

# RED FLAG

## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY ★ [WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG](http://WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG)



**Hyderabad (India), December 31— Over two lakh (200,000) gig workers went on a nationwide strike around pay, working conditions, job security, and benefits. Capitalism can't meet their needs. ICWP industrial workers can mobilize them for communism.**

**"All Workers, All Exploited, We Have No Borders"**

### CAPITALIST CRISIS IN AUTO DRIVES COMMUNIST RECRUITMENT

CHENNAI (India), January 2— Thousands of workers, including many Dalits, joined a mass protest supporting Gaza relief efforts. Our ICWP auto collective could only send four workers to this Wednesday protest. They distributed two hundred copies of *Red Flag*. Three workers we met were so impressed by our call for communist revolution that they attended our collective meeting the following Sunday.

"I have come because I read in *Red Flag* that capitalists are driving us deeper into worldwide war. I participated in the Gaza protest," said Manoj. "I see that the choking population in New Delhi, kidnapping our Muslim neighbors in India, and bulldozing Palestinians, is no different than the ICE terror in the US. We are all wage slaves. We have the power to change the world."

Manoj works in a factory that supplies ignition systems and

crankshafts to Ford, Volvo, and Suzuki. Comrades in our collective work producing advanced manufacturing infrastructure in a supply chain vital for automobile production. From nuts and bolts to sensors, wiring harnesses, automotive batteries, and more than 30,000 parts, everything needed to assemble a car.

"I work six days a week, over ten hours a day, and can hardly afford an apartment," said a comrade. "I used to proudly wave the Indian flag and recite the national anthem. And then I would buy the cheapest clothes made in Vietnam, the cheapest cellphone made in China.

"Six years ago, I started reading *Red Flag*. I saw that we are all workers, we are all exploited, and we have no borders," he continued. "Our class makes everything. And the capitalist class that depends on us can only survive by extracting more profit from us."

See CHENNAI AUTOWORKERS, PAGE 4

**Two Million Gazans Living in Hell, Israeli Economy in Ruins:**

### BUILD INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

TEL AVIV, January 5— "I am very glad that you invited me to your ICWP meeting," a friend from Haifa told fourteen comrades gathered in the home of two *Red Flag* distributors. "There are many people in Haifa who are severely affected by the Gaza genocide. The increase in VAT [Value Added Tax] and health tax, the devastating declines in tourism and construction, and the recall of reservists have contributed to inflation and labor shortages. The genocide in Gaza is a war at home."

Daniel, a regular *Red Flag* reader, added, "The estimated cost of the war is \$400 billion. The Israeli economy is in ruins. Gaza seems to be beyond repair. We need to organize for a communist revolution. From Gaza to Tel Aviv, the workers need to build unshakable international solidarity."

See INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY, PAGE 3

Naomi and Daniel have been taking *Red Flag* to a liberal group, B'Tselem. "You look at the beach in Tel Aviv," Daniel continued. "Just 60 km south is Gaza. It is so surreal. There are two million people living in hell. We believed that we could keep them from harm and injustice. We now think that capitalism brings injustice and genocide."

Many people are open to the ideas of *Red Flag*. In our meetings, we are exploring the possibility of printing an Arabic edition. We have a friend who is very sympathetic to our cause who speaks Arabic fluently. He has agreed to translate some articles for distribution in the West Bank.

The fascist regime in Israel has created another front of escalating hunger, disease, and starvation in Gaza. They have banned major



Tel Aviv, August 23, 2025

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## The Oil Belongs to the International Working Class

# US IMPERIALIST ATTACK ON VENEZUELA SHOWS NEED FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

January 6—“The United States will govern Venezuela,” declared Donald Trump on the day US forces captured Venezuela’s president, Nicolas Maduro. “Our very big oil companies are going to go there and fix the oil infrastructure and start making money.” Trump claimed that these countries built Venezuela’s oil industry and “the socialist regime stole it from us.”

Many worldwide responded that “It’s Venezuela’s oil!” We disagree. The International Communist Workers’ Party believes that the world’s resources belong to the international working class. It’s our labor that gives them value. That makes them available for use.

Only through communist revolution – not socialism, not nationalism – can our class gain control over our lives and work. Only in communism can we collectively decide how best to use natural resources and our labor to meet the needs of the masses. “From all according to ability and commitment, to all according to need.”

### Communism Versus Nationalism

“We, as communists, condemn without reservation the US imperialist invasion of Venezuela,” declared a comrade in Spain. “The response can be neither support for imperialism nor defense of the bourgeois government of Maduro responsible for the destruction of wages, the repression of workers’ struggles, the criminalization of the working class.”

A comrade in El Salvador re-

sponded critically to friends who cheered for Maduro. “Imperialism does not liberate peoples: it plunders them, subjugates them, and massacres them. This marks the beginning of more capitalist aggressions against the working class, not only by the United States, but also by Russia, China, and Israel.”

He noted that this “new Monroe Doctrine” continued long-term US policies under both Democratic and Republican administrations, including the fascist “Operation Condor” (1975-1983).

A worker in the United States asked his former teacher, an ICWP member, about Venezuela. “It’s an attempt to seize the oil since they have lost control of Middle East oil. And to keep it away from China and Russia,” the comrade responded.

“It’s another step towards World War III. These Russian, American, Chinese imperialists are willing to kill millions of our brothers and sisters to stay in power. Damn them all! We need to mobilize the masses around the world for the communist revolution.

“It’s not enough to say, ‘hands off Venezuela’ or ‘we stand with the Venezuelan people,’” the comrade continued. We must all unite for the communist revolution.”

“That’s exactly what I think too,” the worker responded. “It’s theft and kidnapping to seize the oil and gain power.”

Maduro’s party has a mass base in Venezuela that will make direct US control difficult. This in spite of

its repression of the impoverished workers. A comrade in South Africa struggled to understand why.

Another comrade compared Maduro’s mass base to that of the African National Congress. Workers in the townships no longer believe the empty promises of the nationalist and socialist parties. They are not won ideologically.

Instead, they are controlled by gangsters bought off with guns and money to terrorize the masses. “Multiply that by a thousand and you get Venezuela,” the comrade concluded.

