

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

CONFRONT FASCISM! BUILD THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY EVERYWHERE!



MINNEAPOLIS: MASSES DEFYING FASCIST ICE ARE CAPABLE OF COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

USA, January 26— Thousands braved sub-freezing temperatures in Minneapolis, marching against the occupying army of fascist federal immigration agents (ICE). The cold-blooded murder of Renee Good provoked more anger than fear. “It could have been me – let’s see who else we can get to go with us,” activists say.

Tens of thousands more are spreading the Resistance in many cities across the USA after ICE’s assassination of Alex Jeffrey Pretti. And of Keith Porter, Jr. and at least six others so far this year.

Many compare ICE and other “Homeland Security” forces to the Nazis. US agencies do openly use Nazi slogans and images to recruit their homicidal kidnappers. But the German Nazis took inspiration from the US rulers’ history of genocide, enslavement, and racism. ICE terror is rooted in the slavecatchers, the KKK, the Texas Rangers, and more.

US imperialism installed fascist regimes worldwide. Its CIA and School of the Americas exported fascist terror. It trained death squads from Chile, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, El Salvador, and elsewhere in counterinsurgency and torture techniques.

The diversity of voices rising against fascism

is powerful. But the struggle to understand fascism is important too. Some look at Minneapolis and say, “This is not who we are!” But if “we” means the US capitalist rulers, it is exactly who they are and have always been.

It’s Not Just Trump – It’s Global Capitalism!

“Our paper is about smashing capitalism with communism,” a Seattle comrade told people at a protest against the Minneapolis ICE murders

“Hell yes!” many young people replied. “I’m done with the Democrats.” “I need something stronger.”

Our International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) believes that capitalism must be destroyed. Everywhere we go, we find workers who no longer believe that reforming capitalism has any possibility of helping anyone. Groups like the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense have re-emerged as an armed force confronting the fascists.

Fascism is the true face of capitalism in crisis. “Democracy,” though an appealing slogan, can no longer hide the fact that we live under a class dictatorship of the capitalists over the working class and broader masses.

We can end that class dictatorship only with

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COMMUNISTS IN PALESTINE FIGHT FASCISM, UNITE THE WORKING CLASS

TEL AVIV (Occupied Palestine), January 27— “Trump has his eyes set on Greenland, and Netanyahu dreams of annexing Egypt. They both have restive populations defying fascism,” Adam said in our regular ICWP meeting.

Adam’s neighbor, who has started reading the *Red Flag*, saw heroic scenes of tens of thousands of multi-racial masses in Minneapolis. He saw the protests against ICE terrorism in Minnesota spreading to many other US cities. He concluded that both the US and Israel are in rapid decline.

“The Hilltop Youth and ICE are a sign of a dying capitalism,” he said. “They terrorize the working class, hoping that their terror will divide the working class.”

The Hilltop Youth is a fascist organization in Israel that tries to forcibly occupy Palestinian neighborhoods in the West Bank. They resemble the Proud Boys in the US.

The similarity between Trump and Netanyahu is striking. Last year, the Israeli Defense Minister started recruiting the Hilltop Youth to the paramilitary group Desert Frontier and to the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF, not “Defense” forces as they call themselves). ICE in the US recruits Proud Boys, giving them impunity to carry out murders, kidnappings, and to put workers in concentration camps. IOF is continuing the genocide in Gaza as the masses die of hypothermia and ‘Wet Tent Syndrome.’

ICWP has been distributing *Red Flag* to many people who organize against the forcible occupation of the West Bank. Now we have regular activist readers in B’Tselem. More *Red Flag* readers now call themselves communists. They believe in a “two-state solution” where the Jews and Palestinians can live separately but peacefully.

“Many of my comrades were severely assaulted by the IOF and the Hilltop Youth while we were trying to defend the Palestinian olive

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communist revolution. With the destruction of the entire system of profits violently extracted from wage slavery. With the construction of a new communist society rooted in collectivity and sharing. Without money or borders or nations or racism.

Successful revolution requires organizing for communism among young workers in the bosses' armed forces. Many of them receive military pay so low, they qualify for SNAP food assistance! Ten percent are from immigrant families. We can win many to our side.

Imperialist War, Civil War, and Communist Revolution

The multiracial working-class solidarity in Minnesota inspires us. It also shows that communism is possible. Block by block, people are organizing themselves to defend their neighbors. To guarantee they have food when it's unsafe to go to work or the market.

Can't you imagine how this could extend to organizing production as well as distribution? Decision-making as well as defense? To communist workers' power?

If we can imagine it, we can fight to make it real. We can build the ICWP as a nucleus from which this communist world can grow.

Many are making connections with what's happening internationally.

A weekly demonstration in San Jose, CA (USA) against genocide in Gaza has grown rapidly as people grasp the link between Gaza and Minnesota. They're unsurprised that the Zionist military has trained ICE agents. A comrade distributed

our pamphlet *Genocide in Palestine Demands Communist Revolution*. "The people I usually see there are more interested now," he reported. "They're not ready to join ICWP but they want to participate in discussions."

"Is there going to be a civil war?" asked a Los Angeles friend. "World war? Nuclear war?"

Conflicts between US imperialists and their Chinese and Russian imperialist rivals are already exploding into war on many fronts. Until the working class establishes communism globally, nuclear war will remain a catastrophic possibility.

Deadly civil wars rage today in Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan, more. Could it happen (again) in the USA?

Probably not soon. ICE exists today as an armed force not under the US military chain of command. It has recruited "Proud Boys" and other racist thugs and January 6th rioters. Its budget is greater than the Israeli army's.

