

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



INDIA: AUTO WORKERS' COMMUNIST COLLECTIVE GROWS

CHENNAI (India), January 27— “Will there be a war, or are we going to see peace? What will happen to our car industry in Chennai?”

Many autoworkers in the Hyundai factory ask these questions. They know that a crisis is developing in South Korea. They also referred to the recent India-China agreement to withdraw thousands of troops to de-escalate potential war in the Himalayas.

ICWP comrades in the auto factories have consistently distributed *Red Flag* for many months. We were there when Hyundai opened its EV (electric vehicle) assembly plant near Chennai on the major highway connecting to Bengaluru.

This plant looks like a fortified military barracks. Thousands of cameras, barbed wires, watch towers, armed guards, and strict entry points make it impossible for polit-

ical literature to be distributed.

But the ICWP comrades have some things that capitalist bosses don't. One asset is our deep personal relationships with our friends. Another is that our comrades know well that wage slavery can never meet the needs of the masses.

Ones and Twos Will Lead to Thousands and Millions More

Our friend Kumar got a job in this Hyundai factory. He works on the high-performance battery pack, which is then assembled in Creta Electric. Kumar is one of 5,000 trainees. There are 3,000 permanent workers and over 10,000 contract workers.

Kumar's work is designed to isolate him from other workers. It is extremely repetitive and complex. It is supervised by sensors and cameras. A small mistake will end his trainee apprenticeship. He

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LOS ANGELES IN FLAMES: ONLY THE WORKERS CAN SAVE THE WORKERS

LOS ANGELES (USA), January 23— “My family was burned out of Tulsa, Oklahoma in the 1921 race riot,” a Black worker told a community gathering. “They moved to Altadena. We have been here for generations. Now we have been burned out again.”

Deadly, unprecedented firestorms continue to destroy workers' lives and homes across Los Angeles County. International media coverage focuses on movie stars and millionaires' mansions. But LA is mainly a working-class city. About half of its households make less than it takes to live a modest lifestyle. One-third of its residents were born outside the US, and over half of its households speak a language other than English at home.

Thousands of workers lost everything in the firestorms. Tens of thousands (mostly low-paid) lost

jobs as their workplaces burned. Black and Latinx families were hit the hardest. Some houses that burned in Altadena had been in the family for generations.

Comparing Altadena to Tulsa is no exaggeration. North Lake Avenue divides West Altadena (mainly Black and Latinx) from mostly white East Altadena. When the Eaton Fire erupted the night of January 7, East Altadena residents quickly received evacuation warnings. But most West Altadena residents received no official notifications until early the next morning. By then, many had already seen homes burning on their streets and fled. All the deaths from the Eaton Fire were in West Altadena. This is racist manslaughter or worse.

Capitalist vultures swooped in, trying to buy up Altadena on the cheap. These “developers” seek to

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ONLY COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL END DEPORTATIONS AND ALL BORDERS

LOS ANGELES, January 25—“Do the bosses need us?” an immigrant comrade asked his wife. “Yes, but they are going to deport whoever they want,” she replied.

“Will there be deportations?” a young Black high school teacher commented. “Sure, there will be. But a big part of this anti-immigrant campaign is to scare the immigrant working class community.”

The bosses are trying to scare the immigrant and refugee working-class masses to create passivity and submission to growing fascism.

A Black woman waiting in line in a supermarket mentioned to the man next to her, “We are not going to let them deport immigrants. They have been our neighbors for many years, even for generations.”

Many community groups across the US have organized workshops on how to respond to deportations. But these only offer legalistic advice: “Plan to have someone take care of your children if you are arrested. Don’t open the door unless authorities have a warrant. Exercise your right to remain silent.”

They don’t talk about the capitalist origin of these deportations. Or about confronting them by any means necessary. They certainly don’t talk about the need for massive communist mobilization for a world without nations or borders. All of this is what workers need to hear.

Mass protests have already begun, led by high school walkouts against deportations in many cities. We must bring communist ideas into these struggles. Where we can,

we should organize marches and strikes under communist banners.

Deportation Threats Represent Widespread Bosses’ Terror

The rulers supposedly aim to reduce the labor pool to open more jobs to US citizens. But this is not true. The reality is that the bosses are facing a crisis. They need to maintain a high production of goods to compete in the world market with other highly industrialized countries. This imperialist competition always leads to war, up to world war.

The impulse is economic, but their objectives are political. They try to divide the working class. First, they attack those they believe are weaker, such as “undocumented” workers. And then by forcing the other workers to submit to the needs of the empire, by accepting harder jobs with very low pay. Also, to prepare them for the rigors of a war situation.

This situation is repeated in the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and other countries. In many such places, as in the US, there have been tremendous mass outpourings of anti-racist support of immigrants.

This reflects a great opportunity to enlarge and strengthen the ranks of a mass party, the International Workers’ Communist Party.

Contradictions in Mexico

The president of Mexico doesn’t support the deportations of Mexicans from the US. She knows that given the high unemployment in Mexico, these deportations would lead to chaos, and for certain to rebellions.



What she fears the most is not being able to maintain the interests of Mexican capital. She, along with the Mexican ruling class, will have to impose conditions of greater exploitation. In this way, US companies will have easier access to cheaper labor and other resources that they have yet to control.

A Unified Working Class Can Upset the Bosses’ Plans

The nature of capitalism is competition. Capitalists from the US are forced to compete with Chinese capitalists, among others. To ensure this, they need to intensify exploitation of both immigrants and citizens.

The woman in the supermarket saw the importance of working-class unity. Our only option, as immigrants and citizens, all workers, is to mobilize our coworkers, our neighbors, our friends and family, and people we do not yet know, to organize with us, in the International Communist Workers Party. To fight together for a communist world where there are no bosses,

nor borders that divide us.

