

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



Student Walkouts Across the U.S. Slam Deportations!

IT'S NOT JUST TRUMP—IT'S CAPITALISM! COMMUNIST REVOLUTION IS THE ANSWER!

LOS ANGELES (USA), February 19— “My students made it all the way to the 6th Street bridge, where they met up with students from other schools,” said a comrade. “I’m very proud of them and their revolutionary potential.”

“This is good news!” said another teacher comrade. “My students supported the walkouts. A Black student created a sign that said: *I drink my horchata (a popular Latino drink) warm cause F*** ICE (immigration agency)!*”

In cities across the US, high school students have walked out to protest deportations. They recognize the injustice and feel the urgency. Their signs have included “Stop the raids, stop the hate,” “Abolish ICE now,” and “My parents fought for my future, now I will fight for theirs.”

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ICWP comrades distribute *Red Flag* to several high schools here every issue. We had heard about a walkout at one of those schools. As students marched out, we met them with a sign, leaflets, and *Red Flag*. We cheered them on, and they were excited to see us. They eagerly took our literature. Many took pictures of our sign. One took a small bundle of *Red Flags* and leaflets.

A few days later, comrades took the same leaflet to their regular *Red Flag* distribution at a garment factory. Workers wanted to talk about the walkouts.

“I like what they are doing,” said one.

“Give me two *Red Flags*. I will talk to my daughter,” said another.

“Do you think what the students are doing is right?” asked a third, while holding his copies of *Red*

SOUTH AFRICA: WOMEN COMRADES LEAD THE CHARGE TO MAY DAY

GQEBERHA (South Africa), February 16— “Welcome comrades,” said Comrade Q. “We are excited to host you and see you again. Since we had a ‘closing’ meeting last year, this is our ‘opening’. Our plan is to double our numbers this year”.

Yesterday we had a great meeting. It was the first time the larger collective met this year. We had planned the meeting in order for as many comrades as possible to attend. For different reasons, some comrades were not able to. But ten comrades came, seven female comrades and three males.

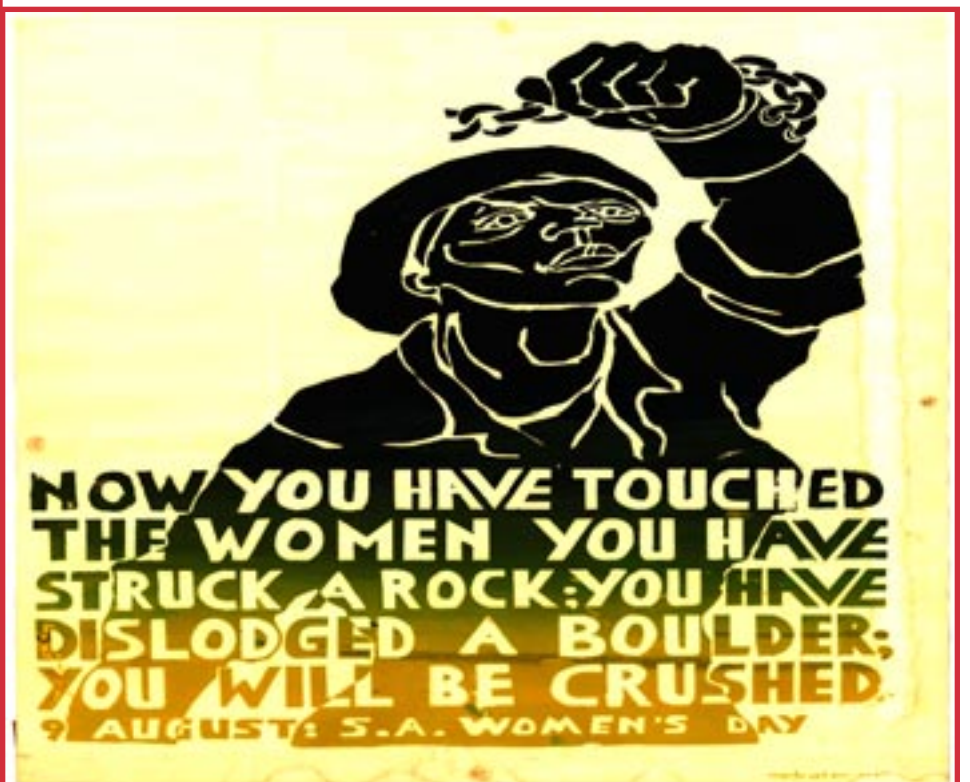
This is a positive direction in the fight against sexism as in the past we were a male-dominated group. Over the last year we have put into practice the fight against sexism. This is due to the leadership role

See SOUTH AFRICA: WOMEN WILL LEAD MAY DAY MARCH, page 4

played by the female comrade who hosted us in her house.

“Yes, comrades, welcome!” said Comrade S. “This year we will focus on our political line. We will have collective studies, camps, and regular dialectical materialism meetings. We will focus on expanding our understanding of our communist line, so that we have confidence when we go on the streets and mobilise.

“But in addition to that, to enable us to be proactive and see the world for what it is. To see connection in what otherwise seem like isolated events. All major shifts and wars are part of the system of profit. In order to dismantle it, we have to understand it. And to do that we must have a political understanding and always present our line to the masses”.



South Africa, 1956

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TURNING LIES AND FEAR INTO ANGER AND STRUGGLE

Since Trump became US president, his plan for mass deportations has generated fear, but also struggle. The capitalist government and the bosses' media offer a disgusting string of fascist lies to paint us as the worst. They say, for example, that Hispanic immigrants are "rapists and murderers."

This is not only happening in the United States. The bosses want to divide us in all parts of the world. That's why we must struggle with everyone about this capitalist propaganda. That includes our children and people we interact with on a daily basis. Because all this garbage propagated by the bosses often does not go unnoticed. It creates an idea in the masses that what they say is true.

We must enter the battle, confident that there is only one way to end this global capitalist catastrophe: communism. Only communism can put an end to borders, nations, and xenophobia.

In communism, no worker will need to be anchored to a particular place. Workers will have the means to work and socialize with their class siblings all over the world. Workers from anywhere will be welcome everywhere.

There is too much information on this topic right now. At my job it is the daily topic of conversation. Fear is real and we all experience it. Even those who have residency or citizenship are afraid.

Recently we were talking about the immigrants who were sent to

Guantánamo accused of being "violent gang members and other high-risk illegal aliens." This has been countered with evidence by some relatives of those who have been sent to this prison, showing that they are not part of any gang.