But the main section of the US ruling class is not fundamentally opposed to anti-immigrant terror. They just don't like the optics. That's why they just replaced Greg Bovino with career "Homeland Security" fascist Tom Homan (originally an Obama appointee).

The civil war we need is a class war to destroy capitalism. We must intensify our response by mobilizing masses to fight for communism.

"The fascist rulers want to dominate and control us through fear," said a comrade in El Salvador. "But historically we have united and fought. And we can do it again and win."



WATSONVILLE, CA (USA), January 20—High school students and school workers walk out against ICE, joining scores of student walk-outs around the US

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INDUSTRIAL WORKERS: KEY FORCE FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Minnesota is heavily industrial. Hundreds of thousands of production workers live in the Twin Cities area. Huge companies like MMM manufacture precision technology and industrial materials. General Mills is a global food conglomerate. Niron Magnetics is a start-up partly financed by GM. It is building plants to produce magnets without using rare earths.

Only about 10% of Minnesota's industrial workers are unionized. But unions, committed to reformism, are not capable of defending workers in the current capitalist crisis. Let alone abolishing wage slavery.

The January 23 protests in Minneapolis were called a "general strike." But in a strike, workers collectively stop production. Many small businesses shut down on January 23, but no industrial worker walkouts were reported. Nor was it the largest "strike" in eighty years, as some news outlets reported. Over a million workers, mostly immigrants, flooded downtown Los Angeles on March 25, 2006, to protest the

anti-immigrant Sensenbrenner bill.

Why does this matter? Because we must see our fight against ICE terror as a class struggle, not as a "fight for democracy." And because industrial workers (with soldiers) are key to taking control of production and transforming it. Key to mobilizing masses for communist revolution. Only communist revolution can defeat the fascism born of capitalist crisis.

That's what the capitalists most fear. That's why the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce released a letter calling on the government to "de-escalate." Signers included leaders of over sixty companies, including 3M and General Mills. Trump's immigration and tariff policies are worsening the capitalist crisis and threatening their profits.

What's more, the mass resistance to ICE threatens the stability of capitalist wage slavery. When the capitalists propel the masses into motion, intentionally or not, they risk losing control over them. They risk open class war. And revolution.

Let's Continue the Fight

Protests have intensified across Minneapolis and beyond after the killing of Renee Good by ICE (fascist immigration police). Renee was not just a name in a headline. She was a neighbor, a mother, an activist, and a member of the community in Minneapolis.

Her death has become a rallying cry for people demanding accountability, transparency, and a fundamental change in how federal enforcement operates in our neighborhoods. Even before any investigation, federal authorities pushed a narrative claiming she ran over an agent. Many of us call bullshit. That explanation feels like a lie meant to protect power, not reveal truth.

What we're witnessing is a pattern of federal agents targeting and brutalizing working-class people for standing up, speaking out, and protecting one another from fascist enforcement tactics.

I myself patrol around the neighborhood and I am afraid that it can happen to me or any community member in my neighborhood. We need to continue the fight and continue to organize because all of our rights are being taken away for filming, speaking up and alerting the people there. Our first amendment is being revoked.

—Afraid but Not Backing Down in Los Angeles (USA)

ON THE WEB:

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

Communism Will End Capitalism's Hunger Amidst Plenty

LETTERS: A Communist Glance at Mexico; Mobilizing for Communism; Fascism or Communism?

CHECK OUT THE ICWPEDIA: the online communist mini-encyclopedia. Available through ICWPRedFlag.org or at icwpedia.org and the QR code to the right



BOEING WORKERS FIGHT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS

SEATTLE (USA), December 29 — “I’m fighting to get my job back at Boeing,” declared Frank, a friend of ICWP, at an industrial workers’ meeting. In response, three current Boeing workers are going to try to help him.

But Frank is even more concerned about the general attack on the working class. “The attacks are relentless and fascist. Violent attacks are aimed at the international working class everywhere, not just Boeing workers.”

He proposed in-person political committee meetings every month. These industrial meetings will be open to struggles and debates among the members, including communist ideas.

Frank emigrated from Latin America. He rejects nationalism. He wants to mobilize industrial workers in Central and South America as well as the US. These monthly meetings are an opportunity for industrial workers to talk about building a new future, without capitalism.

ICWP comrades have regularly distributed about 100 *Red Flags* each issue at the Boeing gates for well over a year. Comrades and industrial friends are considering

combining their strengths. The aim is to develop a massive approach and increase *Red Flag* distribution at the gates and in the factories.

“We need to be prepared if the union leadership attacks the rank-and-file,” said another worker at the meeting. The union leadership’s strategy is based on the IAM constitution, which includes an anti-communist clause added during one of the Red scares, when the government and the unions worked together to build anti-communism. But that will not stop this Industrial Committee.

The increasing attacks on the international working class are part of preparing for global war.

For example, Boeing will design and produce 25 new fighter jets for Israel under a contract with the US Defense Department. Boeing stands to get about \$8 billion to produce these planes. Many Boeing workers are clear that they don’t want to be complicit in the genocide.

A few dozen Boeing workers are taking this fight outside the formal union boundaries. Some Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace engineers are creating podcasts to make the public more aware of the struggles with

the union leadership. Some blue-collar workers are volunteering their time to fight ICE.

Communist Social Relations are Key to Building Communist Factories

An ICWP comrade said that communist factories and machines would function differently than capitalist factories.

In 1974, Charles Bettelheim wrote about the Chinese Cultural Revolution. He maintained that “transformation of production relations is a function of class struggle... A new system of social relationships can be fully developed, and a new mode of production instituted.”

