed on her. That, plus her ability to inspire and lead her battalion, shows how to organize and unite workers against oppression.

Imperialist armies are still influenced by sexism, xenophobia, and systemic racism. Adams’ leadership reminds us that true representation means challenging what seems normal to build a better future.

War films have long been used as propaganda for the “one percent.” But we challenge viewers to consider the hard work shown by the women in the film.

What if it were not used for survival within capitalism, but for the creation of a new world? What could the talents and determination of these women, and others like them, achieve in a communist society that values all workers equally? That rejects divisions based on “race,” sex, or national origin?

Let’s not be persuaded by this film as war propaganda. Instead, the working class should critique the systems that these women served.

Imperialist armies and governments often co-opt the narratives of marginalized groups. They celebrate their contributions while continuing to practice exploitation and division. Today, these same systems push xenophobic and fascist ideologies to pit workers against one another across borders.

To get them to fight Chinese, or Syrians, or Palestinians, or whoever, they need that racism, sexism, and xenophobia ensuring their domination. The Six Triple Eight highlights how Black female soldiers broke barriers. But their achievements also underscore the need for communist revolution which includes workers of all colors.

Collective Dedication Can Do the “Impossible”

Even under capitalist military discipline, these Black female soldiers were able to inspire other soldiers to do the ‘impossible.’ That’s admirable!

Imagine what we can accomplish with the love and comradeship of communist relations. With the full participation of all soldiers in reviewing problems collectively and then agreeing on a plan which they carry out together.

To honor the legacy of the 6888th Battalion, we must mobilize for more than symbolic victories. Their story serves as a rallying cry for workers of all “races,” genders, and national origins to unite against systems that thrive on division.

The bravery and ingenuity displayed by these women in completing their mission are the same qualities needed to build an international Red Army.

—Black comrade in the US

Read our pamphlet:

**TO DEFEAT
RACISM,
MOBILIZE THE
MASSES FOR
COMMUNISM**

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/rpe.pdf



Veterans of the 6888 marching in Birmingham, Alabama, 1945

Immigrants or Not, All Workers Are Wage Slaves in Capitalism

WE WILL ABOLISH WAGE SLAVERY WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

USA, January 6—“I have to send \$300 to my mother every month just so she can survive,” said José, a Mexican immigrant. But, he added, “that money is not enough. There are other family members and medical expenses. We need jobs to be able to move forward, like any working-class family. The bosses, eager to make more profits, leave us with the hardest and lowest-paid jobs.”

Immigrants are part of the international working class and therefore are wage slaves like any other worker of any gender. Worldwide, immigrants are forced to leave their birthplace due to poverty, violence, war, or environmental destruction. All caused by capitalist imperialism.

Once settled in another country, they face all kinds of racism, sexism, and exploitation. Some manage to find intermittent work or a more stable job, but always at wages either low or miserably low. And even with these wages, they manage to find something to send to their loved ones back home. This money sent to their countries of origin is called “remittances.”

Ingrid, a Guatemalan immigrant, said that “in order to make a home for my family in Guatemala, I have

had to work two jobs. I don’t sleep well, and I try to eat less.” Another worker added, “It’s the only way, because here we also have to pay rent, bills, food, and more. I also send money to my family monthly and only for the basics. I would like to send more but I can’t.”

Remittances are usually the life-or-death support for the recipients.

In Zimbabwe last year, diaspora remittances exceeded \$1 billion, or about 16% of total foreign exchange. Although these remittances came from a wide network, the majority come from South Africa. An estimated five million Zimbabweans live in South Africa.

El Salvador received the second-most remittances in Latin America relative to its GDP in 2024. In 2023, these earnings exceeded \$8,181 million, reaching over a quarter of Salvadoran households. Over 90% came from the US.

Mexican families received over \$65 billion during 2024, also from the US. These remittances will continue to be fundamental to the survival of Mexican working-class families.

In both South Africa and the US, deportations are now on the rise. Thousands of Zimbabweans are