We won’t be able to stop deportations without ending capitalism. Only with communist revolution to destroy capitalism from its foundations will we be able to live in a world without wage slavery, where all workers are welcome everywhere.

We must build party cells in all parts of the globe, as we are already doing in a growing number of places. This will bring us closer to that communist world where workers will share everything that the world’s workers produce.

Read our pamphlet:

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

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/ffde.pdf

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

Gaza Genocide: How Can Comrades Elsewhere Organize Effectively?

“People have realized that standing on a street corner yelling is not a strategy that will defeat genocide,” I said to a friend. We were at a pro-Palestine demonstration doing just that. “Neither was lobbying legislators or passing City Council resolutions.”

“What would be effective?” she asked, really wanting to know. We moved a little way to where it was quieter.

“Armed struggle,” I replied.

“Mainly in Palestine. Armed struggle for communism. But an effec-

tive strategy here in the US is to organize for communism inside the military.” She listened eagerly as I explained some of the history we have published in *Red Flag*.

“There is a particular opening right now,” I continued. “Trump threatens to use US military personnel to conduct mass deportations. But tens of thousands of US troops are immigrants. Many more are from ‘mixed status’ families. Will they follow orders to deport other immigrants? Will their buddies?”

“A lot won’t,” my friend agreed.

“We all know people with relatives in the service,” I said. “We can talk to them about refusing or-

ders to carry out this attack on their working-class family. And orders to attack other workers anywhere in the world.

“We saw in Syria what happened when soldiers refused to fight for Assad’s government. Without revolutionary organization, they didn’t take the next step of fighting to take power into the workers’ hands. But discussions about refusing orders can easily lead to talking about turning the guns around. And about the communism we need to fight for. Revolution in the USA would be a powerful help to the masses in Palestine and a lot of other places.”

We agreed that it’s important to do whatever we can to help people in Gaza directly – like donating to a grass-roots group that feeds many hundreds every day. But that’s not enough. There won’t be a communist revolution in the US tomorrow. But we have to start organizing people for it now, or it will never happen.

The new pamphlet about Palestine will be especially useful if it highlights the strategic importance of organizing for communism among military personnel, and among potential recruits and draftees, everywhere.

—Comrade in the US

As usual, we have more contributions than we can print. The following letters and articles are on the website:

Capitalists Need Immigrant Labor, But Workers Don’t Need Capitalists
TikTok Banned and Available in the US All Within 12 Hours. What Gives?
Let’s Learn More from Party History at Boeing
Preparing for World War III:
Chinese Fascist Rulers Silence Anti-Fascists

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COMMUNIST WORK IN THE MILITARY: CONTROVERSIAL BUT ESSENTIAL

EL SALVADOR, January 18—“Soldiers are key to communist revolution. This is not only a phrase to be repeated at each meeting. It is really a serious issue that we must consider,” said D at the first meeting of the workers’ leadership group here after the international conference of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

The situation of growing fascism worldwide shows that our class siblings are dying in the bosses’ wars. Therefore, the meetings of the maquila worker comrades have begun placing the need to build the Party’s military work at the center of the discussion.

“Whoever sends you to fight or die on the war front does so for their own economic interests, very far from what the working class needs,” said a comrade.

In this country and in many others, the vast majority of soldiers are the children of maquila and rural

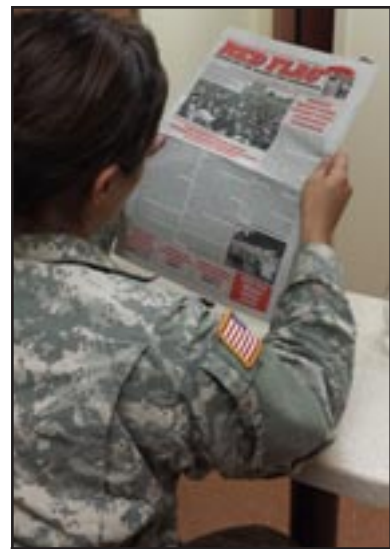
workers. So, within the factories there is enormous potential for thousands of red soldiers to emerge. Industrial and military work are the two pillars of ICWP’s struggle.

For example, in Gaza, the fascists have murdered thousands of class siblings: children, men and women. That does not matter to the genocidal capitalists. But to millions among the working class it does. They are mobilizing around the world against this capitalist horror.

In this environment of war and genocide, the ICWP has done important work: distributing communist literature, making contacts, and making the Party line available to the masses. Our base is being consolidated in the work of organizing more comrades into the ranks of I C W P . S o o n e r rather than later, they will form the Red Army.



El Salvador: Women guerrilla fighters during the Civil War of the 1980s. The working class is the basis of the Red Army.



Read our pamphlet:

**SOLDIERS,
SAILORS, MARINES:
CRUCIAL TO A
COMMUNIST
WORKERS’
REVOLUTION**

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf

“In this context, returning to the ideas shared at the December conference, we talked about the need to see what the concrete possibilities are of organizing the soldiers who would do the military work. To build a red army as the comrade speaker said,” explained a comrade.

“I think that no mother would like her children to go to the army and to war. I saw a friend who attended the previous conference with her children and was worried about this issue. **But I think it is a necessity,**” said K.

We need to win young people and their parents to the idea of the urgent need to do political work in the army and fight resolutely for

Communism. To expand their networks of friends by inviting them to read *Red Flag*. To talk to them and show them that only the communist system can put an end to this rotten capitalist system.

In conclusion, the topic was much discussed and controversial. But in the end, we concluded that it is more than necessary. “We cannot wait much longer, we must begin. This is our task, each one of us” concluded M.

The plan will be discussed in all the collectives of the maquilas and the countryside, the main base of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

INDIA: COMMUNIST COLLECTIVE GROWS, from page 1

needs his job, but he hates it passionately. He found his passion when he started reading *Red Flag* in 2023.