The Soviet masses, too, believed that they were working toward communism. They wanted to change the focus from individual competition, inequality, and exploitation, to collectivity, equity, and meeting the needs of the working class.

But the Soviet and Chinese Communist parties never eliminated markets, wages and profits. They eventually turned into full-blown capitalism. ICWP has learned from both the vision of these historical Communist parties and from their failure.

A new world has opened for Frank. His concern for the international working class influences his discussions at industrial meetings and with ICWP comrades. Frank reads *Red Flag* regularly. Next, we are asking him to distribute it to his friends and to join the party.

This understanding of the international nature of the working class is the basis for fighting for our communist future. The political battles in the factories and meetings bring friends closer to our party. Some already call themselves communists but have yet to join ICWP. We will recruit many more people if we are persistent in building communist relationships.

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growers,” reported a former member of Standing Together who reads *Red Flag*. “I know many Palestinians. When I read *Red Flag*, I started to doubt the two-state solution. When so many Jewish people are fighting for Palestinians, why do we need to be separate nations?”

In our meeting, we rejected the liberal idea that Jewish and Palestinian workers need to be separated. This idea is dangerous. Even if it could be implemented, it would create a new class of capitalists in Palestine. That would trap the workers in a perpetual cycle of wage slavery, as has happened in South Africa and everywhere else.

Masses of workers are ready to fearlessly confront the most fascist forces from the US to Palestine. “I can see here in Tel Aviv that the US

imperialists are ready to launch a massive strike in Iran,” said a comrade. “They need soldiers armed with guns and ammunition to defend oil interests. These soldiers who are victims of racism, sexism, and lack of jobs must turn the guns around on the capitalists. Similarly, in Israel, thirty percent of IOF soldiers are refusing to fight. If they organize to fight against the capitalist system, and for communism, the world will change forever.”

We have resolved to look at the questions our new readers have raised. Basically, they are all saying, “communism is good, but we are not yet in ICWP.” The comrades who are already ICWP members have a huge responsibility to expand this work.



在斗争中发展壮大马克思主义的理论队伍
Poster showing factory workers’ study group, China, 1975. Captions (bottom): “Develop and strengthen the theoretical ranks of Marxism in the struggle” (top): “Grasp production to promote work and combat readiness”

What Is Success? Fighting Capitalism!

A very close friend wrote to us about her frustration with life under capitalism. A comrade replied to her. That response ended with, “The capitalist dream is and always will be a nightmare for the ‘unsuccessful’ people living in poverty all over the world. Seems to me that we have no other choice but to smash the bosses’ dreams with a communist revolution!! What do you think?”

Here is what our friend wrote back:
Dear Comrade,
Thank you for responding to my letter. I asked several questions internally, understanding what the answers are. The struggle comes from trying to understand a system that was never designed for us as a collective to succeed. Capitalist success pits workers against each other striving for select positions; often creating stressful work environments.
With regards to success, I have

long since resisted the urge to reach a success that was determined by one person or a group with ever-changing goal posts based on race, sex and whatever these people can come up with. My father told me, several times in various ways, that my success was tied to being promoted at work. That train of thought made me sick. It actually made me resist the urge to conform.
I knew it before, but when Covid hit, I had a wonderful visual that families laughing and playing in the park during traditional work hours and the sense of community it created is the life we should have always been living.
For the masses, our learned behavior is to conform and thus take what crumbs are given to us. In the future I want us to continue to talk about the various ways we can fight. For community, for families, for the needy, against Capitalism!
—Helen, Jr.



January 23-- Masses in Palestinian-majority towns in Israel go on general strike against government-instigated violent crime

Diamonds Sparkle but Workers Can’t Breathe

I have been receiving *Red Flag* from my friend who works in a garment factory in Bengaluru. I am in Surat, the second-largest city in the state of Gujarat. I work in a diamond-cutting factory. Ninety percent of the world’s diamonds are cut and polished in Surat, employing one million people in the state.

Sparkling diamonds in Hollywood and Bollywood create demand for diamonds, amounting to \$25 billion dollars annually. In Surat, more than 50,000 traders work in a diamond-shaped ultra-luxurious high-rise building, with an air conditioning unit that filters out the smallest specks of dust. On the other side of Surat, hundreds of thousands of diamond workers begin their grinding, which lasts more than 16 hours.

I am one of them. On an aver-

age day, air quality is so poor that most of us are coughing by the time we arrive. The management gives us masks. The fan that circulates hardly helps as temperatures rise above 40 °C (104°F). But the most damaging to us are the fine dust particles that penetrate our lungs. When we go home, breathing becomes like you have climbed Mount Everest.

The Surat diamond business is intricately connected to Israel. When the Gaza war started, there was a serious disruption in the supply chain.

Then came another blow to the diamond industry. Trump imposed a 50% tariff on diamonds from India. The capitalist bosses forced workers to work twice as hard to make up the losses. They laid off thousands of workers, eliminated health benefits, paid vacation,

family leaves, and even stopped supplying mandatory masks.

They reduced or closed dilapidated clinics that treated patients with respiratory illnesses. There is only one functioning hospital with X-ray machines to examine patients’ lungs. And you would not believe that the same X-ray machines are used by thousands of diamond workers to examine diamonds, removing imperfections that only X-rays can detect.

I am 22 years old, and at the end of my shift, I can’t breathe. People who receive diamond rings, necklaces, and jewellery as a symbol of love and an unforgettable memory will not see the harsh conditions of the workers suffering from breathing problems, family separations, and living in crowded slums. Many succumb to untimely deaths from lung cancer.