### Inter-Imperialist Conflict Will Sharpen

“Our dominance of the Western Hemisphere will never be questioned again,” Trump crowed.

But his illusions are buried under an avalanche of Chinese exports, loans, and infrastructure investments throughout Latin America. The inter-imperialist struggle will continue.

Chinese imperialists can afford to wait. They know Venezuela’s oil is difficult and expensive to extract. They spent \$1 billion to set up one offshore oil rig there. And Chinese state capitalism can take bigger risks than US companies that look for quick, large returns on investment.

Meanwhile, Trump’s “spheres of



influence” doctrine could untie the Russian rulers’ hands in Ukraine and the Chinese rulers’ hands around Taiwan.

Since 2017, Venezuela has sold oil in Chinese yuan. The US petrodollar, once the pillar of its global economic hegemony, has already toppled. Trump’s Venezuela adventure will show whether US military force can restore it.

### Build the International Communist Workers’ Party

We must fight day by day to organize more workers in the International Communist Workers’ Party. Imperialism, nationalism, and jingoism can only be ended through organization in factories, barracks, hospitals, schools, and communities.

“This is a good opportunity to share the struggle against nationalism with our friends and on the street, so they see more clearly the need of communism,” concluded a comrade. “More of these situations will arise. The masses will be more open to thinking politically.”

*Red Flag* is the spearhead. Let’s read and distribute this communist newspaper of the international working class!



**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA (USA)**, January 3—Hundreds demonstrated in several cities to denounce the US military action in Venezuela. (Pictured: Los Gatos)

In San Jose, many took copies of *Red Flag*. The core organizers there have also helped to lead weekly protests against genocide in Gaza. Some have been reading *Red Flag* and ICWP’s Palestine pamphlet. One, from El Salvador, was very moved by the horrific atrocities in Gaza. She originally asked many questions about how communism could work. She had been very religious in El Salvador, but life in San Jose showed her that workers are the same everywhere.

Our international outlook impressed her. She and her friend from Jordan spent hours talking with us about ICWP’s work in Gaza and Israel. We got to know some people in Code Pink, who took a handful of *Red Flag*. They soon introduced us to an IT professional from Iran. This core group enabled us to struggle with dozens at the Venezuela rally and will help us expand *Red Flag* distribution to many more.

## ON THE WEB:

As usual, we have more than we can print. The website [www.icwpredflag.org](http://www.icwpredflag.org) has the following additional articles and letters this issue:

Conference Reports: *Red Flag*; Latin America

Boeing Workers Fight for the Working Class; Hunger in Canada,

Lenin, The State and Revolution (Part II of series on communism vs. anarchism)

Letters: The ICWP Conference; Remembering Comrade Tom; Communist Organizing; Political Economy; Capitalism, Communism, and Drugs



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### CHECK OUT THE ICWPEDIA:

The online Communist mini-encyclopedia. . Available through [ICWPRedFlag.org](http://ICWPRedFlag.org) or at [icwpedia.org](http://icwpedia.org) and the QR code to the right



## IRAN: REPRESSION, IMPERIALISM, AND CLASS WAR

EL SALVADOR, January 5—

Mass protests in Iran are transforming into a real battlefield. The brutal, oppressive system resulted in many people being killed. “When any capitalist state is questioned by the working class, it responds with repression and blood,” said J, a worker.

“What is happening in Iran is the open expression of an acute class struggle. A reactionary and capitalist regime resorts to violence to sustain its domination over working people,” said another worker, D.

“The Iranian regime, despite its ‘anti-imperialist’ and religious rhetoric, acts like any other national bourgeoisie,” said A, an ICWP comrade. “It defends privileges of an economic elite that exploits the working class. It stifles any attempt at independent organization. It crushes protest and criminalizes the working class.

“Dictatorships, states of exception, massacres, and murders are the price that capital imposes when the exploited rise up,” A concluded.

Imperialism hypocritically uses these deaths for its geopolitical maneuvers. Just like the lies of sovereign bourgeoisies that repress workers in the name of order and the nation. Added to this repression is the permanent threat of intervention by US imperialism, which intentionally created the economic

crisis in Iran.

Today US imperialism is headed again by Trump, current spokesman for US financial capital. “It feeds on the people’s blood and uses every death, every protest, and every crisis to justify imperialist interference,” said C.

“Trump is not interested in the lives of people in Iran or anywhere in the world. He lies, provokes, and threatens to justify invasions, blockades, and wars, as he just did in Venezuela. It seeks to open doors for its strategic, military, and economic interests. Iran is another target in this global imperialist offensive.”

There is no good capitalism or progressive bourgeois state. The repression is global because capital is in crisis. Our response must be global and communist.

Many around the world rightly hate US imperialism. It’s the only ruling class that has used nuclear bombs in war. But that does not make the Iranian rulers or any other imperialists good! They are also fascist exploiters.

“It is essential to unmask the falsehood of those who present this conflict as a cultural, moral or religious dispute,” said A. “The root is material and social: miserable wages, inflation, covert privatization, repression, and exploitation of the working class. Violence is not

born of protest, but of a state that protects the property and power of a few.”

The deaths in Iran are an urgent call to strengthen the communist revolution.

Resistance organized by communism can turn into rebellion. Our internationalist solidarity is with the masses, the working class, the youth who resist, and with those who pay with their lives for daring to fight. Not with any “nation” or supposedly “lesser-evil” ruler.

### Uncompromising Struggle Against the Capitalist-Imperialist System

No bullet will be able to stop the working class forever. The historical task remains the same: organization, class consciousness, and revolutionary struggle to end the system that engenders misery, repression, and death.

ICWP rejects imperialist interference that instrumentalizes the suffering of the Iranian people for its own geopolitical interests. And we reject the false alternative offered



Iran, January 3— Demonstrators in the Malekshahi district of Ilam Province, where government forces opened fire.

by the “national” bourgeoisies. There is no real way out within capitalism. Neither with foreign tutelage nor with local authoritarian regimes that proclaim themselves anti-imperialist while repressing workers.