Kumar read in *Red Flag* about the war in Ukraine and then the genocide in Gaza. Gaza affected him most because in India, the ruling BJP fascists were jubilant seeing the massacres there. Chennai has many Muslim residents. The local elections were fought with the BJP trying to come to power using Gaza as an example to “teach Muslims a lesson.”

Kumar’s vision was expanding. He saw the need for change. Com-

rades invited him to ICWP meetings. They had to travel a long distance to make that happen. As he was getting more serious about the party, he constantly asked a question that was bothering him. “I like ICWP, but what difference will it make if I join? I am one among millions of other workers.”

Comrades would reply, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” But they did not raise it as an empty slogan. These other comrades responded to his heart-wrenching question by offering classes on the communist philosophy of dialectical materialism.

In these classes, Kumar started to understand the critical concept of contradiction. If we understand the contradiction, we can work on our vision of communism. After many weeks of these classes, he became confident that what is small and apparently insignificant, like our party, has the potential to be dominant and powerful to overthrow capitalism.

He started to see his contradictions in his factory. He can reach out to many more of his trainees because they are just like him. Lunch breaks and weekend meetings are possible, and he distributes *Red*

Flag to co-workers individually outside the factory. That is more work, but it builds deeper relationships.

A breakthrough came recently: three of Kumar’s co-workers joined ICWP. This has significantly strengthened our party collective in Chennai. Very soon, we are going to meet with our comrades in Bengaluru’s garment industry.

Our goal is to recruit the masses like Kumar’s coworkers. We have confidence that our action will inspire many. *Red Flag* must become the tool of the masses for the communist revolution.

GLOBAL AUTO INDUSTRY IN CRISIS

Chennai is India’s auto hub. Tens of billions of dollars are invested there. Auto manufacturers from China, Vietnam, Korea, Europe, and the US compete fiercely to increase production and make a profit. Almost 80% of the components in EV manufacturing come from China.

The electric vehicle (EV) industry, in particular, is in a deep crisis. There were more than 500 EV companies in China in 2019. Now there are fewer than 100, but these 100 companies produce three times more cars than in 2019. A similar pattern is seen in India and elsewhere.

The nature of capitalism requires maximum profit, destroying smaller capitalist enterprises. In the EV car industry, the more prominent capitalists buy smaller capitalists and eliminate the ones that can’t compete. The biggest EV market is dominated by BYD in China and Tesla in the US. Hundreds of companies, like Hyundai, are trying to compete. This global surplus production will lead to war.



Hyundai factory, Chennai, India

Capitalist Climate Crisis Behind Los Angeles Firestorms

BURNING NEED FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

USA, January 25— Burned-out Los Angeles residents were desperately trying to figure out where to live, how to eat, where to find work, while battling insurance companies last Monday. Meanwhile, the world's multi-billionaires were attending a pre-coronation dinner (\$1 million per head) for the newly anointed leader of the "free world." A sniveling Indian Express stenographer gushed about the sari Nita Ambani wore that took artisans almost 2000 hours to meticulously embroider and paint.

Global climate change set up southern California for unprecedented firestorms. Last winter's unusually heavy rain spurred plant growth. This year's extra-dry winter turned vegetation into kindling. Extremely strong Santa Ana winds dried out air and land while bringing hurricane-force gusts.

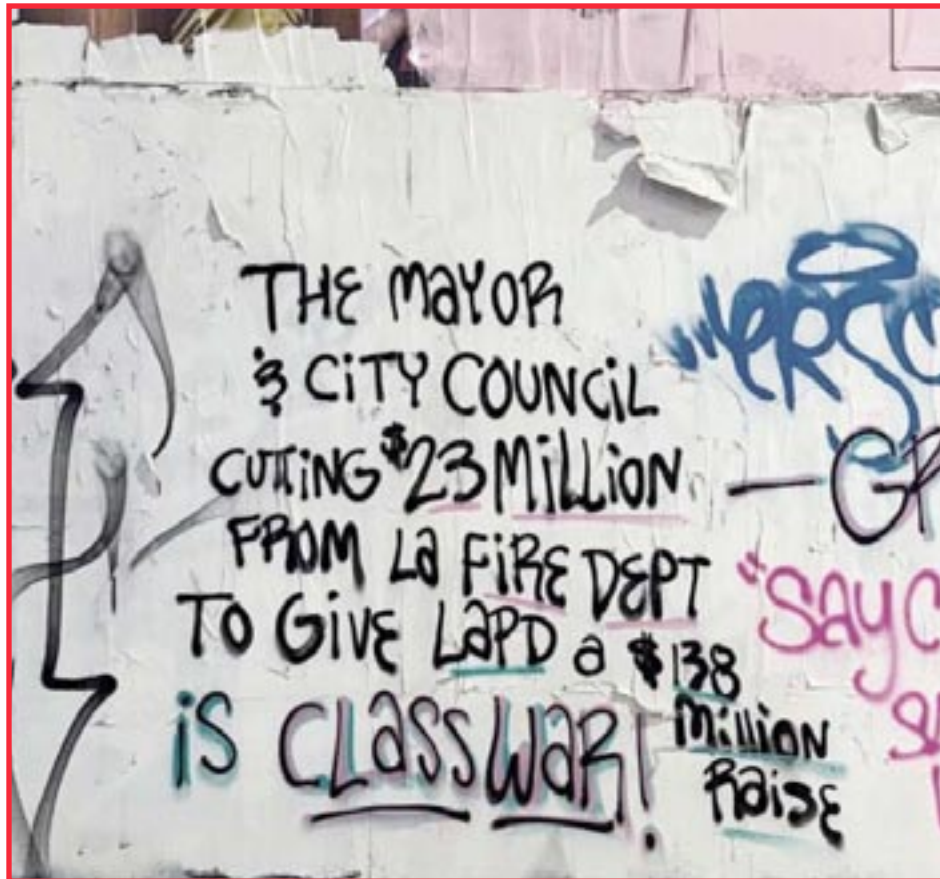
This is becoming capitalism's "new normal."