I have to admit that my friend was sending *Red Flag* regularly, but I did not read it carefully. I only looked at the headlines as I was utterly exhausted at the end of the day. But the headlines that I read from *Red Flag* are haunting me now. I am unemployed like thousands of others.

I started reading about the garment industry in Bengaluru and in El Salvador. It opened my eyes to many other things. I came to the conclusion that we are all workers, suffering under the worst conditions, while the capitalists enjoy the wealth we have created in their mansions, palaces, five-star hotels, and resorts.

I will read *Red Flag* because it is offering a communist solution to the disasters of the profit system.

—Young worker in Surat (India)

Why I Joined ICWP

Growing up, I was always in search of community. I never understood why a world where we can coexist and live safely and freely couldn’t exist. After all, everything else lives here for free?

Those juvenile wandering thoughts led me astray from the Democratic Party as the facade of freedom and democracy faded into dust settling from bombs dropping across the ocean. When I saw protestors tear gassed time and again — I wondered — isn’t this our right? Is this not a war crime?

I always found communism interesting. I didn’t really understand the propaganda against it. I openly became communist around 2020. Prior to that, I would capitulate a lot and even defend opinions I didn’t agree with. But since then I haven’t really backed down from my position.

My brain twisted into a pretzel, attempting mental gymnastics to fit

in with people I thought I was safe with. Until I realized even their space is limited. And they will continue throwing others to the wolves to avoid getting bitten.

When the genocide in Gaza began, I realized life as I knew it was going to have to change. I couldn’t idle by while thousands were being kidnapped and tortured. Starved. Murdered.

My friends didn’t care. They would go to Starbucks and McDonalds (which I was boycotting) without me. All while seeing my posts and hearing my thoughts. I thought they would understand.

After a while, I couldn’t take it anymore. The cognitive dissonance was too great. I was protesting and creating political art. I was calling, emailing. Sending letters.

But I felt alone. I was no longer able to assimilate and shrink myself to fit in. I’m shy. But I couldn’t pretend to be who I’m not anymore. So I began speaking to fellow communists at various events.

For the past two years, I have protested side by side with a comrade

who shared *Red Flag* with me. She invited me to dinner parties where I could connect with other communists and socialists. Here, I found my people. The ones who understood. The others who looked outside the box rather than getting comfortable in it. A collective who cared to show up for each other. Strong minded individuals who aspire for change. A place that made me feel like I wasn’t going insane.

I feel relief to know there’s people connecting across the globe to incite change. Who are collaborating on ideas for protests, planning strikes, and supporting union workers in over-exploited regions. I feel proud to know young women in South Africa who are organizing to get their peers a better education.

I am excited to meet more comrades. I’m proud to be able to contribute what I can to create a peaceful, thriving communist society. I have a few friends that I think could join too.

I am not sure what will happen in this world. But I am sure I’m not alone in it.

—New comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

Communism Could Help Address Injustice

I am a student from El Salvador currently living in Los Angeles and I am in tenth grade. People hand out *Red Flag* at my school in the morning as we are arriving. I’ve been taking and reading it. One of them asked me to write a letter.

My opinion on the articles about capitalism and the injustices in El Salvador is that these are things people experience every day. It’s undeniable that many Salvadoran workers are trapped in a cycle of precariousness, where they receive miserable wages and face terrible working conditions.

This situation is serious and reflects a system that always prioritizes profit over human dignity. Labor injustice is not just an economic issue; it’s about recognizing the value of people and their contributions to society.

The conference on communism that recently took place in El Salvador is something that could help address the injustices in the country. It is fundamental to understand how these systems affect Salvadoran society, and political decisions must consider not only economic well-being but also the social and humanitarian implications of immigration.

These situations of injustice not only affect the quality of life of the people in the country but also create a cycle of poverty that has a significant impact on society. Labor exploitation is a reality that many still face, and it is something that has a profound effect.

—High School Student in Los Angeles (USA)



LOS ANGELES (USA), January 20— Mass protests are spreading against fascism and war in the USA, Palestine, and Venezuela. So many people eagerly took *Red Flag* that comrades soon ran out of copies. “Can I have one?” someone asked. “It’s the only real communist paper here.” It’s true. Socialist groups controlled all the megaphones at the large downtown protest pictured here. They did not lead even one anti-capitalist chant. Let alone communist or even socialist chants. Everywhere we go, we meet old friends, newly active, and new friends who identify as communists and enthusiastically exchange contact information. This happens especially at weekly vigils against the Gaza genocide or regular activities to defend immigrant neighbors. There we know dozens of regular *Red Flag* readers. Many engage us in thoughtful discussions about communism and our Party’s work. We are inviting them to help advocate openly for communism at and before this year’s May Day march.

IMPERIALISTS FIGHT TO PLUNDER GREENLAND'S STRATEGIC RESOURCES

EL SALVADOR, January 26—“The long-standing US interest in Greenland mining is neither new nor accidental. It is part of a long-term imperialist strategy to control territories, strategic resources, and key geopolitical routes,” said C.

“Greenland is rich in minerals, uranium and other vital inputs for the military and technological industry. It has become a priority target of the powerful imperialists,” C concluded.

Ten worker comrades in a new WhatsApp chat were trying to develop a better understanding of global politics. How do international events affect us and what should our communist response be?

“Trump, as a grotesque but faithful expression of US imperialism, does not disguise rapacious greed,” J added. “He openly turns it into war. He proposes to buy territories, militarize regions, or ‘protect’ strategic areas. This is really the face of imperialism doing what it always does. It turns the planet into booty, reducing peoples and territories to merchandise and subjecting them to the logic of profit and domination.”