True liberation cannot come from “independent” organization or a divided working class. Nor from believing in reforms or politicians. True class liberation comes from internationalist unity mobilizing masses for a communist revolution.

Only the International Communist Workers’ Party can transform mass anger into the destruction of capitalism. Let the entire working class, youth, and soldiers join the ICWP to fight directly for a communist society! Spread the *Red Flag!* Proletarians of the world, unite!

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTY MILITARY WORK

*This is an excerpt from a report given at the recent ICWP conference in El Salvador:*

I was first introduced to communist politics in high school through two active communist teachers. The political work led by the high school collective helped my development as a communist organizer.

In fact, during that time, there was a specific struggle to develop high school students into military organizers in the Army. The party made it clear that in order to realize a communist revolution, the party must have active members organizing in the belly of the beast to gain knowledge and experience about organizing soldiers for communist

revolution.

We learned many valuable lessons through our years of experience doing this work. The party was also able to experience how soldiers would face and organize during the Iraq war.

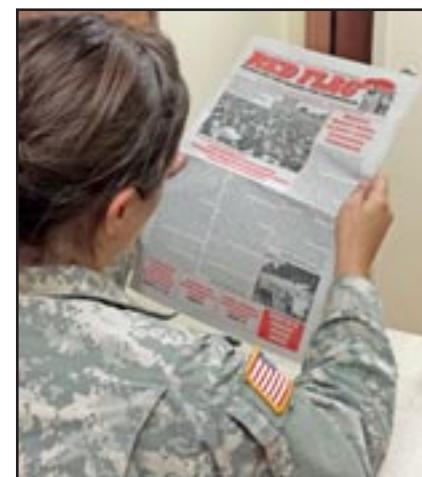
Of course, the world has changed in many ways since then. Yet, the war footing in which imperialism is set upon is apparent now as it was thirty years before, when I became a communist.

Currently, it is the wars in Gaza and Venezuela that are moving capitalists into world war. In Gaza, 69,187 of our Palestinian brothers and sisters have been killed, by official counts. The true number is probably ten times greater. Additionally, 1.9 million Palestinians have been displaced.

In Sudan, 150,000 people have

lost their lives due to imperialist wars.

These killings are a direct hit to the international working class. Capitalist around the world use wars to stifle any kind of fight back that the working class may have. Around the world, capitalists place workers in prison, drive people to homelessness, and even push drug addiction in order to oppress the



Read Our Pamphlet  
**Soldiers, Sailors, Marines: Crucial to Communist Worker’s Revolution**

Available at:  
[icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf)



## INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY, From Page 1

NGOs from working there. Meanwhile, Gaza-based Palestinian mutual-aid groups encourage and assist people to fight for their own survival.

Families huddle, soaked and cold, in tents flooded with rainwater and sewage. Thousands of flimsy tents supplied by China, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia provide little protection from winter storms. The Israeli fascists continue to block the en-

trance of truckloads of temporary housing units.

Israeli airstrikes and ground operations have killed over four hundred Palestinians and wounded over a thousand more since the phony October 10 “ceasefire.”

But with our vast network of friends, sympathizers, ex-combatants, and Red Flag readers, we can establish a communication channel to the residents in Gaza.

The *Red Flag* readers’ group in Tel Aviv believes that another war with Iran is inevitable. We are on the cusp of World War. The Middle East is a powder keg. All the contradictions of capitalism from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Palestine, and Iran offer nothing to the working class.

Communist revolution is not easy. It is a long struggle. In 1934-35, the Chinese communist Red

Army escaped its besieged base in southeast China. Over nearly two years, it fought its way over six thousand miles to Yan’an, Shaanxi, in the northwest, suffering heavy losses. From this base grew the 1949 Chinese Revolution.

This Long March is an inspiring history, where a small group of communists mobilized the masses amid genocide and ruins. This time, we will fight for and win real communism.

## HOPE IS NOT POWER: NYC MAYOR MAMDANI AND THE ILLUSION OF CHANGE

LOS ANGELES (USA), January 2— “What do you think about Mamdani?” a comrade asked his friend Amy as they stood waiting for the train. “Even in LA, we see him all over social media.”

“I’ve been following him since the leadup to the election,” she replied. “I think he’s a great person. I bet Republicans aren’t too happy he was elected.”

That sense of excitement is widespread. Zohran Mamdani’s election as New York City Mayor has energized many workers, especially Gen Z and Millennials, who are desperate for change. But his victory doesn’t represent a win for the working class. At best, it offers hope. At worst, it creates dangerous illusions.

“What do you feel will change in New York now?” Amy asked the comrade.

“Not much of anything,” he answered.

Mamdani’s election will not rescue workers from capitalist crisis. Instead, it benefits liberal imperialists who want to capture the energy of frustrated youth and redirect it back into voting and the Democratic Party.

We’ve already seen enough of Mamdani to know this. Even before the election, he pledged to keep racist, Zionist police commissioner Jessica Tisch. He’s already appointed a demographically diverse group of advisors, but most are firmly tied to the very system that

we’re trying to change.

For example, Ramzi Kassem, his chief legal adviser, and Julie Su, a deputy mayor, both served in the Biden administration. First deputy mayor Dean Fuleihan, Julie Kerson, and Jahmila Edwards were all part of former mayor Bill DeBlasio’s team.

Mamdani may genuinely want to help people. But good intentions do not override political function. He operates inside the Democratic Party, a party that supports US empire, militarism, and capitalism. That role inevitably pulls movements away from revolutionary change and back into reforms. Even though Mamdani condemned Trump’s capture of Venezuelan president Maduro, he has said that he doesn’t have a problem working with fascist Trump.

Near the end of his inaugural speech, Mamdani declared: “Many of these people have been betrayed by the established order. But in our administration, their needs will be met. Their hopes and dreams and interests will be reflected transparently in government. They will shape our future.”

It is, undeniably, a beautiful statement. But it rests on a profound untruth. Capitalism cannot be reshaped to serve the working class. Those who attempt to reform it from the inside inevitably end up managing exploitation, not ending it.