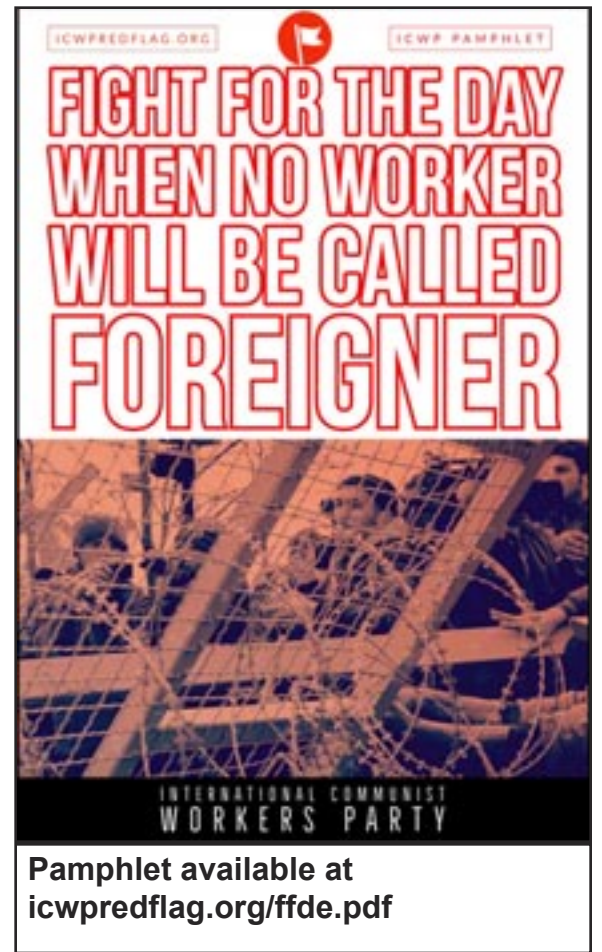
threatened with deportation. The Biden administration has become the largest deporter since 2014. Trump promises mass deportations.

Immigrants in both countries are the source of super-exploitation that generates huge profits for the capitalist-imperialists. This super-exploitation puts downward pressure on all workers’ wages. It benefits only the capitalists.

Deportations create more misery and famine in the deportees’ places of origin, since the remittances stop coming. It also creates an explosive situation there.

Under the capitalist system, every worker, immigrant or not, is a wage slave. We cannot survive without the wages we receive, miserable or not, based on our exploitation. Let’s break these chains of money with communist revolution! Citizen workers and immigrant workers, let’s unite as one international working class!

We can create a society in which money does not exist. Where human



Pamphlet available at icwpredflag.org/ffde.pdf

solidarity, without borders or nations, shares all the fruits of our work. We will apply the principle “From all according to commitment and ability, to all according to need.” We must realize our historical destiny as the gravediggers of capitalism.

CAPITALISTS PLAY WITH LIVES OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN EUROPE

SPAIN, January 5—Rebel groups launched a surprise offensive against the regime of Bashar Al-Assad in Syria on November 27, 2024. Twelve days later they reached Damascus and forced the president to leave the country. This caused the fall of this regime after thirteen years of civil war.

Exiled Syrians and refugees in Europe have seen how politicians are playing with their lives in exchange for winning votes and sympathizers. “I have been able to make a home. I have friends, a community,” said a Syrian refugee who is a law student in Austria. She sees how what she has built may collapse in the middle of this year when she has to renew her residency.

More than a million Syrian workers fled to Europe. The far right sees an “opportunistic” moment to expel these workers. But there are thousands of Syrian doctors in European health care systems. Deporting Syrian refugees would leave many hospitals with virtually no workforce to care for the sick.

Recent requests for asylum in Europe have been blocked. Those who have already sought asylum also see how their attempt to improve their quality of life may be thwarted.

Mass deportations are already on the table. The contradictions of cap-

italism are already obvious. Some proposals, such one in Austria that each refugee be given 1000 Euros to return to Syria, are ridiculous. Syria right now is a place totally destroyed by the war that the same imperialists have provoked.

The near future for Syria is chaos and a lot of infighting by opportunists and various militias sponsored by the US, Iran, Türkiye, and other countries that are also interested in controlling Syria.

It is up to us to reach out to Syrian workers in the European cities where we have a presence as well as online to share the communist

political line of ICWP. Only by joining a party can we defeat this system and solve all the problems of war, poverty, and exile.

The capitalist system clearly shows that workers are only a bargaining chip. The nature of capitalism is to generate profits. That is at the cost of these wars, forcing an exodus of millions of workers around the world and generating extreme poverty that creates the conditions for low wages and miserable conditions.

We urgently need to destroy capitalism and build a new communist system. The International Commu-

nist Workers’ Party struggles against these attacks. We need to win more workers from all parts of the world to build social consciousness. And to organize groups where collectivity helps the overthrow of the present regimes that the bosses impose worldwide.

We must establish a communist world where production is organized collectively based on need rather than profit, and workers do not need to receive money or miserable crumbs to be able to pay for our needs.



Bari, Italy, November 2024. Protesting conditions at a migrant detention center where a migrant had recently died after not getting appropriate medical care.