The US is not interested in Greenland’s population or development, but in what lies beneath its soil. US imperialism sees in the melting Arctic ice an opportunity for business and military control. It wants to protect Greenland’s resources and arctic waterways from China.

Climate change, a direct product of capitalism, is reused as a lever for plunder. Where the ice retreats,

capital advances with bulldozers, military bases, and unequal treaties. But this is not only true of the US. The Danish state plays a central role as a colonial power. It administers Greenland under “legal” but deeply unequal domination.

Denmark negotiates with the imperialist powers behind the backs of the Inuit people. It reproduces structural racism and maintains a false “autonomy” that serves to legitimize looting and to contain resistance. Danish colonialism is not a residue of the past. It is functional to global capital.

This domination has a concrete face: racism and sexism as political tools. Indigenous women disproportionately endure violence, marginalization, and exclusion, while the colonial state and corporations present themselves as “modernizers.”

“It is the same logic that applied historically in Latin America, Africa, and Asia: divide, hierarchize, and oppress to govern and plunder,” said E. “It is the same logic that plundered Venezuela, that bled Congo, and that today points to the Arctic. Capitalism has no homeland, but it does have armies, fleets, and governments at its service.”

From the communist perspective of ICWP and our newspaper *Red Flag*, there is no “peaceful competition” between powers. The dispute over Greenland’s mining is part of the inter-imperialist war for world hegemony. Trump doesn’t break the rules. He takes them to their most brutal form. Meanwhile, Denmark acts as the colonial business manager.



January 20—Hundreds braved heavy security to protest in Davos, Switzerland ahead of President Trump’s visit to the World Economic Forum. This is an annual gathering of the world’s biggest bosses. Activists highlighted deepening inequality. The collective wealth of 3,000 billionaires hit a record \$18.3 trillion. Meanwhile, workers starve. War, fascism, and climate degradation intensify around the world. This year’s forum exposed the spiraling decline of US imperialism amid Trump’s attacks on NATO and threats to invade Greenland. Canadian Prime Minister Carney made it clear which side his bread is buttered on. His patriotic screed, at a time of rising food insecurity, won’t save him from the masses’ anger. He and other capitalist leaders rushing into the arms of Chinese imperialism are lining up with the growing anti-US imperialist bloc. The masses need to reject them all and fight for communist workers’ power.

Under capitalism, no natural resources are protected from the profiteers. The solution is not national liberation based on Inuit nationalism. The only effective response to imperialist war is the mass communist organization of the working class, proletarian internationalism, and revolutionary struggle.

We call on the entire working class and all oppressed people to organize internationalist resistance

against imperialist plunder. To expose war propaganda. And to strengthen our revolutionary tools, including *Red Flag*, our web page, our pamphlets and banners.

We invite more comrades, especially workers, to become more active in our discussions of international issues.

Join the ICWP to end this capitalist-imperialist system! Long live Communist Revolution!

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO: CONTACT@ICWPREDFLAG.ORG

Sister: What you experience in the factory, we live in many geographies

—“I’m going to tell you about the factory where I work...”

And so you began your speech with a broken voice, but firm and determined to say your word, to be the voice of those who continue to be silenced by capital, sister comrade.

- “Rats pollute where you are working. (...) People are fired unfairly.”

What matters is production, not your health and even less your life. I listen to you and immediately visualize more working women from different geographies; but all of them from the same world within a logic of the market, sustained by rogue relations between employers and female and male workers, where only exploitation and wage slavery fit.

- “If the children get sick, you can’t ask permission. We have to leave them sick alone and our children do not understand.”

How do you explain to your sons

and daughters that their mother is subjugated as an object of production, expropriated of all your value as a human being, where it is forbidden to think of a minimum dignified life for them? It is not your task, sister, it is a collective ethical-political responsibility; a complex but vital challenge that we need to take on.

- “In the factory there is one’s time. When you complain they just tell us: There, you see, if you don’t want to or don’t like it, leave.”

Again your words, emerging from your conscience and heart, beat in me and I see you in the endless rows of young people, mothers, fathers, and even grandmothers and grandfathers, under the sun and the rain, waiting to be “hired, hired”, transgressing borders, without expecting a minimum salary and working conditions.

- “We work and they don’t care about our health.

And one’s work is left there... And one’s time is left there...”

Your existence, your life is synthesized in producing 140 dozen. It doesn’t matter how, but produce

them. And you know the consequences of not reaching the “goal”. Are these consequences only in your factory? You fully understand that it is not, because capitalist interests and all political expressions of the right know no borders. They are like recipes/pieces part of a scaffolding that runs regardless of who it drags, defined by the bosses of your maquila, of the other maquilas near and far, of the so-called world of industry where the word “rights” does not exist, much less, “justice”, “equality”, “freedom”.

— “Thanks to the Party I have

understood what exploitation means, what to do and how to respond to exploitation.”

And that historic and wise question “What is to be done?”, in your voice has meaning again in my life and I walk and I experience it again as a result of the dialectical praxis in the class struggle. I have no words to tell you:

Thank you, comrade, comrade, sister! Let us always extend our fists in one heart against every expression born of infamous capitalism. You’re not alone! I assure you!

—Comrade in Costa Rica



MYANMAR, February 2015—Garment workers on strike

HOW CAN WE GET MORE WORKERS' VOICES IN RED FLAG?

EL SALVADOR, January 2—Thirty-eight participants in the recent international conference discussed this after hearing a report on *Red Flag/Bandera Roja*. We divided into five groups to answer the following questions:

- 1. Do you remember any *Red Flag* items that you liked? Why do you remember them?
- 2. Which articles have you shown to friends and discussed with them?
- 3. How can we ensure greater worker participation in the production of content for *Red Flag*?