We’ve seen this before. Barack



Obama. Bernie Sanders. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Each inspired millions who wanted real change—and each ultimately helped funnel that energy back into the Democratic Party. Chanting “tax the rich” does not change the fact that capitalism rules over the masses and enforces wage slavery. What will change it is communist revolution.

Of course, most of Mamdani’s supporters are not our enemy. Amy and others like her want dignity, stability, and a future that isn’t defined by debt, war, racism, or exhaustion. Their desire for change is real and justified. But their hope is misdirected.

We take hope from the fact that

millions of people want change. We see so many putting their bodies on the line to defend immigrant neighbors. When we go to rallies to talk to the masses demanding change in the system, lots of them take Red Flag and are interested in our communist politics.

In this moment of crisis, fascism, and expanding war, illusions are dangerous. That’s why the rulers need Democratic Socialists like AOC and Mamdani: not to end the system, but to convince us it can be fixed. It can’t.

Only a complete break from capitalism—mobilizing the masses for a communist revolution—can free the working class.

### CHENNAI AUTOWORKERS

#### From Page 1

Another comrade said that he has distributed hundreds of *Red Flag* in the past eight years.

#### Contradictions in Capitalist Auto Production

Forty years ago, there was one car per thousand people in India, and one per six million in China. Today, China produces more cars than any other country. Over 300 million people in China own private cars. That’s about 214 per thousand people, a number expected to double within five years!

India still has relatively low car ownership at 26 per 1000 people. That’s also expanding furiously, making it the third largest auto market. While markets in China, South Korea, Vietnam, and India have exploded, car ownership in the US, Germany, France, Italy, and Japan has remained relatively stable.

Rising car ownership creates contradictions that capitalism cannot resolve. On the one hand, capitalism requires moving workers efficiently from home to a factory. But private cars choke freeways, highways, and roads to a virtual standstill, emitting pollution and harming workers’ health. New

Delhi’s hazardous air pollution will be repeated in every metropolitan area and will kill millions of workers.

Another contradiction is that to produce more cars, capitalism must invest massively in efficient, automated factories. The US capitalist class once led automobile production. It lagged as Germany and Japan dominated efficient car production and flooded the market. But Germany, Italy, and Japan were defeated in World War II, and the US had many troops and bases there. So, US capitalists partially resolved the contradiction by forcing Germany, Italy, Japan, and South Korea to invest in US auto manufacturing.

#### Contradictions Among Imperialists Mean World War

The US capitalist class cannot allow Chinese capitalists to invest in the US or Chinese cars to invade the US market. Unlike Europe and Japan, Chinese workers overthrew imperialists in 1949. Socialism brought state capitalism there. China’s new capitalist class has become an imperialist power, displacing US domination and production worldwide.



Chennai, India: Auto Strike, October 2018

Russia has re-emerged as an imperialist power. It has formed an opportunistic alliance with Chinese imperialists to provide “partnership without limits”. This means unlimited Russian gas and oil to China. The Indian capitalist class also benefits somewhat. It can’t alienate China because 70% of India’s products come from China.

These two powerful imperialist powers are preparing for world war. They are building Arctic routes from Vladivostok to Chennai, bypassing the Middle East. The capitalists try to divide us: from Gaza to Sudan, from the Middle East to Ukraine, from the oil fields of Venezuela to Iran. They use religion, nationalism, racism, and sex-

ism, preparing for world war.

War creates opportunities ‘without limits’ for our class, which only communism can liberate.

In 1946, a British naval armada was stationed in Chennai to protect British imperialists. A communist group seized a battleship, sending shock waves from Indonesia to Iran. The communist-inspired masses made it impossible for the British imperialists to maintain their presence in India.

We today can learn from this example that organized workers and soldiers can change the world. We are confident that Manoj is not alone: there are millions who can be recruited to ICWP.

## WORKERS LEAD COMMUNIST CONFERENCE AND PLAN FOR PARTY GROWTH

EL SALVADOR, January 4—"I am a communist all my life, and as a communist I will die." These stirring words from our version of the anti-fascist song *Bella Ciao* rang out from a chorus of workers to open our recent international conference. The song paid tribute to the dedication of our fallen comrades.

Garment workers from various maquilas, students, health workers from here, Costa Rica, Mexico, and the United States participated. Others connected by Zoom. The leadership of worker comrades, women and men, made the conference a success.

Our purpose was to build our International Communist Workers' Party. To unite the masses, strengthen communist relations, organize new collectives, and massively distribute our newspaper *Red Flag*. Recruiting young people and soldiers is key.

An army veteran comrade spoke about the international situation. He emphasized the need to organize soldiers for the communist struggle. "Having a communist teacher and thus the experience of a non-capitalist education, prompted me to become a communist.

"To be communists we must belong to a collective," he added. "It is here where we strengthen and struggle with ourselves as the ICWP. I now understand the nature of war much better: a competition between imperialists like the US, China, Russia, and Iran, among others."

A leading South African comrade emphasized that communists must become family and learn from other comrades' lives. She described the impressive work of young people

who are learning through communist political practice. (See article below.)

Three worker comrades reported on the political organizational work in the factories. They shared

experiences of how and why they organized the ICWP. All belong to collectives.

"I am a maquila worker and I have always been against injustices against workers. I have lived surrounded by exploitation without knowing what to do," said D. "They told me about the ICWP, and it changed my life. Being part of this conference motivates me. I share *Red Flag* with coworkers so they can be part of our communist struggle that will free us from capitalist horror."

M added, "The work we do as a collective is to organize with the other workers in the factory, presenting them with the ideas of the Party through *Red Flag* and letting them know that communism can be accomplished if we unite."

He continued, "That is why we organize ourselves in collectives. This has led us to grow in the factory. We have new members here and others who have joined."

Another worker added, "My objective is to continue getting together to get more workers to organize as well, to continue distributing *Red Flag* and to open more paths."



A young woman clarified the deplorable conditions where she works. A comrade asked her, "Why has it been important for you to belong to the Party?"

"Because I have understood what exploitation means," she answered. "Because I have learned how to respond to it. Being in the ICWP is important to me. It was my husband who spoke to me about the need to be organized in the Party."