And one of my fellow workers said, "for these racists we are all criminals." I have also had to struggle with them against nationalism, because some think that in their places of origin "capitalists are less bad."

I tell them that workers are not safe anywhere. Nations – and nationalism – are capitalist inventions. They are based on the lie that workers have more in common with their "own" bosses than with workers on the other side of a

border of the bosses' own making.

It's a perfect time to win more members to the party with our clear line of a world without borders.

Self-critically, all the terror propaganda has generated quite a lot of fear and anxiety in me, to the point that I am not going out much. I am going from work to the apartment. This has prevented me from joining the demonstrations in which other comrades participated. But I am going to turn that fear into anger and struggle because only by fighting are we going to end this system, its borders, and its racist policies.

—Comrade in the USA

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The Continuing Struggle for a Communist World Without Borders

I was glued to the sewing machine, along with 150 other workers. Suddenly we heard hundreds of voices of garment workers outside the factory shouting, "Down with 187!" "Let's strike!" The rebellious strike was led by garment workers who were friends of ours.

It was in Los Angeles in 1994, thirty years ago. Proposition 187 was a direct attack on immigrants in California. It wanted to speed up deportations, to stop the children of the "undocumented" from going to school or receiving medical care. It was similar to the current racist policies of the Trump gang. The attack on immigrants in those years was also to deflect the anger

felt by Black workers against racist attacks by the police.

We turned off the machines, got out, and marched down Broadway, bringing out many more workers from other factories. The group grew and grew. Our fears turned to anger, after several raids and attacks by politicians who wanted to blame immigrants for their economic crisis. Making the citizens believe that by decreasing the immigrant labor force, they would improve the economy.

Some garment comrades got a banner that was placed at the front of the march and took the political lead of the group, with slogans and directing them to the mayor's office.

On the way downtown to City Hall, we joined another march of hundreds of students coming from East Los Angeles. Other comrades

were passing out communist literature to the masses in motion.

In front of City Hall, a comrade gave a speech against racism and for communist revolution. At that time there was a huge movement against anti-immigrant racism. It soon led to a huge march of one million people in Los Angeles. This massive multi-racial demonstration rejected the attack on immigrants. It rattled the bosses, who sought means to calm the situation.

The proposition passed in the California elections, but it was later declared unconstitutional by the federal courts. Today these attacks are returning with more force with Trump's plans.

Today I continue to fight, but with a clearer vision of the need to win workers to fight for a communist world without borders, not just

for reforms.

The capitalist/imperialist crisis brings with it racist, fascist, and homophobic attacks. The only way out for the international working class is the fight for communism.

"Undocumented" Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

Read our pamphlet:

FIGHT FOR THE DAY WHEN NO WORKER WILL BE CALLED FOREIGNER

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/ffde.pdf

STUDENTS WALK OUT AGAINST DEPORTATIONS from page 1

Flag and the leaflet.

"Of course!" answered a comrade. "It creates potential for the formation of future workers and soldiers as communists."

Workers have no flag but the red flag. Some students carry flags from different countries including the US. Comrades have had good struggles about this. A comrade explained to one marcher carrying a Mexican flag that the Mexican government had murdered Mexican students protesting in Tlatelolco in 1968. "That's not the workers' flag," he said. The marcher thanked him, and they exchanged phone numbers.

High school students have been at the forefront of the fight

against capitalism and all its forms of racism and exploitation.

In South Africa, students fought against Apartheid (legal racist segregation). In El Salvador, they fought in the war for liberation. In the US, they fought in the rebellions of the 1960s.

Our leaflet said to students walking out: "Now it's your turn. But your struggle not only needs to attack capitalism, and all its ugly forms, but it also needs to fight for communism. Because next time is now!"

Around the world, the capitalist ruling classes are waging war against all of us. Their system is in crisis and fascism is on the rise everywhere. Immigrants are torn

from their families. Black workers are criminalized and brutalized. LGBTQ+ people are targeted. The poor are abandoned to suffer. The capitalists send us to die and kill for them in their wars. They build jails and prisons to put us in. A system in crisis struggles to survive by keeping us divided and afraid.

Reform will not save us. Every concession won under capitalism is temporary. Every right granted can

be stripped away. We must fight to end capitalism itself.

Students, workers, and soldiers need to join forces to build communist revolution. With communism all of us, regardless of gender or "race," will look out for each other. Without nations, borders, or money. Where we share everything we have created and where every one is welcomed everywhere.

The following letters and articles are on the website:

**The Criminalization of Poverty
In Solidarity with LA Firestorm Victims
El Salvador: Trading Gold for Mirrors
Nationalism is Not Human Nature**

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Masses Are Not Passive in the Face of Fascism

COMMUNIST GROWTH AMID RAPID POLITICAL CHANGE

SEATTLE (USA), February 14— We live in times of exploding racism, expanding fascism and the threat of world war.

Trump and his fascist friends blame everything on “minorities” and immigrants. For example, they falsely blamed “DEI” (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) for the collision between a helicopter and a commercial airplane in Washington, DC. Trump has invited white South African farm owners to become refugees in the US while deporting refugees from South America, Africa and Asia.

Meanwhile, executives cut medical care and wages, while laying off hundreds of thousands of industrial workers. Changing times are making people more fearful—or angrier and more open to communism.

“We can either not talk about it at all or talk about what we can do about it. Not just complain,” said a Seattle comrade. Many friends have stepped up, sometimes surprising us with their enthusiasm.

Workers, students, and soldiers are not waiting for the Democratic Party or the courts to counter fascist propaganda and attacks. They are

looking for different answers. Thousands already have taken *Red Flag*, and many want to learn about communism and revolution.

Rapid response groups organized to confront ICE are emerging in many schools and communities. Paraprofessionals and other educators who have attended our social/political events and marched with us on May Day are among the organizers.

Neighborhood organizers, also close friends of ICWP, have invited comrades to pro-immigrant demonstrations: “Undocumented, Unafraid, Unapologetic!”

While Musk and Trump are busy dismantling the Veterans’ Administration (VA) workforce, friends of ICWP are starting to organize groups in VA hospitals. They are meeting with comrades to discuss the importance of organizing in the armed forces and contacting other ICWP comrades about this fight.

Meanwhile, “Defense” Secretary Hegseth was met with a walkout of over fifty Patch Middle School US students in Stuttgart, Germany. Separately, their parents heckled and booed Hegseth’s delegation,



Military families confront US “Defense” Secretary Hegseth in Germany over his attacks on “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” as middle-school students walk out on February 12

chanting “DEI!”