The group discussions were then reported out in plenary. The results are as follows:

Question #1: Individuals gave different answers, which helped us understand more about what they think. They remembered articles and letters about:

- The situation in Venezuela
- Struggles in India and South Africa that make us see that we are all in the same situation and help us and inspire us with weapons to win our own struggles
- Immigration and all the anti-fascist protests that ICWP has participated in
- The air in India that can't be breathed
- Imperialist wars
- The Gaza genocide, especially Comrade Hamza's letters

Question #2: Comrades discussed articles about

- What is happening in Gaza
- The raids and deportations in the US. These have had a great impact because many have relatives there and receive remittances.
- India, where women work-

- ers have the same struggles as we do. These gave us courage and helped us a lot to win over more comrades.
- Sexism. This helps us to discuss that.
- Experiences that we can relate to what we are going through.
- Imperialist wars. These demonstrate that only in communism will mass genocides end.

Question #3: Two kinds of answers were given.

The first kind concerned the design of the newspaper. These included:

- More images that reflect struggle, courage, and feeling.
- Cartoons that attract attention.
- Try to keep articles shorter or easier to understand.

- Always have an eye-catching cover.
- Not many articles should have continuations.
- The second type of response concerned how to involve more worker comrades in writing for the paper.
- Addressing comrades' fear of expressing their ideas and sharing their problems.
- Expressing our experiences within the factory and the importance of writing them down, even in small pieces.
- Supporting each other to make writing easier
- Providing audios that other comrades can transcribe
- Creating writing and political study groups.

The *Red Flag* report and discussion created an opportunity to encourage more workers to write and engage more with writing ideas for our newspaper. Groups also discussed the importance of mass distribution.

We could have used more time for this. Our evaluation also concluded that better use should be made of time, and that activities should be planned in the spaces before the main days of the meeting.

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Communist Maquila Worker Demands Respect

I am a maquila worker. I am glad to be part of the ICWP, to read and distribute *Red Flag*.

I want to tell you that I was at the end-of-year meeting, with the participation of comrades from Costa Rica, Mexico, the USA, and this country. We agreed on how the capitalist system has us. Everywhere we suffer the same abuses, just as we do in El Salvador. Where everything looks pretty for the capitalist. But not for the working class.

Today, January 2, we have been affected in the factory. They have laid off staff. As well as in the week before December 19. A marketing gentleman came down to see the work we were doing. And he had a bad expression towards us workers. Sorry for the expression, but this is how he referred to us. He said: "B—, if you do not work, you will be fired."

That affected us emotionally and psychologically. We do not expect anything good from the employers. But they demand respect, he stressed.

We are not spoiled. We just do our job. I don't see the reason for insulting us workers. This is just one of many things that we endure.

We have seen China's influence in this country. In the historic center is the BINAES, the new National Library with almost no books, donated by the Chinese government. We found Chinese restaurants and companies. Salvadoran businesses have disappeared in that area

At the international conference, I liked that a comrade commented, "Let's not talk about the capitalist anymore, he's bad, we already know that. Let's talk about Communism, as we think it will be."

I really liked that part, because only by understanding that important part, will we get out of that thing that has us up to our necks in water.

— Communist Worker in El Salvador

To Comrades of the International Communist Workers' Party

It is a pleasure to address you, dear friends and fellow workers of ICWP.

I want to tell you that I am very motivated to have met my communist friends again.

For many years, due to life situations, I had no contact with the party. But I had very good memories that I have shared, with communist ideas, with people who are real fighters. I knew these ideas

when I was a teenager and they were always present in my life.

A few weeks ago I was surprised that comrades I knew, and several comrades who accompanied them, arrived in the community. We met again after twenty-two years. It was a very emotional moment, because it had taken many years to meet again. They gave us *Red Flag*, which we are sharing for everyone to read until the next edition arrives.

My mother welcomed them and told them, "Those who come are also family." That day we had time to catch up. The whole family is very happy and motivated by this moment.

Then they invited me to a conference that would be held in the next few days. I had some commitments, but I did everything possible to make changes and I attended. It was a joy for me to see them again and meet other national and international comrades.

There at the conference, we had time to plan an end-of-the-year get-together. It took place days later, in the community where I live.

I invited my family and some friends from the community. Eighteen adults and several children were there. We shared many experiences and now we are in com-

munication. And we will have more information with the *Red Flag* newspaper that will reach our hands soon.

Greetings to all!
— Young Communist



Read our Manifesto:
MOBILIZE THE MASSES
FOR COMMUNISM
Available at:
icwpredflag.org/mmce.pdf

SOUTH AFRICA: PLANS TO MOBILISE THE MASSES FOR MAY DAY 2026

UITENHAGE/KARIEGA (South Africa), January 7— We had our first collective meeting for the year. Fifteen comrades attended, more than five of them new comrades. The meeting was about setting up the plan of action for the year and explaining to the new comrades what the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) is about.

One new comrade asked, “Before we continue, comrade, I would like you to explain what this party is about and what it is that they want to achieve”.

Comrade S responded, “ICWP seeks to mobilise the masses, particularly the industrial workers to join us in the fight against the system of capitalism that keeps us unemployed, poor, and in an endless state of poverty and exploitation”.

Comrade C said, “It’s my first time hearing about this capitalism system. Can the comrades please explain”.

Comrade Z responded, “Capitalism is the system we live under, the system of bosses where we cannot eat or live if we are not working for the bosses and the so-called investors. But in reality, these investors are capitalists that want to exploit us”.