Comrades of the Movement of Workers and Peasants of Costa Rica described the social and political movements, alliances at the national and international levels, confronting the crisis of capitalism. How international solidarity with the Palestinian people is currently a central focus.

Comrades in Mexico, who confront capitalism daily, showed their commitment to take advantage of the full potential of industrial workers. "It is a hope to continue growing and fighting for a communist system," they concluded.

### Latin America: Imperialist Battlefield

The conference highlighted the fight between the US and Chinese empires over Latin America, a

geopolitical and economic competition. The US military tries to integrate Latin America into its Pacific security strategy. It activated all its military bases, to reduce Asian influence. China has large investments in Latin America in trade, technology, and infrastructure.

We must make more workers aware of the urgent need to end this world of wars, where the poor class bears the burden of death and the capitalist class keeps the profits. Our party is organizing workers to join the military, to turn the guns around on these bosses and warlords.

A comrade emphasized, "Workers must pay attention and be careful, because nationalism and patriotism are a trap of the capitalists."

Finally, a report and workshops discussed *Red Flag*. Participants reflected on the importance of the paper as an organizational political tool for the working class in the struggle for communism.

The attendees' dynamic participation strengthened the commitment to organize more workers into the ranks of the ICWP.

## WE ARE FAMILY AND WE ARE WINNING

*Excerpts of a South African comrade's conference speech via Zoom*

Greetings, comrades! I'm seeing some new faces. And we are missing a few comrades. I want to say condolences to the families of the fallen comrades. It has been an honour to fight for communism with them.

It has been a very rough year for a lot of people, so I want to put a stamp on the importance of showing up for everyone. And keeping in touch with all the comrades, and not just for party activities. Because at the end of the day, we are all family.

I have learned this year that the true importance of being a communist includes being family. Openly sharing with your comrades what is happening in your life. Without comrades being on my side and consistently checking up for me, I wouldn't have been here.

We learn from *Red Flag*, but also

from what comrades are living through. That too is what we can dedicate ourselves to more. Because we can't preach being a communist one way and then behind closed doors do something else. We have to preach what we are also practicing.

Being a true communist is deeper than what we are writing or selling in winning over the masses. Our blood and sweat have to be in it. In our sacrifice.

I'm in awe of the new young comrades. Comrade S passed tenth grade and is going into the eleventh. While distributing *Red Flag* and organizing a large group. Applause!

We distributed *Red Flag* at two centres. I had to chase after the young comrades because they were spreading like flies. They were distributing, inviting everyone, telling them to go to this website, contact this number, we are willing to meet up with you again.

They gave out all the *Red Flag*, to all generations, to students, to the fruit vendors — literally everyone. It was finished in a split second. And nobody threw them away. Then they asked me when are we going to do this again?

They've learned from those questions that the masses asked them. Those questions are sending us into the streets again with more confidence.

Comrade S organized a large group in her street. She cooked for them. She hosted a successful meeting without me or Comrade Slim present.

I have a lot of ideas for next year. We have tried a lot of angles on doing things. We just need to keep trying, there's no backing out. Even though others are falling back, it doesn't mean we have failed them. We still have time to revisit them and keep the communist movement going.

Because the capitalists are trembling now. They can feel the heat and how we are fighting back.

Look at what is happening with the immigrants. The neighbours are fighting for everyone. They are not discriminating, "You are a foreigner." We are all united because we are all sick and tired of this capitalist system.

We see how capitalists try to manipulate us. In workplaces, they make sure that white and Black workers are in different positions. That one has more power than the other. They want me to say, "This one is taking my job." It is not the employees. It is the employers who are creating these divisions. All the other bosses around the world do the same thing.

But we are winning. Some people are not seeing it now, but we as the communists are winning. If we keep on pushing and there is no backing down.

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO  
NEW E-MAIL: CONTACT@ICWPREDFLAG.ORG

### Neighbors Battling ICE Need Communist Ideas

"Ready for ICE?" was the name of a community meeting I attended recently. It was sponsored by a Seattle (USA) neighborhood group. A friend from that neighborhood invited me to join him, but he got sick and couldn't go.

People were there because they wanted to find ways to protect their friends and neighbors from fascist attacks. I handed out *Red Flag* at the door, and about ten of the fifty people who came took copies.

I spoke briefly to the woman who organized the meeting. She gave me five minutes (like all the other speakers) to talk. Everyone else spoke about ways to protect their neighbors from ICE. Many were already directly involved in some aspect of this. One white woman who lives in a Somali neighborhood goes around to

check on people. Some are getting trained to physically confront ICE. A Jewish group is training observers.

I started by saying that I admired what everyone was doing, but as a Communist, I am fighting for the total abolition of xenophobia, as well as racism, sexism, homophobia, and all the other hateful ideologies that divide us. These ideologies are necessary for the capitalists, but with Communism there will be production only for need and no wage slavery.

People were nodding their heads as I spoke and some clapped when I finished. I invited them to get a paper or go to our website, and to see me after the meeting for more information.

At the end, a woman came in whom I know from work against racist police violence. We spoke



**BREAKING:** Minneapolis (USA), January 7 – Hundreds of protesters confront police after federal ICE agents fatally shot a legal observer in her face while she was in her car. Two thousand ICE agents recently invaded the city. Now is the time to organize in ICWP for communist revolution to smash this deadly system and build a world without nations or borders.

briefly and I look forward to working with her again.

I plan to go to the next meeting and will begin to get to know some of these people. I was very pleased to see all these people,

most of whom are not immigrants, willing to put themselves on the line to protect their immigrant neighbors. They have the potential for being Communist fighters!

—Red in Seattle

### Defeating Xenophobia: Industrial Workers Lead

One struggle our collective has in South Africa is that many Comrades have been exposed to xenophobic propaganda. This propaganda seeks to explain unemployment and all the social ills in South Africa by blaming immigrants for "stealing our jobs." Particularly the Sadek immigrants: Zimbabweans, Malawians, and Mozambiquans. One struggle we have embarked on is to refute that.