CAPITALISM FOSTERS BULLYING; COMMUNISM FOSTERS MUTUAL EGALITARIAN RELATIONS

Samuel's high school history teacher makes fun of him in class, marking down his work for no apparent reason. When Samuel was out sick with bronchitis, the teacher lowered his grade for missing class. Samuel was very upset. He hasn't been in the US for long. Talking to other students, he learned that the teacher bullies others too. After discussing this together, some students are finding ways to stick up for each other.

Capitalism and its schools teach divisive ideologies: racism, sexism, nationalism, competition, individualism, and "us-versus-them" ideas. Capitalist individualism promotes a sense of superiority. Some adults who have embraced capitalist culture give unequal, biased, racist, or preferential treatment to some children. All these factors foster bullying.

Bullying has become a worldwide anti-social epidemic. In the US, more than 28% of students in grades 6-12 and more than 20% of students in grades 9-12 experienced bullying. This includes name-calling, pushing, shoving, beating, brawls, sexist comments, cyberbullying, and threats of harm.

Capitalism is based on competition. So is capitalist culture. The rulers want students to compete against each other. Students are encouraged to look down on fellow students based on "race," gender, "nationality," immigration status, "ability," proficiency, and social skills.

Capitalist schools take little to no action against bullying. They even

blame and punish the victims of bullying. Schools exist to serve the capitalists, not the workers or students.

Severe mistreatment by bullies, and the often-cold-hearted neglect by schools, traumatize those who are bullied. It can cause depression and suicidal thoughts, even suicide. These tragedies can be easily avoided if other class brothers and sisters collectively stand up against bullying.

Unfortunately, capitalist individualism teaches us to "mind our own business." This makes the environment apathetic and divided. As a result, bystanders who witness bullying often fail to confront the bullies and stop the deadly behaviors. Some even encourage them.

Individualism is another deadly ideology that keeps the working class from uniting. While "minding your own business" persists and often comes from parents, there are students who do stand up to bullies and are not just minding their own business. This character trait shows great potential for organizing because they are not only able to question the status quo but to take action.

Anti-bullying organizations worldwide condemn bullying. However, they are pro-capitalist organizations. They call for reformist solutions, like calling on schools to implement stricter rules against bullying. Although the organizations also talk about how to prevent and stop bullying, their fight is not based on communism. They don't

address and aim to uproot the system and its ideas that foster deadly anti-social behaviors.

The real solution to end bullying and make the environment safer is not to rely on capitalist school authorities to punish bullies. Instead, it's by mobilizing our class siblings (bullies and victims) to see themselves as part of the same working class that needs to liberate ourselves. Bullies will learn new ways of relating to their victims, to build egalitarian communist social relations.

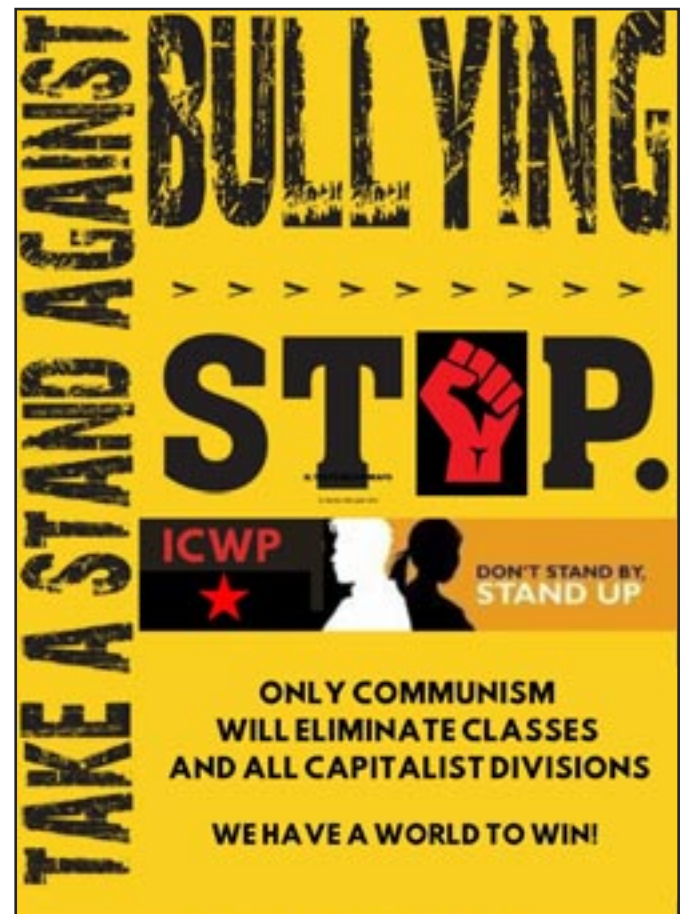
The former bullies can come to realize that bullying only helps the capitalist exploiting class. It harms all working-class siblings. Those bullied are not merely victims; they are fighters. They can help lead the international working class in the fight for communist revolution against the capitalist system and its ideas that generate bullying. Uprooting the capitalist system and its competition, money, wage slavery, and private property will remove the material basis that causes bullying.