A friend from Kenya recently talked about demonstrations there. She has been harassed by ICE officers disguising themselves as US Census takers. She invited us to dinner to discuss how we can build collectives to fight back.

A Seattle friend told Boeing strikers that it took her six months to appreciate *Red Flag*. She is now beginning to organize among soldier advocates and writes short letters for our newspaper. More friends are distributing our communist newspaper and contributing letters about communist work.

The more we focus on expanding

our base through communist struggle, the more influential our party line becomes. The imperialists are relying on racism to build fear in the working class, but many in our base and beyond are not accepting these deadly lies.

These good developments are happening because of Party members’ long-term work building relationships.

Carefully listening to our friends builds trust. It has resulted in many invitations to join them in struggle. Being on the streets with them sets the way for party growth. It opens the door to understanding and appreciation of our communist line.

WORKING-CLASS WAKES UP TO DEMISE OF US INDUSTRIAL POWER

The industrial bedrock of US imperialism is collapsing. Honeywell, Alcoa, and General Electric sold parts of each industry and divided each company into three smaller firms. The US auto industry is a shadow of its former self despite the billions given to it by

the government. GM is laying off 14,300 workers and preparing to fire even more international employees.

Now it is Boeing’s turn. The company is selling off multi-billion-dollar sections of its industrial infrastructure while laying off tens

of thousands of workers. And the call to further break up Boeing intensifies.

Decades ago, when a comrade secured a blue-collar Boeing job, it was considered the world’s premier aerospace firm. That is no longer true. Many major US imperialist

pundits admit that the US is no match for the Chinese industrial might.

Behind the rush to US government fascism lies the collapse of manufacturing. Many industrial workers are paying close attention to this failure of capitalism.

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

Let’s Learn More from Party History at Boeing

It’s always good to read about our party’s work in Seattle among the new, younger, more diverse Boeing workforce. It’s great that the comrades are trying to take advantage of new opportunities for party growth.

But these articles raise a question. Though it’s never stated directly, the constant emphasis on these new opportunities seems to suggest that opportunities for party growth did not exist at Boeing before the pandemic, when the workforce was older and less diverse. Those of us who have read *Red Flag* for a long time know that isn’t true.

We remember how comrades and friends distributed communist literature on the shop floor. How they mobilized many co-workers to confront anti-immigrant racists, also on the shop floor. We remember reports of well-attended multi-racial social events with sharp political discussions. Some of us even attended a few of those. The Boeing work has helped to lead the whole party.

Newer readers wouldn’t know all that. In the US and around the world, the capitalist rulers have long spread a lot of negativity about US industrial workers, especially white workers, supposedly being “reactionary.” Decades of experience at Boeing proved that a lie. It’s still important.

Our line has been, and still is, to “mobilize masses for communism.” To build a mass party, not just a small party with a mass base.

Despite the good and consistent

work at Boeing, we didn’t recruit many workers to the party. Why? Surely not just because the workforce was not yet “young and diverse.” Was it a problem with our line? With our practice? What can we all learn from whatever mistakes might have been made? And what are we doing differently now?

Comrades, your answers to these questions could help advance the work of the whole party.

—Older comrade

Capitalists Need Immigrant Labor, But Workers Don’t Need Capitalists

I am a Salvadoran who left my country and immigrated with my family to the US three years ago in search of opportunities for a better life. Our economic situation under the Bukele government was becoming increasingly precarious. Everything that is published or said about my country is only publicity for a paradise for the rich, the owners of the means of production.

Here in the US, it is very difficult for my mother, my sister, and me to survive. We have faced a lot of discrimination. But the same need for money and to pay our debts makes us struggle every day. We know that we are not the only ones in the same situation, and, despite these conditions, we continue going forward.

I heard about you through *Red Flag*. A while ago a friend of mine from El Salvador shared it with me. I find what you write to be very interesting. You speak the truth, not

See **IMMIGRANT LABOR**, page 4



COMMUNISM GROWS IN PALESTINE AMID ONGOING GENOCIDE

February 18— “We heard of Trump threatening to remove the masses forcefully,” reported comrade Hamza in Gaza. “The response from the masses is universal defiance. They are already going back. Many have no homes, but they would never leave Gaza.”

Trump made this threat while standing next to the Israeli butcher Netanyahu on February 4. “The US will take over the Gaza Strip. We’ll own it.” This was an outrageous call for the mass deportation of Palestinians—for ethnic cleansing. Meanwhile, Zionist occupation forces have taken advantage of the Gaza “ceasefire” to forcibly displace over 90% of the residents of the huge Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank.

Netanyahu knows, even if Trump doesn’t, that the rulers of Jordan and Egypt cannot agree to resettling over two million forcibly displaced Palestinians. Mass sentiment in both countries – including the Egyptian army– is strongly pro-Palestine. King Abdullah and President el-Sisi don’t want to go the way of Syria’s al-Assad.

In Gaza, comrade Hamza continued, “People went to sleep every night thinking they might not be alive the following day. But that inspired them to continue helping each other. In many places, many people, neighbors, were involved in food production. People found new

ways of growing crops and immediately distributing them to the masses as needed.”

As the imperialist genocide brought unbearable misery, the masses also became hardened and more defiant. The idea of communism as the only solution became a reality to many.

Comrade Hamza regularly reads *Red Flag* on his phone and shares it with friends. They meet together and are moved by reports from the Israeli comrades.

They saw the relentless bombing of the masses in the refugee camps and on the roads when they were forced to evacuate from North Gaza.

“We were now talking openly about building our party,” said comrade Hamza. “One eight-year-old boy who had lost his parents adopted me. He understood that we were fighting to end this system. He would organize children to meet with me, anywhere from eight to thirty people. The masses are very open to communism.”

Children led the First Intifada (uprising) in 1987-1993. Some 90% of boys and 80% of girls were involved, mostly throwing stones at Zionist soldiers. Many were arrested and some were held without charges for up to a year. To this day, hundreds of Palestinian children suffer intolerable conditions in Israeli prisons.



Comrades in Gqeberha, South Africa, denounce genocide in Gaza, November 2023

Read our new pamphlet:

GENOCIDE IN PALESTINE CALLS FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Available at:

icwpredflag.org/wp/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/egaza2.pdf

“The first phase of the ceasefire has expanded our activities,” said comrade Hamza. “Several of us are now able to translate *Red Flag* to distribute it electronically. We have found a printing press and hope to print *Red Flag* right here in Gaza.