I myself used to believe that. I was a nationalist, a pan Africanist. It was through the struggle with other comrades that I came to see capitalists for who they were. Because we had people like Ramaphosa and other Black capitalists who also exploit Black workers. I saw that capitalists need racism to divide the working class. It was not about race, that one race was exploiting another race. Racism was just used by the capitalists as a division.

We have this discussion because some comrades or potential comrades who join our meetings believe that immigrants are stealing our jobs when, in fact, it is immigrants who are most exploited. You look at industries like restaurants. A lot of undocumented immigrants are the ones who are exploited. They're not even getting paid. Even the tips they get from customers are taken by their bosses.

At a collective meeting during Youth Day, one thing we discussed was drug use. One youth suggested that foreigners are bringing drugs to South Africa. That is not true. It's prevalent propaganda, particularly blaming Nigerians and Malawians. One comrade believed

that foreigners were stealing our resources. Some say, "Immigrants are taking over our country."

And I always ask, "What country?" Because South Africa was built by immigrants.

I can make this example. South African industrialism emerged from the discovery of gold and platinum. My grandfather worked in those mines. He died as a result of injuries sustained in the mines.

He was so proud of this language that the mineworkers formed. Mineworkers came from Mozambique, Zambia, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and all the regions of South Africa. Different places speak different languages. Miners developed their own language called Fanakalo. It combined Portuguese from Mozambiquan miners, a bit of Zulu, Xhosa, English, Banda, and more.

He was proud because the language was the unity of the international working class. A language which their bosses couldn't understand. They complemented it with Gumboot Dancing. That was tap dance that miners used to communicate secretly when bosses wouldn't let them speak.

So, the xenophobic notions that the bosses use, especially in South Africa, to divide the workers is ill-founded. We are struggling to refute it and to unite the working class here in spite of all the racist attacks. We are one working class. We are fighting for a communist world without borders or nations.

—Industrial worker comrade

### Language Is a Class Question

The comrade in South Africa described the language miners invented so workers from different

places could communicate.

Something similar happened in the USA. In the late 17th century, demand for rice increased worldwide. Southern US enslavers of the Carolinas kidnapped rice-cultivating African people as slaves. To prevent them from organizing rebellions, the enslavers chose them from different regions with different cultures and languages.

To break these barriers to organizing against their enslavement, the Africans developed a language that they could all understand but that the oppressors couldn't. It is the Gullah or Geechee language still spoken in the isolated Sea Islands and coastal regions of South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida.

Millions also proudly speak it today in the Caribbean and in Sierra Leone, Africa. They call it Creole. Its spread there is an enduring testament to the resilience and indomitable fighting determination of the oppressed masses to fight for their liberation.

Gullah-speaking workers were among the first enslaved people in North America to pick up arms to fight for their freedom. When the British fought the US slave masters in their Independence War ("American Revolution") they promised freedom to enslaved people who fought on their side.

Twenty thousand did. Many were Gullah Geechee. They were the true freedom fighters, not the colonial slave masters whose fight for independence from England was to perpetuate slavery, which Britain was moving to outlaw. For the British imperialists, chattel slavery was outliving its usefulness. They correctly envisioned wage slavery as a more efficient

way to exploit and oppress the international working class.

The British lost the war, ending up with thousands of now free Black soldiers. Not able or willing to take them to England, they dropped them off in the Caribbean and Canada. Those sent to Canada were not welcomed because Canada was a slave nation. They migrated to Sierra Leone in Africa. Those sent to the Caribbean flourished and spread throughout the whole region.

Chattel slavery imposed by capitalism-imperialism is gone, but the Gullah Geechee still exist and their struggle for freedom continues. This time it must be to end wage slavery with a communist revolution. It is an honor and responsibility of the descendants of those brave fighters to continue their struggle. This time victory shall be ours! History is on our side!

—Inspired Comrade

### Being a Communist

Greetings to the comrades of the north and the south! With whom we were able to meet in person in El Salvador, a territory of struggle and resistance against the system. Where that history marked by "war" is still alive.

In these days of work with the comrades, our voices were heard. We could feel that injustices remain the same in any part of the world. Because the minority continues to enrich itself at the expense of us, the working class.

That is why being a Communist and belonging to the ICWP positions me to be critical of this oppressive system and to fight together with comrades for a better world, for a communist society.

—Comrade in Mexico

## MEXICO: EXPLOITATION, IMPERIALISM AND CLASS STRUGGLE

MEXICO, November 12— We are witnessing a bitter war between the capitalist powers of the world: the United States, China, and Russia. Every corner of the world is an arena in which they are fighting this battle. The capitalist exploiters in Mexico and their governments (whether Right or Left) vie for markets, natural resources, and the surplus value extracted from the workers to maximize their profits, whether in a “legal” or violent way.

The US capitalists in Mexico do this through legalistic tricks. They impose governments, with treaties such as NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement), or violently through their cartels. Seizing wealth and sowing terror in the working class.

In addition to the army and the police, the drug cartels are the armed wing of these bosses. In many places in Mexico they have taken over the markets, charge fees to merchants, determine laws, impose rulers. At the same time, they have seized natural resources (e.g., mines, forests, water, food production). They have sold and smuggled

drugs, and sowed terror in the working class (robberies, kidnappings, rapes, extortion, and murders).

On the other hand, this year Chinese employers are the largest investors in Mexico, after those of the US, without the need for trade agreements.

In a fierce struggle, they fight for markets for the sale of their goods. Chinese companies invest in infrastructure: the transport and extraction of goods and natural resources (e.g., ports, interoceanic corridor, “Mayan train,” mining). As well as in the manufacture, sale, and transfer of drugs, and in the workers’ labor.

However, in this bosses’ war, the loser is the working class. Since the workers are super-exploited, they are the ones who bear the burden of death. Young people are the victims of drug addiction, and peasants are dispossessed of their territories.

Faced with this fascist situation, the bosses and their rulers have two tasks: 1) To contain the advance of the competing bosses and 2) To contain the discontent of the work-



**Mexican muralist Diego Rivera portrayed workers in a Detroit (USA) auto factory.**

ers.