As climate change rages around the planet, capitalism spends resources on pomp and glamour. Elections that cost \$billions. Energy to power data centers that help corporations spew nonsensical marketing and advertising copy.

Meanwhile, the masses are violently driven out of their livelihoods and homes by war, drought, floods, fires, hurricanes, landlords, and automation.

Capitalism's Growth Imperative Keeps Deepening the Climate Crisis

The United Nations climate conference COP 30 will meet in Brazil this year. There, in 2024, close to 30 million hectares burned due to



drought-caused fires. That's the size of Italy.

The World Bank invested \$46 billion in climate finance in 2024. Amazon, Microsoft, and Google spent three times that amount on data centers. These centers use huge quantities of energy and water.

Energy is increasingly generated from "renewable" sources. But that mainly addresses long-term carbon emissions. The bigger issue is that a capitalist economy must keep growing. Capitalist competition requires every capitalist enterprise to expand or go under. And growth means consuming more energy and resources.

We are limited by a few principles: the inviolable laws of thermodynamics, the mathematics of exponential growth, and Jevons

Paradox.

Jevons Paradox was first described in 1865 by an English economist who focused on coal consumption in England. The paradox is that when technological innovation increases the efficiency of resource use, it leads to an increase in overall consumption of that resource. The increased consumption outpaces the efficiency gains.

This paradox is not just theoretical. It has been observed in practice. It confounds our ability to mitigate climate change simply by making energy use more efficient.

A capitalist economy is supposed to grow exponentially at 3% annually. This means it doubles every 24 years, and so does resource consumption. But the ecosystem operates on much longer intervals.

Resources cannot be regenerated every 24 years or even every 50 years.

Lastly, the laws of thermodynamics show that energy can only be changed from one form to another. Even the most delusional capitalist economist or politician cannot change these laws.

Whether electricity is generated by wind, solar, hydro, or nuclear, it is ultimately converted to another form. During that conversion, some energy is lost, typically as heat. While the conversion may get more efficient, Jevons Paradox suggests that capitalism will continue to heat the planet because it will consume ever more energy.

In heating the planet, capitalism makes more of it uninhabitable for humans and other living beings. Those living beings are part of the ecosystems on which we rely for food, water, and air. Some species will go extinct, compounding the problem.

None of this has to happen if we consume only the energy the masses actually need. Under capitalism this is not possible. Capitalism can only organize for profit and war.

We need a political economy that can organize the masses to make the planet thrive. This can only happen in a communist society. Communism will not require continual expansion or exponential growth. Communist planning can avoid Jevons Paradox.

If we can organize communist revolution within the next decade or two, we will begin to reverse capitalism's climate crisis.

Los Angeles: Working-Class Unity from page 1

take advantage of people, especially Black and Brown folks, while they are distraught and desperate. They, and price-gouging landlords, are the real looters. The community is resisting, declaring that "Dena Is Not For Sale."

WE Are All We Have

When the fires broke out, "mutual aid" groups quickly sprang into action. Around Altadena, Black and Latinx workers took the lead. Immigrant day laborers from the Pasadena Job Center organized and trained hundreds of young people and led them in clearing away fallen trees and branches.

It is workers, including displaced workers, who are organizing a flood of donations of food, water, clothes, and other necessities. Who have set up distribution centers in their own neighborhoods.

These workers, and many more, are more open than ever to communism. We have seen that over and over again: at distribution sites, at community meetings, in the streets,

and among people we know.

This is how we, the International Communist Workers' Party, know that communism can win and that it can work. Because workers have the skills and collective attitude needed to make decisions and run the world. Because so many of us want to do meaningful work to help each other, without personal reward. And because so many welcome and embrace communist ideas.

Communism Is What We All Need

"Mutual aid" can save each other from the worst that capitalism throws at us. But we must save ourselves from capitalism itself.

The slogan "only the people can save the people" is popular from Quito to Los Angeles. But who are "the people"? This is a class struggle. The working class must lead the masses to save ourselves from the disaster that is capitalist

rule. And this will take armed communist revolution.

Communist revolution will put the working class in charge of all production and distribution. Of an entire world without borders or nations. And that requires an international communist party, not just a loose association of autonomous collectives.

Today, even as we confront one disaster after another, one imperialist war after another, we must mo-

bilize workers, soldiers, sailors, and youth for communism. To build a communist society based on "mutual aid" instead of on money and markets. A world organized "from all according to ability and commitment, to all according to need."

That means building the International Communist Workers' Party. Please connect with us. Join and contribute your ideas, your energy, and your skills.



Volunteers organizing at the Pasadena Job Center

PRISONERS ON THE FRONTLINES OF CALIFORNIA FIRESTORMS

LOS ANGELES, January 12—“My cousin was in fire camp back in 2009 when he was 18 and incarcerated. Do you think the masses are aware that California has been using prison labor to fight fires?” one comrade asked another. They were distributing leaflets at a grocery store and talking to workers about the current firestorm.

“I don’t think the vast majority of the masses are aware of this exploitation,” she replied.

Flames are engulfing southern California at historic levels. They have destroyed over twelve thousand structures and threatened the lives of hundreds of thousands.

This firestorm has exposed our mass vulnerability to capitalism’s climate-induced disasters. It has also exposed the racist exploitation of many workers battling these

blazes. Many on the frontlines—nearly one thousand—are inmates participating in the Department of Corrections’ fire camp program.