“Our future is uncertain, but what is certain is the spread of com-

munist work. I see the masses rising for communism. I see young children becoming future red soldiers fighting the most sadistic, genocidal forces. No matter if we are in Gaza or forcefully evacuated to Egypt or Jordan, communism will spread like wildfire.”

SOUTH AFRICA: WOMEN WILL LEAD MAY DAY MARCH, from page 1

Comrade C added, “Absolutely, comrades. Having quantity with no quality is not always helpful, although there is a dialectical relationship between the two. As we know from dialectics, quantity can lead to quality. However, if we have a large number without our line, they would go out and misrepresent our line if we do not guard and sharpen it within the collective”.

“Indeed comrades,” Comrade Q added, “that’s why meetings and collective and individual reading of the *Red Flag* is imperative. It is our weapon. Before or after May Day, we will make sure we have these classes to collectively struggle

about our political line with the new and the old comrades”.

“Yes, we need it,” said N, a new comrade. “We need that so that we know what we are talking about to the people, so that we have confidence. So that I won’t have to call other comrades to mass recruit. So that I can explain the party and communism on my own in a way that gives confidence”.

“I agree,” said another new comrade, D. “That’s why I think these meetings must be regular”.

The discussion went on. Comrades talked about the need for communist political education and the struggle to sharpen our line.

And recruiting huge numbers of workers, not just in Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) but the whole of South Africa.

To this, B, a new comrade, said, “We have to have, in terms of the bigger picture, even if it’s on the web, an option to translate into different languages as many people do not speak English or Xhosa. In the future we must have Zulu, Sotho, Afrikaans translations, and more”.

Another comrade agreed and suggested that special pamphlets should have translation. This is what comrades will look to do more often this year. As he put it, “We should be accessible to the masses.

We should go and adapt to the masses instead of them adapting to us. It should be us who make the effort to be with the masses”.

The meeting mostly focused on plans for the year, and what we want to achieve as a collective this year.

We ended by promising to meet again as a larger collective. Next time, hopefully, with the rest of the comrades also able to join. We hope that at least forty comrades will pitch up.

We are excited for the May Day ahead, with more female comrades leading the charge. We say “Aluta continua”.

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IMMIGRANT LABOR, from page 3

like the other newspapers we are used to, which cover up the cruelty and greed of the powerful rulers. Because of time I can’t read it completely, since I have two jobs, but I try to do it. I am always waiting for the new edition to be sent to me.

I have read letters written for *Red Flag* and that is what encouraged me to write what we are living through. With Trump’s victory, my mother and my sister are very afraid that we will be deported. We

have debts and no savings. In their jobs, as in mine, there is an air of fear and tension. We are very worried about the raids they are carrying out. Every day that we go to work we are anxious about not being able to return. There are many things that are whispered about.

My sister says to me, what if Trump had lost and Kamala had won, would everything be different? I know it would not, from what I have read with you and what my friend explains. No matter who wins, we are always the ones who

get hurt living under the capitalists.

I think we are many immigrants from all over the world and many are from the working class. They can’t just get rid of us. They need us and I believe, just as they say in the paper, that together we can change things. I will continue to read *Red Flag*!

—Friend from El Salvador in the US

Rout the Vermin!

Nazis thought they could demonstrate in a predominantly white well-to-do neighborhood in a suburb of

Cincinnati, Ohio (USA).

Working class folks from an adjacent town were not about to let them.

Members of a local Black community ran this scum from an overpass along a busy interstate highway.

The nazis’ flags were burned as they made a hasty retreat when confronted.

Of course the racist police did not arrest any of these vermin under the guise of “free speech”.

—Anti-racist fighter in Cincinnati

LIFE IN THE HONDURAN SHELTER: A COLLECTIVE LIFE WITHOUT MONEY

“We were about eight hundred people in a column, heading to the shelter in Honduras. We were leaving everything behind, fleeing the Salvadoran army, during the civil war in El Salvador in the 1980s. We had to open the route. We walked only at night to avoid being discovered by the government army.

“The solidarity of the Honduran people was important upon our arrival at the shelter,” E recalled during her visit to the refugee camp in Colomoncagua, Honduras.

“This was a very great experience in the struggle to end the repression of those years in El Salvador. We learned to organize ourselves in committees and to function collectively,” E continued. She was formerly a combatant of the FMLN and is now a comrade of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

We lived approximately nine years in that shelter. There we worked based on needs, not for a salary. Then we returned to El Salvador to join the revolutionary struggle, because the conflict had not ended.

Women have been key throughout the history of the class struggle. They have been part of the organizations of struggle and of the armed

struggle for a better life for the working class.

A level of organization was reached that allowed the functioning of thousands of families in a collective life. As the needs arose, they were distributed in four collectives.

Many women stood out by giving leadership in the organization. They led the work of different groups. They did not limit themselves to domestic chores.

The first group consisted of four people who were in charge of informing and preparing people politically and ideologically to have good leadership.

The second collective was formed of one leader for each camp. They gave important information to the population.

The third group was also made up of one leader for each camp colony. They were responsible for following up on the problems and needs that were presented.

The fourth group was likewise one for each neighborhood. They worked to solve the needs of clothing, food, security, sanitation, workshops, nutrition, and education.

Camp security was based on two women or two men doing two-hour shifts guarding the camp so that

there were no infiltrations by the Honduran or Salvadoran army, and so on. The shifts were made from six in the evening until six in the morning.

The needs of the people, such as: if they needed food, clothing, or if their houses had faults, they made them known to the housing manager. This person was in charge of solving them.

Always with the support of the other groups, work was done and the needs that existed were solved.

There was also a reception committee made up of five people who received delegations from different countries, such as the United States, Germany, Canada, Spain, Belgium, Ireland, Honduras. We worked to publicize what was being done and worked on in the camp. We informed them why we left El Salvador. We requested international support, either outside or inside the country.

“Now that I am in ICWP fighting for a society without money and free of gender discrimination, I un-



derstand this very well, and I know that it is possible,” E concluded.

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN’S DAY!

Read our pamphlet:

THE COMMUNIST FIGHT AGAINST SEXISM

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/sxse.pdf



LOS ANGELES (USA), February 8— “F*** landlords!” That’s what drove a crowd of demonstrators to cheers in the middle of a speech given by a young woman activist at the Los Angeles Lunar New Year March in Chinatown. Five hundred marched under the banner “Fight Displacement from Chinatown to Palestine.”