The discontent of the working class is evident. Mass demonstrations of teachers, students, peasants, and workers are emerging. ICWP collectives have discussions with friends, family, and acquaintances about how the working class is being subjugated and how we can free ourselves forever. But it is not enough. We have to strengthen our efforts.

For us, the working class, this is an opportunity to show our class siblings that in capitalism we lose no matter which side wins the

bosses’ fight. That a communist society based on meeting the needs of our class is the only solution.

We will only win this battle by joining collectives, understanding communist ideas through discussions, and distributing, writing for, and reading Red Flag. We will achieve this in an organized way through an international workers’ party that leads the revolution to bury all bosses forever.

Capitalist terror will come to an end only when the communist revolution triumphs.

Join Us!

**PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO  
NEW E-MAIL: CONTACT@ICWPREDFLAG.ORG**

### Mamdani's Election: Not a “Win” for the Working Class

This letter responds to Sunflower’s letter in the last Red Flag about Mamdani’s election as Mayor of New York City.

I’m sorry your letter wasn’t responded to in the same issue, as I think it deserved to be. Not to be dismissive, but to take your position seriously by responding.

Mamdani’s election was not a win for the working class, as you hope. It creates illusions that voting can make things better within capitalism. And illusions about socialism, which is a form of state capitalism.

Mamdani’s appointment of Jessica Tisch as New York City Police Commissioner helps make things clearer. Her father is a billionaire Zionist donor and supporter of Israel. She is also a Zionist who has

led the NYPD to spy on, harass, and arrest many anti-genocide protesters.

After Mamdani was elected (with the full support of the New York Times) there was a demonstration outside a rightwing Orthodox synagogue in New York City which was selling (Palestinian) land in the West Bank. Jessica Tisch spoke inside that event supporting it. Some anti-genocide demonstrators were arrested outside. Instead of condemning the event and the arrests, Mamdani called for free access to the entrance of synagogues, supporting “freedom of religion.”

We don’t have to wait and see if Mamdani is going to be on the side of the masses in Palestine or the US. He is showing us. He’s not our friend. He’s there to trick people into supporting murderous US capitalism-imperialism. The rulers use

his immigrant and Muslim background to try to fool us. He is a Democratic Party pro-imperialist politician.

Mamdani promises small reforms as the US dollar is losing its value, as the US rulers are desperately preparing for wider war, including World War, and as attacks on healthcare increase. He can’t deliver real change. But he can mislead people away from revolution. US imperialism needs to win youth and workers of all backgrounds, against their own interests, to fight for it.

I have confidence that as you and your friends see these events unfold and discuss them, you can see that it’s not only AOC, Mamdani, or Obama individually who trick the masses. It’s the whole capitalist system. A system based on exploitation, competition for profit, and wars for profit and con-

trol. No politician or election can fix it.

Masses who are fed up with capitalism’s attacks need to fight for a communist world. Only communism will end racism, sexism, wage slavery, genocide, and imperialist war. Voting doesn’t bring us closer to that. It takes us away from that. Worse. It leads us to be slaughtered.

We need to have confidence that masses of angry workers, soldiers and young people are open to the struggle to join the fight for communist revolution.

—A Comrade

Sunflower responds: I know about Tisch. This letter doesn’t say anything that I really disagree with. It feels like it might have missed the point of my letter altogether.

### Readers, Writers, Artists: Contribute to Red Flag!, From Page 8

collective, which often will suggest changes. Final drafts will be edited for length, readability, and sometimes for “line.”

Send photographs. The best show ICWP in action among the masses. Or mass struggles that show the potential to win masses to communism.

Send original drawings or cartoons. They might expose or ridicule bosses and politicians. Or show the working class as a revolutionary force. Or illustrate your ideas about communism. Remember that they will print in grayscale, not color.

Offer your skills or learn new ones. Copyediting. Proofreading. Translation.

Photo editing. Layout.

Distribute *Red Flag/Bandera Roja*. Publicly (where possible). Hand-to-hand to friends, family, coworkers. Via social media or communication apps. Leaving stacks in coffee shops, independent bookstores, libraries, and other public spaces.

Contribute financially. If you can, make regular donations. Ask friends too. Publishing and distributing *Red Flag/Bandera Roja* is one of ICWP’s main expenses.

Everyone’s contribution matters! Talk to the person who gives you *Red Flag/Bandera Roja* or email us at [contact@icwpredflag.org](mailto:contact@icwpredflag.org)

**Read our Pamphlet**

**Mobilize the Masses for Communism**  
Available at:  
[icwpredflag.org/mmce.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/mmce.pdf)



# COMRADE TOM WESTON, PRESENTE!

Our beloved comrade Tom Weston passed away on December 3, 2025, after a courageous battle with lung cancer. His lifelong dedication to communism expressed itself in consistent, interconnected practice and theory. While Tom's professional life as a philosopher centered theory, he always understood that practice is primary.

Tom was born in Abilene, Texas and raised in a nurturing working-class family. He worked with his dad, a cabinet maker, learning skills that later made him handy about the house. His parents encouraged community service.

Tom's intellectual curiosity and academic excellence took him in 1966 to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He completed his undergraduate degree and doctorate in philosophy there.

He attended college amid the monumental worldwide social movements of the 1960s. He studied philosophy, particularly Marxism, in part to understand them. He joined the struggle against the US war on Vietnam. Later, he became active in the fight against academic racist pseudo-

science and racism more broadly. His study and his activism merged into his commitment to life as a communist.

In 1974, Tom joined the philosophy faculty of San Diego State University in California (USA). He would remain there for forty-five years, mainly teaching introductory philosophy and logic, as well as some graduate classes.

His earlier academic work focused on mathematical logic and the philosophy of science. Soon, however, he began to concentrate on the philosophy of dialectical materialism and its relation to twentieth-century communist movements. Through his talks and publications, he spread communist philosophy to academic and popular audiences.

Tom brought both wisdom and his wry (sometimes goofy) sense of humor into the classroom. He challenged students to think critically while treating them kindly and valuing them as individuals. His political commitments were no secret as he engaged in activism on and off campus. That included bringing students with him to distribute Red Flag to shipyard work-

ers and to attend protests and Party meetings.