The inmates who volunteer risk their lives for wages ranging from just \$0.16 to \$0.74 an hour. They may make as little as \$10 a day. Prison inmates fighting wildfires are four times more likely than professional firefighters to sustain injuries. Yet they are treated as a cheap labor force rather than as valued individuals deserving acknowledgment for their bravery.

Moreover, upon completing their sentences, they face significant barriers to employment despite their experience. They have been trained by firefighters in skills requiring immense courage, discipline, and teamwork. But these often don’t translate into career opportunities

because of their status as convicted felons.

What capitalist hypocrisy! The US swears in a convicted felon as President of the United States. So why can’t a former inmate become a firefighter?



Capitalism Has Failed – We Need Communism

This exploitation underscores the systemic failures of a capitalist State that values profits over people. It leaves both vulnerable communities and the incarcerated to bear the brunt of preventable crisis. When the fast-moving Hughes fire erupted, LA Sheriffs delayed for hours before starting to evacuate thousands of prisoners imprisoned nearby,

These fires could have been prevented or minimized had resources and labor power been allocated to brush clearance, power line maintenance, and other measures months ago.

Yet, the capitalist infrastructure prioritizes profit over prevention. It ensures that the labor force is deployed reactively rather than proactively. Instead of investing in sustainable solutions, we are left grappling with avoidable disasters

year after year.

A communist world will be guided by principles of equity and communal well-being. Labor will be allocated not just to fight fires but to prevent them. Those who commit antisocial acts would contribute to society in ways that teach meaningful skills and foster rehabilitation. Instead, capitalism perpetuates cycles of exploitation.

Workers everywhere are waking up to the reality that WE are all we have. Let’s fight for a society that values human life and abolishes profit. One that invests in prevention, rehabilitation, and collective well-being. We can build a better world—one where we care for one another and ensure no one is left behind.

From the ashes of this failing system, let us rise together and create a communist society rooted in struggle and solidarity.



RACIST MASS INCARCERATION: A FEATURE OF DECLINING US CAPITALISM

In 1972, the US rulers locked up fewer than 300,000 in their prisons and jails. Now there are almost two million, down from a peak of 2.3 million in 2008. The US has the highest number in the world.

One fourth of those prisoners are Latinx. Black and white prisoners each make up about 30%. That’s in a country where Latinx people are 19% of the population, Black people are 14%, and whites are 59%. Native American and Alaskan Native people are locked up at rates almost as high as Black workers.

And only one in a million prisoners are rich. The prisons, like every-

thing else in capitalism, leads with racism to attack the entire working class.

The prison growth spurt started in the 1970s. US power was declining worldwide after the US imperialists’ defeat in Vietnam and the OPEC oil embargo. It sped up in the 1980s and 1990s. Factories started shutting down throughout the US. Mass unemployment devastated working-class communities. The ruling class remembered the Black-led rebellions of workers, soldiers, and sailors in the 1960s. It embarked on a “hammer and the rock” strategy.

The “rock” was crack cocaine, pushed into the cities. The “hammer” was a “war on drugs” which concentrated on arresting its users. Aggressively racist big-city police forces zeroed in on Black and Latinx inner cities. Corrupt racist police framed Black and Latinx youth. Non-violent offenders were imprisoned. “Three Strikes” laws meant longer prison sentences, massive prison construction, and a tremendous expansion of prison labor.

California alone built twenty new prisons during this period. They are now seriously overcrowded. Increasing numbers of Black and Lat-

inx men and boys, especially, are trapped in the prison system. One way out is to join a fire-fighting squad.

Read our pamphlet:

**To End Racism,
Mobilize the Masses
for Communism**

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/rpe.pdf

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO
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Ukraine to LA: Capitalists Use Prisoners to Fight for the Rich

Thanks for the excellent reporting on the Los Angeles fires.

I am a Ukrainian refugee in England. I came here via Poland after the war. Initially, many people welcomed us. But after the government subsidy ran out, I had to find a house to rent and find a job. With my limited English, I started to see how England was built as a racist institution.

England has the highest prison population in Western Europe.

While minority groups comprise 14% of the population, they include more than a quarter of the prisoners. I have seen the rulers of both parties use fascist tactics to suppress the minorities. And I am from Kyiv, a person who has seen firsthand the brutality of fascist police and mobs.

It should come as no surprise that Prime Minister Starmer and Zelensky have signed a 100-year security guarantee for Ukraine! It is a sick joke. While the UK is attacking the healthcare workers, creating unlivable conditions for

the working class and minorities, they want to defend Ukraine!

Ukraine, on the other hand, is using prisoners to fill up its army. And that is why I am writing to you: when I saw that in Los Angeles, they are using prisoners to fight the fires for astonishingly low wages.

Both in Ukraine and LA, they are using prisoners to fight for the wealthiest people. Zelensky has luxurious villas in Italy and other European cities. And he is sending the working class to fight for the super-rich.

I am beginning to see the value of the *Red Flag*. It fights to destroy the wealthy capitalists. In Ukraine, I was brainwashed into thinking that communism ruined Ukraine. It was capitalism that ruined the lives of the masses.

I want to salute your efforts in LA. I am in solidarity. The goal that you are espousing of communism is admirable. Please keep sending *Red Flag*. I always show it to many immigrants who live in my area.

—Reader in the UK



SEATTLE (US), January 20—Five thousand demonstrated and rallied at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. event. It wasn't long before comrades ran out of the hundreds of *Red Flags* they brought to the rally. It was the only communist paper at the event.

A comrade noted that this multi-racial, multi-national crowd wanted to discuss politics “from a more leftwing perspective than in previous years.” Another comrade noted that these changes were similar to the recent changes in the Boeing workforce.

We expected the younger workers and students to welcome ICWP communist literature. But this time older workers also invited comrades to future events and political discussions. Many from the contingent of longshore workers were particularly interested in communism, the fight against racism, and the attacks on immigrants.