Later, an ICWP comrade complimented the woman and handed her a *Red Flag*. “Your slogan translates directly to ‘F*** capitalism,’” he said. She agreed, as many workers agreed throughout the march as eight ICWP comrades carried our party’s communist flag and signs and distributed about two hundred *Red Flags*.

It is becoming clearer to workers in LA and

across the US that we are living in a fascist state. The stressors of capitalism are intensified in our everyday life. Whether it is housing costs, ICE raids, gentrification, inflation, xenophobia, or wars, these social problems are directly connected to the racist capitalist system that we must destroy and replace with communism.

At the end of the march, comrades talked about the same slogan, and one added, “Yes, f*** private property!” We should make it a point to wave a red flag at all demonstrations because it gives a stronger presence of ICWP. Soon enough, we must lead the masses to follow our red flag into a communist revolution.

“Long live communism!”

GLOBAL SHAKEUP: US RULERS CHOOSE RUSSIA OVER EUROPE

February 19— “Deep rift between US and EU opens up,” reported DW (the German national broadcasting service) four days ago. Since then the rift has widened.

First US Vice-President Vance scolded European Union (EU) officials at the Munich Security Conference for refusing to form coalitions with extreme right-wing parties. Then he met with a leader of the xenophobic, Islamophobic, antisemitic, and pro-Nazi AfD (Alternative für Deutschland).

Next, US “Defense” Secretary Hegseth agreed to two of Russia’s key demands on Ukraine BEFORE negotiations had even begun. European governments (and even some US imperialists) were horrified.

Then US leaders flew to Saudi Arabia to confer with Russian officials on ending the war in Ukraine. Ukrainian officials were not invited. Neither were the European NATO partners of the US. Or former partners, it seems. The conference turned into a broader discussion of potential profitable US-Russia partnerships.

France’s Macron quickly convened first one meeting of European officials and, two days later, another. They have long relied on the US military to hold the line against Russian expansion and domination. Trump now blames Ukraine alone for the NATO-Russia war there. European imperialism – now a second-class power – is preparing to go it alone. It is increasing deficit limits to increase war spending. There is serious talk about putting “boots on the ground” in Ukraine.

“It’s a reversal of the state of the world since 1945,” said a former French foreign minister.

The imperialist rulers of the United States and western Europe have been joined, since 1949, in the political-military North American Treaty Organization (NATO). Since then, many agreements have strengthened economic and other ties between the US and the European Union (EU). The US is still the largest market for EU exports.

But there have always been conflicts and disagreements, too. Sometimes within the EU, sometimes between the EU and the US. Capital-

ism is by its very nature a competitive, dog-eat-dog system. Its inner logic leads to war. Twice in the last century and again now, to world war.

So the US-Europe relationship is what we call a contradiction: a unity of opposites locked in struggle. In general, unity is relative and temporary while the struggle is constant (if uneven). Struggle drives development (change).

US-Europe shows clearly how small changes can add up until they explode into a qualitative change. That seems to be happening right now.

It will profoundly affect the international working class. In Europe, for example, workers will be squeezed to pay for more war spending. This, and especially more war, will intensify the need and the opportunity for world communist revolution.

Will the US get half a \$trillion in Ukrainian mineral wealth? Will Europe hold together? What will China do? Most important, what will the working class do? How can the International Communist Workers’ Party grow? More on this rapidly developing story in the next Red Flag.

Workers Need Class Unity to Fight Fascist Attacks

IN COMMUNISM OUR LABOR WILL EFFICIENTLY MEET WORKERS' NEEDS

USA, February 16— “It’s not just us,” said a comrade federal government worker. “Other workers, including Trump voters, will be impacted. The working class has to struggle together. Musk is known for pitting workers against workers. He is splitting workers apart.”

Trump appointed the world’s richest man, the openly fascist Elon Musk, to head a new “Department of Government Efficiency.” Musk’s minions took over government agencies, stealing tons of personal and institutional data. They claim to have uncovered \$billions in “fraud” but haven’t produced even one example.

Their real goal is to terrorize government workers while cutting vast numbers of jobs and whole agencies meant to serve the most vulnerable masses. Many were on the chopping block even under Biden. Now tens of thousands have been fired.

“There is fear and anger,” the comrade reported, “but more fear.” Fear can be immobilizing but it can also spur us to action.

The comrade mentioned friends, a couple who both hold federal jobs. If they lose those jobs, how will they take care of their children?

How will they survive?

This points to a truth about our wage slavery that goes beyond an unelected “President Musk” taking a sledgehammer to the government. It shows why the working class must take a sledgehammer to capitalism itself. Why we need communist revolution.

The basic organizing principle of real communism is that we all take care of each other. Relationships, not monetary exchange, connect us. We work as we are willing and able. We share the fruits of our labor according to need. We make decisions collectively for the common good. No billionaires, no bosses. No nations to divide us.

If someone’s role becomes unnecessary, or if they can no longer do it, there will be no hardship. They will still receive everything they need to continue living comfortably. Their collective will help them find appropriate work. Communist “efficiency” means doing things in ways that build collectivity, not more cheaply.

Communism will destroy whole capitalist economic sectors and job categories. No more layers of bosses there only to make other people do real work. No more

money to manage. Banking, finance, the whole Treasury Department... gone!

FBI, CIA, “Justice” ... Gone! These and other state institutions exist mainly for the capitalist class to repress the masses. Gone, too: the “Defense” Department that forces workers to fight their class siblings elsewhere to expand or defend the billionaires’ empire.

Communism will have meaningful productive work for everyone. Agriculture, manufacturing, transportation. Health, social work, education. Environmental repair. Spreading communist revolution worldwide. Defending our communist society from capitalist and fascist enemies.

Workers will meet collectively to make policy. To plan and evaluate our work. To use study and the arts to enrich our lives. To strengthen our social bonds.

Today we must organize and mobilize masses for communist revolution to win and build this new society. We invite you to learn more about the International Communist Workers’ Party and join us to help do this.

We’d better not rely on unions or the Democratic Party to “work

within the system” to stop Musk and Trump’s wholesale attacks on Black and immigrant workers, trans people, federal employees, and the whole working class. Government workers’ unions report surging membership, but they think “fighting” means filing lawsuits and holding rallies with Democratic politicians. They try to chain us to the capitalists’ system and its government.

But “the system” is the problem, not the solution.