He went further to say, “For example, I work in a factory getting paid less than R50 (US\$3 or ₹277) an hour to produce in six minutes an inner that is worth R2000 (US\$120 or ₹11,000). That means in a day I make around fifty inner worth R100 000 (US\$6000 or ₹5.5 lakh) but only get paid R250 (US\$15 or ₹1400) a day. The difference between the money I get and the value I make for the boss is the money that goes to the bosses’ profits. That is the surplus. That is the exploitation we want to fight by destroying this system”.

Comrades were shocked by this simple example. This is the exploitation that happens in all sectors

of the economy.

Another comrade asked, “So you want to change that, how will you do it?”

Comrade S responded, “We are now a small number. Our task for now is to spread the communist message, our ICWP message, by distributing the *Red Flag* newspaper to the workers and the masses at large. We have collectives all over the world because we are recruiting workers and close friends and family. We started with a smaller number than the people in this room but if all of us recruit one person, in the next meeting we will double our number. That is the method we use to recruit in order to build a mass party that can wage a revolution. That is how we will change this system”.

We then discussed our plan of action. We decided we will meet as our large numbers every second weekend of the month. Where we will discuss the *Red Flag* articles

and plans to execute in order to organise a successful May Day.

We discussed the plan to have a youth collective consisting of high school students, as well as college students, because a young female comrade will be going to university. The youth work will be led by two female comrades who are both under twenty years old.

We identified three female comrades who will consistently participate in Zoom meetings to make sure that whenever there is an international Zoom meeting the collective in Uitenhage is represented.

We also identified comrades that will be leading the work in distributing the *Red Flag* in production plants such as VW and other surrounding factories. With consistency we will recruit hundreds of workers and truly have a mass party fighting for communism.

Aluta continua.

LETTERS IN MEMORY OF COMRADE TOM WESTON, 1944-2025

Life in Struggle

With nostalgia we say goodbye to a great comrade who is still present. We affirm it in our collective memory and in our struggle. His departure hurts, but his example remains firm, like a flag that does not fall.

Tom was a member of the International Communist Workers' Party not only out of political conviction, but also out of coherence of life. In every task he assumed, in every discussion, in every day of struggle, he demonstrated that communism is not an empty discourse. It is a practice of daily life made up of commitment, discipline and solidarity.

Today we remember him with gratitude because he left his mark on the organization and on the consciousness of all comrades. I did not have the pleasure of meeting him personally. But I did have the pleasure of meeting him through chat, in Zoom meetings and I remember him with all his dedication, passion and commitment. Tom, I am grateful for your words and your help when I joined the collective. A great example to follow.

The best tribute we can pay him is not just words, but to continue the struggle, strengthen the Party, raise the *Red Flag* and advance with more clarity and determination towards the revolution for which he gave his energy and his life.

We say we are present, in every struggle, in every comrade who does not give up, in every step towards communism.

Until victory always!

His example lives on in the struggle of the ICWP!

—Comrade in El Salvador

Sharpening Ideological and Practical Struggle Advances the Fight for Communism

Comrade Tom patiently helped many comrades and friends use dialectical materialism to deepen our understanding and improve our fight for communism. To make it the property of the workers, not only of a few philosophers.

One thing Tom explained was that Soviet philosophers tended toward mechanical materialism when discussing materialism versus idealism. That weakness has affected us also.

He explained that in dialectical materialism, the “Ideal” is not some abstract dream. It’s the way the working class turns its real material experiences and struggles into a conscious goal for transforming society. Communism is an Ideal. It comes from material life, and, through organized action, it will reshape material life.

The Ideal is not being idealist. Humans’ consciousness doesn’t only reflect the material world but also creates and changes it. The world as it is doesn’t meet the masses’ needs, and the masses decide to change it through their own activity.

As communists we have decided to change the world by fighting for communism.

Marx said that when ideas grip the masses, they become a material force capable of changing history. This is why we can’t cling to the illusion that spontaneous fights with the bosses will lead to revolution on their own. That is mechanical materialism. It keeps the struggle trapped within capitalism.

To win communism, communist

ideas and actions must lead. Without that leadership, the masses are left to battle the system without the goal to replace it.

Tom showed that, as dialectics teaches, the contradiction between capitalist and communist practice and ideas is sharpening as the crisis deepens. The main weakness of the international communist movement has been right opportunism. Instead of uniting with “lesser evil” capitalists, we must unite with the international working class for communism.

Struggling for communism gives us confidence that workers and youth can see what we see. Sharpening ideological contradictions shows us how to win the struggle for communism. We won’t be intimidated by the capitalists, imperialists and their reformist politicians.

As capitalist relations of production developed in China, so too did the theory of “non-antagonistic” contradictions.

Tom and others explained that there are no non-antagonistic contradictions. All contradictions are the unity and struggle of opposites. All contradictions have to be resolved by sharpening the struggle so that communist ideas and practices defeat capitalist ideas and practices. So we can build unity on a higher level. That’s the way forward.

We don’t fear that struggle. In-



stead, we welcome it as our opportunity to advance the fight for communism.

The formulation about non-antagonistic contradictions wasn’t just an abstract philosophical error. It was used to justify Chinese communists uniting with the bourgeois nationalists to fight the Japanese invaders instead of fighting for communism. This led to many Communists being killed by the nationalists.

This would be akin to supporting and uniting with Russian and Chinese imperialists against US imperialists rather than mobilizing the masses for communist revolution. Or supporting politicians like Gavin Newsom or Zohran Mamdani against Trump instead of showing that no capitalist politician is our friend or savior and that only communism will meet the masses’ needs.

—A Comrade

Communism or Anarchism? (Part III)

THE STATE AND REVOLUTION: LENIN ON THE PARIS COMMUNE

Previous article: Marx and Engels saw the 1871 Paris Commune as a material starting point for theorizing the form of workers' power. The anarchist Kropotkin didn't.