We were not adequately prepared for the response of many demonstrators. Next time we will bring more papers, more comrades, have a table set up and a banner. And take pictures.

Reaching out to these demonstrators is an important part of our work, building ICWP.

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

Party Line Needs to Evolve to Respond to Fascism

I am responding to *Red Flag* letter “What is the party line?” The writer states, “our gut reaction cannot be to hold the line at all costs.” I agree that we can't just put on blinders and forge ahead at all costs. There is, of course, a certain bottom line (fighting racism, sexism, etc., and the building of an international communist party, ICWP). But the line needs to evolve in response to events in the world and the actions of the masses.

Also, in terms of the paper, I would like to see it tackling some of the Trump decisions and what we can do about them. How do we address them? We need to have our act together. People are pissed off, but we can't just stay pissed off – we need to be out there more and more doing something. Fascism is on the rise, both in the US and around the world. This is very complex, and we need to be flexible in how we respond.

The executive order to round up and send back (to where?) millions of immigrants is underway NOW. We need more action and more coverage of this relevant issue.

I would like to see and hear thoughts and ideas from others about what ICWP can do as we enter a very difficult four years.

—Friend in Seattle

Learning and Growing Politically in El Salvador

I am very happy to have participated in the ICWP conference. For about two and a half years, I have been reading *Red Flag* and participating in a reading group where we discuss the paper. I am grateful to the comrade who struggled with me.

Now I can say that I am a member of the party. I have already participated in extended meetings and the international conference. The conference represented great

growth and political enrichment. I very much enjoyed meeting more comrades and interacting with each other.

Knowing what the other comrades face in different parts of the world mirrors the struggles that one goes through oneself.

I had some concerns that stayed in my mind, but with all that I could observe in the course of this last experience, I was able to resolve them with collective work and at the same time by reading the ICWP web page.

Always in our development and struggle, there are doubts or contradictions that we must learn to overcome. A comrade's recommendations to read about dialectical materialism and what it means to be a communist have been very helpful to me. I know that I need to learn more. Everything is a new world for me.

I hope to continue to learn and grow politically. To continue with our reading and discussion groups. Continuing to read the *Red Flag* website and to fight for what we need: the common good for all.

—New Comrade in El Salvador

The “Healthcare” System Is Killing Us

I recently reconnected with M, an old friend. M shared that she had been crying over the death of yet one more old friend, due to unnatural causes. M had three family members die from cancer, and three old friends die from complications of diabetes, all in the past ten years. We resolved to try to avoid becoming one of those sad statistics.

Heart attacks, cancer, and diabetes affect many of the poorest in the working class. Lack of good healthy food in the inner cities and Indigenous reservations make these generational problems. Cheap “commodity” foods contain unhealthy levels of salts, sugars,

white flour, and fats. There are more toxins in the air, the water, and the soil.

A closer look at the health industry's standard practices will bring tears to most people's eyes.

Consumer's Research magazine reported that, starting in the 1990s, patients who had surgery and women who had given birth, found that their insured hospital stays were cut down to one or two days. Previously, doctors made the decision to admit and watch post-surgical and post-partum mothers in the hospital. But the last four decades have found the practice of “managed care” and “cost control” to be most important to the institutions charged with “healthcare.”

Deaths and unnecessary trauma result from lack of care and unforeseen complications after discharge from the hospital. Doctors find themselves trapped by the system, due to the cost of insurance and the rising costs of hospital stays and services.

New programs to address health insurance costs have brought their own troubles. Families, seniors, and young people have trouble paying for enough coverage. In the 1990s, a system of “health savings accounts” was created. People could save money in an account strictly for medical expenses. This led, in practice, to unnecessary

tests, drugs, and physical therapy.

The healthcare industry makes money by either overcharging for procedures or billing for services never delivered. While in the hospital post-surgery, I was asked if I “wanted to walk around the hallway a bit.” This ten-minute stroll added close to \$200 to the total bill! Likely, the same was true of the oral painkillers requested, because the IV medications made me violently ill.

There is surely a better way to care for the people in one of the wealthier countries on the planet?

A simple, direct system that would enroll all people at birth, follow them as they grew and developed, and address problems as they were found. Any variation from what is healthy, and the health care workers would perform tests and look for healthy solutions promptly. This system would address mental problems as well, leading to less violence in homes and workplaces. There would be less use of alcohol and using street drugs to “self-medicate.”

But US capitalist “health care” cares more about profits than health.

We have a new communist world to build, and we need a healthy population to do the building!

—Comrade in California (USA)



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Communism and Mutual Aid

Party comrades in Los Angeles quickly mobilized to help other comrades affected by the fires here. The party has provided mutual aid to others in the past on an international basis, so I was not surprised.

Then I heard about the LA Mutual Aid Coalition meeting. I was interested in seeing how other groups were doing this. Their theme was: What are the possibilities for a revolutionary Mutual Aid Coalition?

I was impressed by the approximately 100 young people that attended this meeting. Myself and another comrade took 20 ICWP fliers to the meeting. Clearly, we should have brought more. We arrived just before the meeting started and we all wore face masks due to the poor air quality. This made it difficult to interact with people before the meeting.

The meeting started with introductions. I noticed a few nods as I mentioned that we were with the International Communist Workers' Party.

We were then divided into groups of about 6-8 people. Initially, discussion focused on relief efforts for people affected by the wildfires. They talked about how law enforcement and Red Cross had hampered some of their efforts.

A young person complained about a different group that regularly shows up but does not provide mutual aid. It only wants to shout at people about their ideas. I agreed that this would not be an effective approach. But we can't leave politics out of mutual aid efforts. We must find a balance if we are to eliminate the system that creates constant crises and misery. All agreed.

When we returned to the larger meeting, each group shared similar messages. There was widespread anger and general agreement that capitalism should be eliminated. But the solution was not something being discussed.