Tom understood the importance of soldiers and sailors in revolutionary communist movements. Fiercely anti-imperialist, he supported at least one student's decision to join the Navy.

Over many years, Tom engaged in cross-border organizing. He helped newly arriving comrades, acting on his firm belief in a communist world without borders. More recently, he delivered a paper on communist philosophy at a conference in Tijuana, Mexico.

Tom was stalwart in his commitment to the Party collective. He was modest about his own contributions and trusted the collective even when he didn't fully agree. He took contradictions head-on in a comradely and principled way.

He built and conscientiously maintained our website and drove for hours to attend meetings. He would stay afterwards as late as possible to continue conversing with comrades and friends.

## Dialectical Materialism: Philosophy for the Masses

Tom was passionate

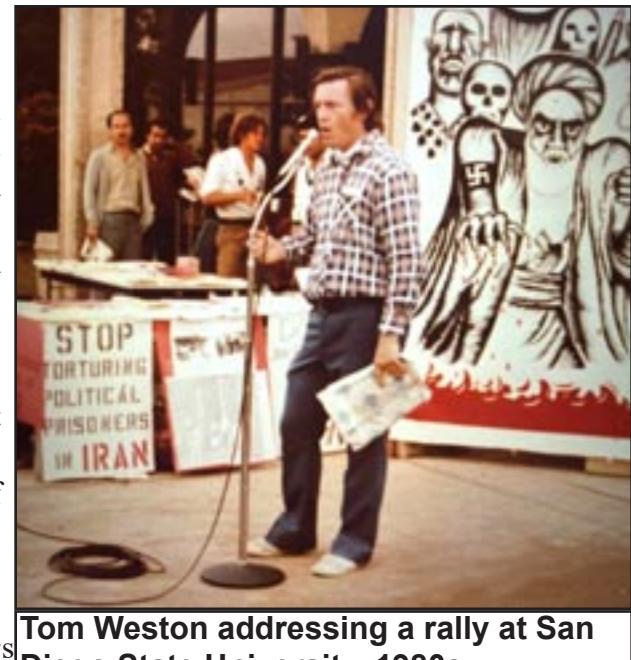
about introducing all workers and youth interested in revolution to the communist philosophy of dialectical materialism.

Letters from two

comrade workers in South Africa, printed here, testify to the importance of Tom's philosophical teaching to their lives. His dialectical materialism videos were key to the development of the ICWP in South Africa.

Tom learned Russian and Chinese to read and understand the internal philosophical and political struggles in the Russian and Chinese communist parties. He shared the invaluable insights he gained, enriching the ICWP's political line and practice.

To the last days of his life, Tom continued to guide comrades into deeper study and reflection on questions about dialectical material-



Tom Weston addressing a rally at San Diego State University, 1980s.

ism that he considered unresolved. Plans are underway to implement this project. His work will live on.

Tom was in many ways a private person. He and his wife Renee spent 48 years together, raising three daughters and two sons and later reveling in eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He deeply appreciated music, especially jazz.

We pledge to honor Comrade Tom's lifelong commitment to communism by sharpening the struggle for communist theory and practice among workers, students, soldiers, and sailors worldwide.

## We are Inspired by the Work of our Fallen Comrades.

I would like to appreciate the contributions of comrade Tom to our growth in the party and his role in inspiring us to read and write on dialectical materialism. His understanding of dialectical materialism, and his simplicity in explaining the dialectical materialism concepts, were key in consolidating the collective here in South Africa.

I first came across his work through a video he did on dialectical materialism. At the time it was on a CD. When we wanted to learn more about communism and the party, we watched that video. And after we watched, we would have a very lively discussion about communism and dialectics.

Of course, dialectical materialism in the party's literature is a collective effort, not that of an individual. But this letter seeks to pay respect to comrade Tom and his contributions.

We never had the pleasure of meeting comrade Tom in person in South Africa. But somehow, we always felt his presence through reading and writing on dialectical materialism. And using examples he used in order to convince many other comrades that communism can win, and to highlight the contradictions of capitalism. Central among those contradictions being the worker-boss dialectical contradiction.

We had hoped to continue to use his expertise in philosophy and dialectical materialism, but he

unfortunately passed away. We will, however, take up where he left off. We will expose capitalism's contradictions and make dialectical materialism a weapon in the hands of the masses as we fight to defeat the bosses' system.

Aluta comrade Tom!

## —Comrade S in South Africa Dialectics and the Fight for Survival

I'm sorry that I never got to meet Comrade Tom face-to-face. He's gone. May he rest in peace.

But he did something for others. He opened up doors for other peoples' lives. He's done a great, great job. Dialectics is a very effective tool! Out of all the things I've learned in life, dialectics is the best thing. All the experience I've had in life, plus dialectics, helped me sur-

vive. Dialectics helped me understand life better.

If I hadn't studied dialectics, I would have been left in the dark as a victim of the capitalists. But now I can fight for my survival. Thanks to Tom and his work.

—Comrade worker in South Africa

**For More About The Philosophy of Dialectical Materialism**  
[icwpredflag.org/wp-word-press/dialectics](http://icwpredflag.org/wp-word-press/dialectics)



## READERS, WRITERS, ARTISTS: CONTRIBUTE TO RED FLAG!

Everyone who works on *Red Flag/Bandera Roja* is a volunteer. We don't have paid staff. And we need your help!

Write a letter: Describe an experience or conversation. Offer an opinion or a criticism. Ask a question. Letters are usually under 500 words. They can be much shorter.

They may be edited for length and readability.

Not a good writer? Don't worry. We can help. You could send us a short audio file instead of a written document. Letters are not signed with your real name. Use a brief description like: "High school student in (your city)" or "Transit worker"

or "Revolutionary music lover."

Write a draft of an article: Report on your collective's political work. Describe a discussion about communism, world events, your workplace: what were the main disagreements (contradictions)? Were they resolved? Or offer a

**See Readers, Writers, Artists: Contribute to Red Flag, Page 7**

communist analysis about something that your friends or coworkers are talking about.

Articles are usually under 750 words – often much shorter. Articles are not signed and should represent the ICWP political "line." They are reviewed by our editorial