"The Commune taught the European proletariat to pose concretely the tasks of the socialist revolution. The lesson will not be forgotten," the Russian communist leader Lenin told comrades in March 1908. He made sure it wasn't.

Nine years later, Russia was reeling from the world war. Soldiers and sailors returned home bloodied, hungry, and angry – if at all. Urban workers faced wage cuts as prices soared.

Unlike European socialists, communists and anarchists had denounced the Tsar's imperialist war. They agitated and organized among troops. Strikes and demonstrations exploded in mid-February 1917 in the capital, Petrograd.

Communist factory cells grew rapidly and led some of the protests. Soldiers fraternized with workers. Mutinies erupted. Within days, the Winter Palace was taken. The tsar abdicated.

Bourgeois liberals and socialists dominated the new Provisional Government. Communists and anarchists wanted real revolution. Anarchists weren't disposed to coordinate large-scale intervention. But the communist Bolshevik Party was. It changed from a small clandestine party to a mass party. Its ranks swelled.

The Provisional Government exiled Lenin. Preparing for power, he studied the Paris Commune carefully in *State and Revolution*. Pub-

lished in July, much of it covered ideas popular among communists and anarchists. Especially the need to smash the capitalist state rather than trying to work within it.

More controversial was: "What is to Replace the Smashed State Machine?" Formerly, Lenin wrote, "the utopians busied themselves with 'discovering' political forms under which the socialist transformation of society was to take place. The anarchists dismissed the question of political forms altogether. The opportunists of present-day Social-Democracy accepted the bourgeois political forms of the parliamentary democratic state as their limit."

The Commune had "replaced the smashed state machine 'only' by fuller democracy." They abolished the standing army. All officials were elected, paid workers' wages, and subject to recall. A quantitatively fuller democracy would create qualitative change: "proletarian democracy." Instead of a state as a special force to suppress a particular class, it would become "something which is no longer the state proper."

It would again be necessary, as it was in 1871, to suppress the bourgeoisie and crush its resistance. Lenin said that one reason for the Commune's defeat was "that it did not do this with sufficient determination." However, the "organ of suppression" is "the majority of the population, and not a minority" as had always been the case in class societies.

Without a "special force for suppression," Lenin predicted, "the



Petrograd, June, 18, 1917. Bolshevik slogans on banners read: "Peace to the Whole World — All Power to the People — All Land to the People" and "Down with the minister-capitalists."

state begins to wither away. The majority itself can directly fulfill all its functions. And the more the functions of state power are performed by the people as a whole, the less need there is for the existence of this power."

If the Russian revolution implemented the Commune's "simple and 'self-evident' democratic measures," it would unite the workers and most peasants. It would serve as a bridge from capitalism to socialism.

The Commune was the political form "at last discovered" which makes the "economic emancipation of labor" possible. The goal of political reorganization was "the transformation of capitalist private ownership of the means of production into social ownership."

Anarchists wanted immediate abolition of all administration, bureaucracy, and subordination. Lenin thought this was unrealistic. It amounted, he said, to postponing the socialist revolution indefinitely "until people are different."

"But to smash the old bureaucratic machine at once and to begin immediately to construct a new one that will make possible the gradual abolition of all bureaucracy—this is not a utopia," Lenin declared. "It is the experience of the Commune, the direct and immediate task of the revolutionary proletariat."

The new order would still need

representative institutions. But they would be working bodies, not parliamentary "talking shops." Elected representatives would carry out their own laws and "test the results achieved in reality." And "account directly to their constituents."

Right away, the "bossing" of state officials would be replaced by ordinary workers taking turns carrying out "the simple functions of 'foremen and accountants.'"

Building on existing capitalist large-scale production, this beginning "will of itself lead to the gradual 'withering away' of all bureaucracy," Lenin concluded. "To organize the whole economy on the lines of the postal service, all under the control and leadership of the armed proletariat—that is our immediate aim."

On October 25, 1917, Bolshevik workers and soldiers led masses to overthrow the Provisional Government. Lenin opened the Second All-Russian Congress of Soviets with the words, "We will now proceed to construct the socialist order."

How would this evolve into communism? Lenin found no practice on which even to theorize about this.

We don't agree with everything in State and Revolution, but it is a "must read" for analyzing the contradictions that quickly emerged, as the next article will show.



MEXICO CITY, January 10— In a massive protest against imperialist intervention in Venezuela, we distributed five hundred communist leaflets. Most of the participants accepted them. Some approached to ask for the flyers.

Unfortunately, the organizers called for a "defense of the nation" and some specifically for the release of Maduro and his partner. Others promoted Latin-Americanism. In both cases they presented that as "anti-imperialism".

But Venezuela's 21st-century socialism is still capitalism.

We were the only ones who called for the unity of the international working class for communism, and against capitalists of all kinds.

Nationalist revisionist influence persists among the workers. However, *Red Flag* brings them the prospect of mobilizing us toward communism.

Red Flag on Venezuela Was "Eye-opening"

The writer sent this message to a comrade who had sent him Red Flag.

Thank you for sending this!! This was very eye opening about the situation in Venezuela. I've tried to keep up with the unfolding events, but I do not have the background in Venezuelan history.

It was so informative to see how Venezuela fits into the wider global context. I thought it was interesting

that there was a communist critique of the Venezuelan government. I had not heard this anywhere else.

I was also not aware of the protests that condemned the US actions. Finally, I had not considered how this invasion could increase tensions between the US, Russia, and China.

—Red Flag reader in the USA