I gave leaflets to a few specific individuals and left the rest behind as we had to leave before the end. Unfortunately, we did not talk to more people. But we are supposed to be added to their chat group. We plan to participate actively to provide the only solution to capitalism that we see: communism.

The next week, we helped set up a location for giving out free water, food, toiletries, diapers, and even haircuts to people affected by the Altadena fire. We spoke with many people of different backgrounds. I commented to a Black man next to me that when we get

rid of capitalism, this is how we'll live, sharing what we have and receiving what we need. He responded, "That's right!"

A young friend commented that anyone could walk up and simply take items even if their home had not burned down. A young comrade responded, "What's wrong with that? Doesn't it make sense that people would get what they need." This comrade has become re-ignited with energy since the fires. She had to evacuate her home, but luckily it was not burned. She agreed to attend our ICWP LA fires forum.

—Comrade in Los Angeles County

People Want to Step Up and Help

As I was shopping for a couple of things at a market, an employee asked me how my day had been.

"I spent the last five hours feeding people at the Job Center. You've heard?" I responded.

"They're a hub for getting volunteers out to clear the streets and for collecting donations to hand out to people!"

"You see?" the man replied. "When something like this happens, while it's still a disaster, it gives people a chance to step up and be there for each other."

I told him about the personal chef who brought two trays of chicken and pasta, with a very tasty sauce. A worker had spent his day off cooking for people he had never met. And restaurants, both large and small, sent dozens of meals.

I've been telling different people that my faith in humanity has been restored.

—Comrade volunteer

People We Know Are Open to Communist Ideas

Another comrade and I attended a community meeting at First A.M.E. Church in Pasadena. We listened, we learned, and we distributed all the communist literature we had (55 leaflets and about 70 copies of *Red Flag*) before and after the event.

It is a historically Black church, but many Latina/o people attended the meeting and welcomed our literature. So did most white and Asian people there. Solidarity of Black and Latinx workers, and the protection of immigrant neighbors, were important themes of the meeting.

When I went inside and sat down, I realized I knew the woman next to me. We had a friendly conversation, and she took the leaflet. Another woman I knew was standing nearby. Afterward, a former

student (from when I taught high school over twenty years ago) came up to talk and took the paper. She was burned out of her home and is spending a lot of time volunteering with relief work at her church. We exchanged contact information. I talked to several other people I knew, too.

Meanwhile, people were coming up and taking papers out of my hand as I was talking to someone else. Three or four asked for one, two, five extra copies. They included a few younger people but also older church ladies.

I saw two things. First, there is even broader openness to communism than I have seen in the past. Second, it makes a difference to have relationships with people in this disaster-stricken community. This is what turns openness into opportunities to start recruiting more people I know to help and to join the party.

—Comrade who evacuated from the firestorm

Capitalist Disasters Create Communist Opportunities

Soon after the Eaton Fire, a huge resource distribution center was set up at a nearby racetrack.

When I was at the racetrack bringing food and distributing *Red Flag* and a communist leaflet, I talked to workers about the situation. I included that the US government was spending money on bombs for Israel to kill Palestinians and to Ukraine rather than paying for enough firefighters, hospitals, etc. That we need a revolution for communism.

Later, I asked a volunteer who was hurrying by if he wanted the paper. He said, "I heard you talking about Israel."

"When did I talk about Israel?" I inquired. "I don't remember."

"When you were talking to that group of workers about the Genocide in Gaza," he replied, adding, "PREACH, sister! Keep it up!"

"You should join us, brother," I said as he gladly took *Red Flag*. He said he had to go as he hurried off to help distribute food.

"I'm already with you," he shouted as he hurriedly walked to go help. He's part of the movement but doesn't yet see the need to join us.

He was much impressed (not turned off) by our mass approach to taking communist ideas to workers.

Self-critically, I didn't get his contact information. But I can in the future engagements. Also, we didn't bring the leaflet in Spanish or enough literature. Comrades won't make those mistakes again, I hope.

Other comrades have had many more experiences. This capitalist disaster and more to come are opportunities to build ICWP – if we take them.

— Los Angeles (USA) Comrade

Warm Greetings from Mexico

I would like to share my gratitude to the ICWP comrades for giving me the opportunity to participate in your international conference experience this December. Sharing and meeting different comrades from other countries was an enriching experience.

It was a time of political, cultural, and ideological growth. I feel very happy about this great invitation and the knowledge that there are many more of us in the struggle. I have read *Red Flag* for about two years and participated in occasional meetings in this country. I really like its ideology and sharing my feelings.

I want to continue getting to know more about you and participating in more meetings. I feel committed to continuing reading and sharing *Red Flag* with more people.

Everything for everyone! A world where many worlds fit!

— A Comrade in Mexico



After the Civil War, the white abolitionist Owen Brown, son of John Brown, moved to Pasadena and then Altadena. Many there celebrated him as the last surviving participant in the Harper's Ferry raid. He remained active in his own ways, including hiring Chinese laborers to protest the racist Chinese Exclusion Act. Masses attended his funeral. His Altadena grave drew a steady stream of pilgrims, down to the present.

Gaza “Ceasefire” Won’t End Genocide

REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST INTERNATIONALISM WILL LIBERATE ALL WORKERS FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA

CALIFORNIA (USA), January 28— “Many of my relatives were killed,” said Omar, a Palestinian friend from Gaza. “It is the governments— Hamas and Netanyahu— that are the problems. We are very warm and welcoming people. I have many Jewish friends,” he continued.

A comrade reminded him about the *Red Flag* he had given Omar a few months ago. He welcomed the communist newspaper. He was pleasantly surprised to learn we have a comrade in Gaza.

“I said that I would like to get to know his relatives in Gaza,” reported the comrade. “He gladly said yes and asked me to bring *Red Flag* the next time I see him.”