Whether or not there is a “constitutional crisis,” the US constitution has always defended the exploiters from the exploited. Capitalism itself, especially during global crisis, is the root of fascism.

The Nazis took power in Germany legally under the liberal Weimar Constitution. Fascist Modi is not deterred by India’s constitution, which declares it “socialist, secular, and democratic.” Most fascist rulers today operate under constitutional regimes.

Only communist revolution can defeat fascism. Only communism can inspire, unite, and empower the masses to fearlessly build the world we need and deserve.

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

Trump’s Leadership Shakeup Exposes Failures in Veterans’ Healthcare

Recent turmoil within the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) is highlighted by the sudden departure of millionaire grifter Vivek Ramaswamy. This has laid bare the deepening cracks in the Veterans’ Administration (VA) healthcare system. This system was already crippled by decades of underfunding and market-driven inefficiencies.

This leadership vacuum arrives at a critical moment. It casts doubt on the VA’s ability to deliver quality healthcare to veterans, particularly those in underserved and rural communities.

Trump and Musk’s push for cost-cutting reflects a broader capitalist trend of prioritizing superficial actions, such as “reducing waste,” over ensuring equitable healthcare for veterans. The department claims these cuts will preserve medical services nationally. But they amount to little more than Band-Aid solutions. They ignore the root causes of the VA’s systemic failures.

Displaced, disabled, and unemployed veterans, who already face significant barriers to care, will likely suffer the most from these policies.

Staffing shortages will persist or worsen. They prioritize budget cuts over the well-being of healthcare workers AND patients. Nurses and specialized providers are already

overworked and underpaid. They are being pushed to their limits, while rural facilities struggle to provide even basic care.

The temporary pause in VA hospital cutbacks is likely to end once the White House’s billionaire-backed leadership devises a narrative to frame these cuts as necessary rather than harmful to sick and disabled veterans. Workers recognize this as another delaying tactic to avoid confronting the systemic failures of capitalism. Capitalism is a system that prioritizes profits over the health of working-class people and their families.

As Trump’s handpicked VA leadership takes charge, the direction of the VA healthcare bureaucracy remains unclear. The capitalists will not relinquish their wealth and power without a fight. The stakes are immense. Rural and urban communities alike rely heavily on VA facilities for essential care due to the acute shortage of hospitals and clinics serving poor or working-class veterans.

The crisis should serve as a wake-up call. The failures of the VA healthcare system are not just the result of poor leadership or bureaucratic inefficiency. They are symptoms of a larger problem. The VA’s struggles are one example of how capitalism fails the working class, highlighting the urgent need for systemic change.



MIAMI (USA), August 2024— Nurses protest hiring freeze and job cuts to Veterans’ Administration hospitals.

Capitalism is a sick, corrupt system that values profit over people. This can only change with communist revolution.

—US Marine Veteran

TikTok Is Banned and Available Again in the US Within Twelve Hours. What Gives?

On January 18th, 2025, TikTok temporarily went dark for US users. Let US politicians and news outlets tell it, and they’ll insist it was because the app poses a “risk to national security.”

In 2023, the Federal Communications Commission warned that ByteDance, TikTok’s owner, could

be sharing user data with the Chinese government. It failed to mention that Meta, Twitter, Google, and many other US tech companies sell user data to Chinese companies.

In March 2023, US lawmakers interrogated TikTok’s CEO but took no direct action against TikTok. For months after, there was little mention of TikTok in the media.

In truth, the wildly popular TikTok was shut down because US rulers don’t want the masses, especially youth, to have access to images like the genocide in Gaza. The CEO of the ADL (a pro-Israel lobby) called TikTok “Al Jazeera on steroids.”

See TIK-TOK, page 7

CANADA: FROM ILLUSION TO REVOLUTION

VANCOUVER (Canada), February 11— Canadians once thought that they lived in an island of sanity and calm in an insane, chaotic world. That illusion has been shattered.

Start with the downfall of Justin Trudeau. The charismatic and once popular Prime Minister is now deeply unpopular. Canadians are fed up with inflation, especially the high cost of housing and food.

Canada has become one of the world's most expensive places to live. Housing costs more in Vancouver than in Paris. A modest one-family house costs around 1.75 million Canadian dollars (US\$1.2 million; 23 million Rands; 1070 lakhs Indian Rupees). Rents are correspondingly high.

Whatever the cause, Trudeau had nothing to offer.

His own party (the Liberals) rebelled against him. Dozens of Liberal members of Parliament, and his former deputy and close ally Chry-

tia Freeland, called for his resignation. Trudeau still managed to hold on to power. He has promised to step down once the Liberals elect a new leader (supposedly March 9) but meanwhile he has "prorogued" (shut down) Parliament.

Meanwhile, Canada's main trading partner (Trump's USA) is threatening to impose devastating 25% tariffs on all Canadian exports to the USA. Massive unemployment would soon result.

Canada has its own Trump waiting in the wings. Pierre Poilievre, the leader of the opposition Conservative party, is almost certain to be elected as the next Prime Minister in the 2025 general election. Poilievre has called Trudeau "a Marxist" (not true) and "wacko." He has had to apologize several times for "unparliamentary" language such as disparaging First Nations people.

Poilievre is a big supporter of Israel and the Ukraine war. He wants

to defund UNRWA (the UN relief agency for Palestinian refugees) and to cut back foreign aid to divert the money to the Canadian Military. He opposes transgender care, immigration, and unions.

It is no longer possible to think of Canada as an island of safety in a sea of chaos and fascism. It is a capitalist country with complicated connections to the rest of the world. It is subject to the same forces as everywhere else, including countries like France (LePen), Germany (the AfD), Argentina (Milei), and of course the USA with Trump.

Notably, Canada is subject to capitalist overproduction, which inevitably leads to trade conflicts and increasingly to wars.

No doubt some Canadians long for the "glory days" of Trudeau, but this is futile. No capitalist politician can hold back fascism. Liberal politicians pave the way for fascism. They disarm the workers as did Allende (literally) in Chile.

In Canada, as elsewhere, the choice is between fascism and fighting for communism. And the potential for communism exists, given the history and the diversity of the working class. One third is francophone. Canada has many immigrants from all over the world, especially from South Asia and China.

Part of the Canadian illusion was the denial of class struggle. But Canadian workers have fought back against exploitation at least since the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike. The Communist Party was influential during the industrial strike wave of the 1930s. A 1976 general strike targeted wage caps imposed by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau (Justin's father).