Communism will eliminate classes and all capitalist divisions. In the new communist world, no

one will receive biased or preferential treatment because of who they are. No one will live better or worse than anyone else.

Collectivity, cooperation, and mutual egalitarian relations will be the norm. We will live, work and make decisions together. We'll share the fruits of our collective labor according to the needs of the masses.

Comrades, wherever you are, if you witness bullying, bravely confront the bullying person and patiently teach them new communist values. They can also be won to join the revolutionary communist fight against bullying and capitalism. **We have a world to win!**



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

Vigilantism ends up with the real enemy not being targeted

I would like to respond to the article "Vigilantism Won't End Capitalist Healthcare or Any Workers' Problems" in the last issue of *Red Flag*.

Luigi's actions may appear to reflect a lack of confidence in the working class. However, I think this is a very presumptuous statement. Rather, his actions seem to reveal frustration with the ruling class and a sense of helplessness shared by him and many working-class people. Perhaps it isn't so much a lack of confidence as it is a lack of

knowledge about what the collective masses can achieve.

As the saying goes: "Never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by ignorance." This is why the *Red Flag* must continue to be distributed—to enlighten the people and foster class consciousness. People already feel that every aspect of society is crippled by the motive of profit, but few understand why this is or what can be done about it.

The violent acts we see are often a response to the capitalist system failing the working class. However, vigilante justice is dangerous to society. Celebrating it

can lead to chaos, blurring the lines of justice. This has the potential to result in some of the most damaging outcomes, such as revolutionary groups turning on one another, as seen during the Cultural Revolution in China.

Vigilantism may begin as an expression of valid frustration and anger but often does not end with the real enemy being targeted. It risks spiraling into indiscriminate violence that harms the broader movement and undermines its purpose.

The issue with viewing the movement toward communism solely through the lens of disman-

ling structures opposing the working class is that it fails to address the systemic flaws of capitalism. It does not foster an environment capable of sustaining and uplifting a lasting society.

Justice should not be based on revenge but on creating a society where everyone's material conditions are improved. The revolution must have well-defined goals focused on enhancing the material conditions of the working class. It must work methodically toward achieving those goals.

—New comrade in the struggle



Read our manifesto:

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/mmce.pdf

US Military Base in Galapagos, Ecuador Expands World War III

COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, MORE URGENT AND POSSIBLE THAN EVER

January 7— Ecuadorian rulers have granted US imperialism permission to build a naval base in the Galapagos islands. “They need that base for World War III against China, as part of their strategy to control the Pacific,” said Andrés Arauz, an Ecuadorian politician.

As World War III unfolds, capitalists worldwide are being forced to choose sides between two contending imperialist camps: the US-led imperialist bloc, or the imperialist bloc led by China and Russia.

For now, Ecuador’s capitalists are in the US camp. President Daniel Noboa was born and educated in the US. His father, the richest man in Ecuador, owns Bonita Bananas.

US Rulers Losing Latin America to China

Peru’s deep-sea mega-port Chancay exemplifies this. Built for \$3.6 billion, it’s 60% owned by Chinese state-owned Cosco Shipping. Chancay makes shipping goods between China to South America cheaper, while shortening the voyage by 10 days.

Ecuador, Chile, and Argentina will build roads to Chancay. Brazil, China’s biggest South American

partner, will build a railroad link. It will bypass the Panama Canal, critical during war, which Trump intends to take back from Panama.

Peru, unlike Ecuador, has moved closer to the China-Russia camp. It ranks third among Latin American countries in sales to Beijing. It is the second-largest recipient of Chinese investments in the region. Bilateral trade with China in 2023 grew by seven times over the last decade.

China controls 100% of the electricity distribution to Peru’s capital Lima (population ten million) and 55% of electricity distribution nationwide. With one switch, China can paralyze Peru, if it chooses.

China controls 30% of Peru’s mining sector, the main engine of the Peruvian economy.

Losing Economically in Latin America, US Rulers Prepare for War

Trump’s priorities include illegal immigration, illicit drugs, and reducing the amount of Chinese goods flooding the US.