Comrades in Gaza and Tel Aviv are sowing the seeds of unity among Palestinians and Israelis. They spread *Red Flag* and the fight for communism in the streets, in study groups, in refugee camps, and on the job.

Nationalist political parties, even those fighting most militantly against the occupation, can’t unite the masses to end the capitalist-imposed genocide. Ceasefire or no, the struggle continues for a commu-

nist future for ALL working people in the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. And for a world without borders anywhere.

Ceasefire: Turning-Point in Genocide But Not the End

Three hundred thousand Gazans have returned to their homes in the north. There is joy of reunion with families and home. But there is also the reality of rubble, unexploded bombs, and horrific discoveries of the bodies of loved ones.

The Zionist entity (Israel) has switched its tactics and targets. Since the “ceasefire” it has increased settler aggression in the West Bank, bulldozed Ramallah, viciously attacked Jenin, and built 89 new gates around Bethlehem. It’s the same genocidal war, with the Palestinian Authority doing the IDF’s dirty work throughout the West Bank.

Israel has been shaken to the core in the past fifteen months. Mass demonstrations against the corrupt Netanyahu had begun before October 7. The shock of the October 7th attacks created some initial unity. Netanyahu chose to become a genocidal war criminal to avoid being

taken to court and judged as a common crook.

Israel’s stated goals were to destroy the Al Qassam brigade (Hamas’ armed wing) and the Hamas state and to get the hostages back. But Netanyahu clearly wasn’t interested in the hostages. And now the Al Qassam brigade, armed in the streets of Gaza City, are the ones handing over seven female hostages.

Netanyahu’s genocidal US-backed war has failed. He faces a fractured ruling coalition, mass street protests, a collapsing IOF, and an increasingly hostile world environment.

Gaza: Center of Communist Struggle against US-Zionist Imperialism

Trump—and Netanyahu—hope that the next stage of the genocide will have better “optics.” But people worldwide cannot unsee the horrific scenes of 471 days of genocide. Israel is now an international pariah, and so is the US.

Along with many others, comrades of the ICWP in El Salvador, India, South Africa, and the US now see Palestine—and Gaza in particular—as the center of the struggle against imperialist capitalism. As a comrade in South Africa said, “if they murder the children of Gaza now, they can murder our children in Gqeberha tomorrow.”

We salute the determination that the people of Gaza have shown fighting for survival. The courage of our comrades in Gaza and Tel Aviv and their historic rejection of nationalism to fight for a communist future. These give profound meaning to the struggle in Pales-

Gaza Ceasefire: Optics, Politics, and Continuing Genocide

If not for Netanyahu, this ceasefire would have happened eight months ago. Trump sent his envoy to Tel Aviv to push the deal through. “Genocide Joe” Biden could have sent the same ultimatum—a credible threat to stop arming the Israeli Occupation Forces. But Biden—and Harris—chose to own the genocide even though it cost them the election.

Trump pushed for a deal because he knows that genocide is bad public relations. But he’s appointing Biblical (Christian) Zionists to his cabinet. He is removing sanctions against the most vicious Israeli settlers in the Occupied West Bank. Trump even called for “cleaning out” Gaza and expelling Palestinians to Jordan and Egypt. He’s giving the Zionists a bright green light to continue the genocide.

Trump got a PR victory and a chance to strengthen ties with Saudi Arabia. Contradictions are sharpening between the US and its allies (on one side) and Iran/Russia/China on the other. Trump hopes to keep Israel as its proxy, while cementing ties with Iran’s regional rival, Saudi Arabia. Whether he’ll be able to do that remains to be seen.

Let it inspire us all, wherever we are, to intensify our struggle for a communist world.



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What does it mean that thousands of Israeli soldiers are refusing to serve in a genocide?

“According to the Israeli newspaper Haaretz,” posted comrade B in a group chat, “thousands of IOF* soldiers have stopped serving in combat roles since October 7, 2023.”

This gave rise to an important discussion that involved two other US-based comrades. Comrade C responded: “The mental stress from carrying out a genocide, a total war, are tough on soldiers. it’s good that they’re not fighting anymore.

“I’m so sorry, but nobody’s going to give a damn about how the Palestinians are suffering from mental illness because of what’s happening to them.

“I appreciate this news story, but the Palestinians are more important than Israeli soldiers. They’re

the ones who are suffering the Total war and the genocide at the hands of the United States and Israel. The imperialist West will do nothing to support the mental health of the Palestinian people, especially Palestinian youth. Genocide and Total War are part of their strategy to control the Levant (Middle East) in their interests.

“It took almost all of the world’s diplomatic pressure to demand that Israel allow the World Health Organization to give the Palestinian youth polio shots last year! We need a new campaign focused on the mental health of the Palestinian youth and the need to end the Total War and end the genocide they are facing at the hands of the US imperialists and Israel.”

Comrade D jumped in: “I think it’s a question of revolutionary potential. The IOF soldiers suffering from mental distress are the healthy ones.

“This parallels the situation of US soldiers who were drafted into a genocide in Vietnam and came home with PTSD. They saw their common humanity with Vietnamese workers. Some of them refused to participate, fragged their officers, and came home to organize.

“Those IOF soldiers are not coming from a context of urban rebellions and a mass movement against racism and war. They are coming from a society that has justified the Nakba and isolated Israeli young people from the reality of apartheid Israel. Yet they can’t make themselves carry out a genocide. They and thousands more are the base for a communist movement that unites the working

masses of Jews and Palestinians for communist revolution.”

Have others been having these types of discussions?

What is the role of soldiers in ending Total War and genocide?

What does that mean for what we do every day?

—Comrades in the US

*IOF = “Israeli Occupation Forces” (officially the Israeli Defense Forces)



Tel Aviv, protestors denounce genocide at IDF recruitment center.