But even general strikes can't hold back fascism. Only communist revolution can do that. There are already some ICWP members in Canada, but we need lots more. Please join us!

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TIK-TOK, from page 6

In October 2023, people in the US, specifically youth, began to learn about the true nature of the "war" which wasn't publicized in mainstream US media. On TikTok, US youth learned about the illegal occupation of Palestine. They used this knowledge to speak against the Israeli and US governments. This sparked widespread protests in the US from elite colleges to working class schools and communities.

That's when US rulers, along with AIPAC (Zionist lobby), pressured US politicians to shut down TikTok and the protests. Liberal politicians who touted "saving democracy" while campaigning, pressured college and university presidents to "get control" of their campuses. Militarized police forces brutally beat students and professors.

In March 2024, US lawmakers approved an aid package for Israel and Ukraine contingent on passing legislation forcing ByteDance to sell TikTok or have it banned in the US. This was quickly approved by both houses of Congress with bipartisan support. Biden signed it into law in April. ByteDance was given 360 days to sell TikTok to a US entity, although it was already majority US-owned and all US data is stored here.

When TikTok went dark before the ban, US users got an "Out of Service" message. An hour later, a pop-up message said with "President Trump's help," they hoped the app would soon be available. When it was available to US users less than twelve hours later, the app bent the knee and shouted Trump out for making it happen.

Days after the short ban, Trump demanded "50% ownership". But

it's already 60% US-owned. What gives? The rulers want TikTok to be controlled, not by just any US capitalist investor, but by billionaires completely loyal to their imperialist plans.

The grab for TikTok isn't about national security to keep US users' data secure. It's about the US ruling class guaranteeing its imperialist interests by having state-controlled media with TikTok, Twitter, The Washington Post, and Meta all owned by loyal billionaires. TikTok will be changed like Musk changed Twitter (X), but less abruptly this time.

The rulers are afraid of the masses. They want to keep us all in the dark about the ongoing genocide in Gaza, and all their other crimes. Telling the masses the truth is more important than ever.

—A friend

Chinese Fascist Rulers Silence Anti-Fascists in Preparation for World War III

In recent years, under Xi Jinping's fascist dictatorship, racist xenophobia against the workers of the world has been intensifying. It is becoming more normalized.

Many online nationalists celebrate tragic events such as the Japanese earthquakes, the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and the Nazi Holocaust. Even some ordinary nationalists buy into antisemitic conspiracy theories. They now whitewash the Nazi German regime by portraying Jews as an "evil parasitic force" rather than a group of scapegoated workers.

In 2022, an anti-fascist student recognized the fascist trend. He posted a leaflet on a Beijing college

campus. The leaflet warned the masses about this trend that had been eroding moral values of freedom, equality, and justice, and making people sadistic. "Drawing a false sense of superiority from it."

The leaflet encouraged others to break down the fascist walls of hatred by declaring "war on our egos, rejecting propaganda, getting to know specific people, being open to every group, and thus realizing that we have many more commonalities than superficial differences with each other."

It said that "although open fascism has been officially eliminated for nearly eighty years, fascism has been making a comeback in China."

The capitalist rulers responded with horror! They feared that the leaflet would encourage mass unity and threaten their interests, University authorities investigated the source of the leaflet. They banned all related information. They also interrogated a student who uploaded a screenshot of the leaflet online.

This student later lashed out, criticizing the university authorities. "This is a call for anti-fascism; what are you (School bosses) afraid of?" the netizen complained.

I am a communist anti-fascist comrade. I was once myself attacked online by a Chinese fascist ultranationalist who glorified the Nazi Holocaust. I am deeply horrified and furious at the censorship. And at the persecution of anti-fascists by a ruling government that calls itself "communist."

Fascism is definitely on the rise in China, the US, and the world. Capitalist-imperialist fascist rulers everywhere are intensifying racism, nationalism, patriotism, and xenophobia in preparation for World War

III.

I agree with the anti-fascist leaflet's call for unity of people of different "races" and "backgrounds." But the leaflet is reformist. It lacks a class perspective. It does not call for communism. The source of fascism is not the self, but the capitalist class. The rulers turn to fascism when they are threatened by economic crisis, rebellions, and must prepare for world war.

Those who turn a blind eye to this fascist trend and vilify anti-fascists as "anti-Chinese" are letting history repeat itself!

No capitalist will protect workers from fascism. The working class has no nations. All countries belong to the capitalist exploiters.

More than ever, we should rely on the collectivity of the working class. We need to mobilize millions of workers, soldiers, sailors, and students to join ICWP. Together, we will bury the capitalist-imperialist profit system with a communist revolution. We will immediately build communism.

Real communism, unlike "Communist" China, will have no nations, borders, money, imperialist wars, or genocides. All workers will see each other as comrades. We will all contribute to humanity. And all will have our needs met.

In communism, the global masses of workers, free from capitalist rule, will collectively and massively struggle against reactionaries who attempt to bring back fascism and other capitalist horrors.

Communism — and only communism — will end deadly fascism forever!

—Comrade Bambi

WE HAVE NO SIDES IN IMPERIALIST WARS BUT THE WORKING CLASS SIDE

SOUTH AFRICA, February 11— Thirteen South African soldiers were killed in recent weeks in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in a city called Goma. They were killed by M23 rebels backed by Rwanda, which is in turn backed by Israel through the supply of weapons.

“We do not know why we are being sacrificed so far from home,” remarked a friend of ICWP who was deployed in Congo a few months ago. “We are not even properly equipped.”

A comrade friend told this soldier, “You should not sacrifice your life for Ramaphosa and De Beers. We should fight for people like us, the ones you leave at home, our class. That’s why I urge you to always read our paper and talk to other soldiers about it.”

The South African soldiers are deployed in Congo by the Southern Africa Development Community under the guise of a peacekeeping mission. However, they aren’t there necessarily for peace. They are there to protect the business interests of the ruling class against other imperialist rivals.

South African soldiers have been in and out of Congo over the last two decades. In that time, South African businesses, particularly mining companies, have imported a lot of DRC’s minerals and have been given tenders by the ruling elites in Congo.

The soldiers have been dying in Congo ever since at the behest of the ruling elite. It is only now that a significant number have died that we get the headlines, coupled with the fact that the M23 rebels have

gained significant ground in a region rich in rare minerals.