These all involve US policy toward Latin America. “He (Trump) will resort if necessary to punitive measures including tariffs, sanctions, and perhaps limited military action.” (Foreign Affairs, Dec. 10, 2024)

Rhetoric aside, military action is the US’ only option. It plans to use this new Ecuadorian military base and seventy-six others in the region to enforce its two centuries-old policy of complete US

control of Latin America. It will try to expel China and Russia from the hemisphere.

China’s Rulers Prepare to Face US in Latin America

Like all imperialists, China needs to protect its investments and expand control over natural resources and

markets. Chancay, like all Chinese-built ports, has dual usage: commercial and military.

China is upgrading or building dozens of ports in the region, all with dual usage. Its navy, the world’s largest, makes calls to Latin American ports. China has conducted military exercises with Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela.

Last year, for the first time, members of the Chinese army marched in the traditional Grand Military Parade celebrating Peru’s independence.

World War III: Danger and Opportunities for Communist Revolution

ICWP will not be paralyzed by the coming war’s brutality and destructiveness. We will mobilize the masses to take advantage of the many opportunities that will develop to bury capitalism-imperialism and build communism.

World War III will not be like World War I or World War II. The main imperialist-capitalist centers—Russia, China, US, India, Europe, Middle East, along with other regions—will face massive destruction.

World War III will be fought on



every continent. Workers everywhere will be directly affected, whether involved in battles or not. Already, for example, the US-led NATO war against Russia in Ukraine has left thousands of Ecuadorian banana workers destitute. Russia and Ukraine had consumed one out of every five Ecuadorian bananas. The war ended this.

World War II reduced international commerce to less than one third. A nuclear World War III might reduce it to zero. Masses worldwide will rise up in struggle for survival. Soldiers (especially the low-paid) will join them if their loyalty is to the workers, not the capitalist exploiters.

Masses need communist ideas. In this situation, even a small party with roots among the workers and soldiers can lead masses in revolutionary struggle for communism.

The work we do today building ICWP among these key sectors can enable us to quickly grow and mobilize masses for communism in many countries—possibly sooner than we think!



Ecuador General Strike, November 2024
Banner: We are the Strength of America in Quito

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Being There for Each Other – and for the International Working Class

It’s a conversation I have with many people. A friend agrees that helping those in immediate need (for example, with food) is not enough. That all the different issues—hunger, climate change, inequality, war—are interconnected. That capitalism is the root. That we need system change, even revolution. They like the idea of communism.

But they worry that some “revolutionaries” don’t seem to care about people suffering now. (“Not you,” one added quickly.) Since it’s all connected, they would rather work on one piece.

“I think the key is how we connect what seem to be two different kinds of work,” I answered in a recent conversation. “Material soli-

darity on one hand, organizing for communist revolution on the other.” I offered several examples from our party’s work.

In El Salvador, during the worst of Covid, factories shut down. Workers, including ICWP comrades, were isolated and hungry. “So the Party organized to make a bag of food for each member who is affected by this pandemic and this system,” they reported in *Red Flag*. “We explained that all this was thanks to an international collective group that showed us the practice of communism.” When workers had to return to factories that were still unsafe, *Red Flag* explained carefully how Covid exposed the contradictions between workers and the bosses who exploit them.

In India around the same time, comrades in three cities distributed

a poster (in multiple languages) “Break the Chain of Pandemic, Profit, War, Sexism, Casteism, Fascism.” It asked workers to join the International Communist Workers’ Party. The back of the poster showed basic techniques to enhance oxygen levels.

“We practiced breathing techniques with families,” comrades reported in *Red Flag*. “We also said that, when possible, we should seize oxygen tanks and make them available to people in need. We provided comfort and support to many families we visit every day.

“The response from our neighbors was overwhelming,” they continued. “One said, in a barely audible voice, ‘I might be dying but I want to see these profiteers buried alive.’ We spent quality time with the neighbors. Some people

were inconsolable. We were there for them.”

“Being there” for each other and workers everywhere—that’s the heart of how communism will be organized. We’ll all work, as we’re willing and able, to produce for the masses’ needs. Not for wages, but to be there for each other. And others will be there for us, providing what we need for a full and fulfilling life. No longer will we experience “helping those in need” as something opposed to (or even different from) conducting revolutionary work.

Meanwhile, I (and my party collective) have a lot to learn from examples like these about how to live our lives as communists. I’m sure other comrades do, too. Sharing our stories in *Red Flag* will help us all do that.

—Older comrade in the US