Different imperialists are vying for those rare minerals in order to control them. They are willing to sacrifice the lives of our brothers and sisters in order to own them. Kagame’s regime in Rwanda, the DRC, Angola, and Tanzania, along with South Africa, are not willing to give up their profit. They have no trouble in sacrificing our working class siblings to retain them.

This has resulted in a public spat between Rwanda and South Africa, particularly between Ramaphosa and Kagame, with both threatening war. As this rivalry grows, there are calls for South Africa to exact revenge, while the ruling elites call on South Africans to be patriotic.

We call on our brothers and sisters in arms to be loyal to the work-

ing class by turning those guns against the ruling class and fight for communism instead of the economic profits of the rich capitalists.

The soldier friend quoted above is one of the thousands we have to recruit to our party. The soldiers must not take sides of imperialists but that of our international working class.

We agreed that we will continue this conversation. He can see what we are trying to fight for. “This thing of fighting for the flag is bullsh*t,” he said. “We are just dying for nothing.”

We urge all soldiers everywhere to reject “dying for nothing” and instead to fight the system that wants to sacrifice them for profits. We want them to fight for a communist revolution.

Imperialists Fight to Exploit Miners for Rare Earth Minerals

Biden visited Angola just before Trump became president. He wanted to shore up support for a \$56 billion US-Europe “Lobito Corridor” infrastructure project to connect Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Angola. Angola long supported Russia and China, but now its rulers covet this lucrative US-financed Lobito corridor.

The Angolan port city of Lobito would transfer \$billions of minerals rich in cobalt and copper. These minerals are used in electric vehi-

cles, cellphones, solar panels, and electronics. Also in alloys for the aerospace and defense industry.

The big obstacle is Rwanda’s refusal to participate. Rwanda and the DRC have cobalt mines. China’s Belt and Road Initiative is countering the Lobito corridor. The President of Rwanda has switched sides: from a US ally to a supporter of China. Last year, he led the largest delegation to meet Xi of China.

The recent flareup in imperialist wars between the DRC and M23 (supported by Rwanda) is over control of crucial rare earth minerals. Thousands have died and mil-

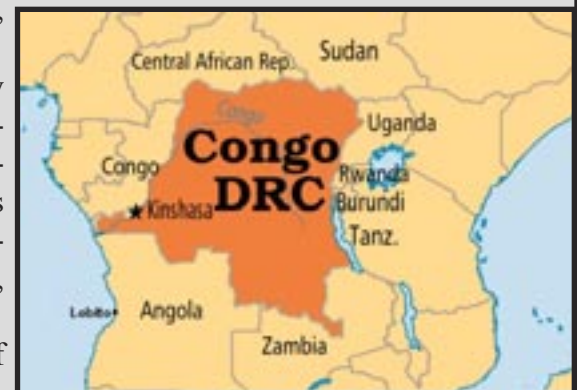
lions have been displaced. The cobalt mines exploit children as young as twelve. They work over sixteen hours a day so some capitalists (Chinese, US, or European) can profit.

The Chinese capitalists get 70% of the cobalt produced in the DRC. The remainder goes to Tesla, Google, and Microsoft.

Imperialists who are only interested in maximum profits have no border, no loyalty. They will switch sides and sabotage each other, creating endless corruption, wars, and genocides.

Africa has a rich history of

anti-colonial and anti-imperialist struggle. fighting colonial oppressors and imperialists. However, the fight must be to end capitalism, not to reform it for state capitalism or nationalism. ICWP is organizing soldiers to fight for the working class and communist revolution.



Black Communists Made History

FIGHTING FASCISM IN SPAIN: THIS TIME WE FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

“I’m sure that you are still waiting for a detailed explanation of what has this international struggle to do with my being here,” wrote Canute Frankson in 1937. “Since this is a war between whites who for centuries have held us in slavery, and have heaped every kind of insult and abuse upon us, segregated and jim-crowed us; why I, a [Black man] who has fought through these years for the rights of my people, am here in Spain today?”

Frankson was a Jamaican-American machinist and a Communist. He was one of ninety Black volunteers in the 2,800-member Abraham Lincoln Battalion who fought the fascists during the Spanish Civil War. With International Brigade



volunteers from all over the world, they fought a fascist coup led by General Francisco Franco and supported by fascist Italy and Nazi Germany.

“We are no longer an isolated minority group fighting hopelessly against an immense giant,” wrote Frankson. “If we crush Fascism here, we’ll save our people in America, and in other parts of the world from vicious persecution, wholesale imprisonment, and slaughter.”

“On the battlefields of Spain there is no color line, no discrimination, no race hatred. There’s only one hate, and that is the hate for Fascism.”

“We will crush them. We will build us a new society—a society of peace and plenty. There will be no color line, no jim-crow trains, no lynching. That is why I’m here in Spain.”

US History students wondered why anyone would voluntarily risk their life in a fight so far from home.

“I wouldn’t go all the way over there unless I had to,” said Jose.

“Were their families from

Spain?” asked Katrina.

“They were fighting for what they believed in,” answered Mark.

“They saw that everything was related,” explained Olivia. “Once you take a stand to fight against racism and exploitation, you see that you have to join with other people to fight it everywhere. We’re all one working class.”

The fight against fascism is international. Black communists had fought against lynching. They had joined with workers of all “races” to fight against evictions and against exploitation in the automobile factories. They knew that fascism had to be fought in Spain.

Fascism is capitalism with the mask off. The pretense of democracy is dropped, and the brutal essence of wage slavery is revealed for all to see.

International communist leaders made a deadly error in 1935. They told Communists like Canute Frankson to fight fascism first and for communism later. They formed a united front with “lesser-evil” capitalists against fascism. They defeated Hitler and Mussolini in World War II although Franco

stayed in power until he died of old age in 1975. But they left capitalism intact around the world.

We are enduring the results of that error today. In Trump’s USA, in Modi’s India, in Putin’s Russia, in Bukele’s El Salvador we see the emergence of open fascists. Capitalism worldwide is again in crisis and moving towards World War III. We cannot make the same mistake as communists made in the 20th century—fighting the symptoms but not the disease.

This time around we must link our fights to the capitalist system. The fight against racism, against deportations, against the genocide in Gaza, against the dehumanization of our LGBTQ+ siblings. The capitalist system sucks our blood, terrorizes and murders us and our class siblings, and is destroying life on the planet.

We must not form a “united front against fascism” but a mass revolutionary movement to overthrow capitalism worldwide and build communism. That’s what the International Communist Workers’ Party organizes in schools, factories, and barracks today.