

# RED FLAG



## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



Minneapolis, MN



Los Angeles, CA



Watsonville, CA

### USA: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WALK OUT AGAINST FASCIST ANTI-IMMIGRANT ATTACKS



Pasadena, CA

### FROM PALESTINE TO THE USA: ANSWER GROWING FASCISM BY ORGANIZING FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

LOS ANGELES (USA), February 14— “There is no ceasefire in Gaza,” said an activist friend with family in the West Bank of Palestine. “And the Zionist government has authorized Israeli settlers to start seizing Palestinian properties in the West Bank cities as well as in the countryside.” His steady voice betrayed anxiety, anger, and urgency.

**It's true.** Israeli bullets and bombs have murdered over 520 Palestinians in Gaza since the so-called “cease-fire” last fall. Probably over 100,000 in total. Well over a million Gazans huddle in tents, cold and hungry. At least 800,000 of them are in immediate danger. Life expectancy in Gaza has fallen catastrophically. Before the genocide, Gazans could expect to live into their upper seventies. Now they would be lucky to approach 50.

The 1995 Oslo Accords divided the West Bank into three areas. Area A was to be run by the Palestinian Authority. Area B also, but with “security” handled jointly with the Israeli military. Area C is under direct Israeli control.

The Israeli government took steps last week to effectively erase these distinctions and occupy the entire West Bank. For example, Zionist settlers assaulted Palestinian farmers on their lands near Talfit, in Area B, near Nablus. Israeli troops fired tear gas and live ammunition at residents who tried to repel the settler attack.

Yesterday, settlers attacked several towns and villages. The Israeli military protected them. Settlers wounded at least 54 Palestinians. They destroyed olive trees and vandalized Palestinian properties.

See FROM PALESTINE TO THE USA, page 2

LOS ANGELES (USA), February 17— “My son participated in his first walkout today,” an occasional *Red Flag* reader texted her former teacher. “He has a teacher like you. I love it.” He’s among tens of thousands of middle-school, high-school, and college students who have taken to the streets this year. From Maine to Texas, from Florida to Hawaii!

They demand an end to fascist ICE immigration raids. To racially profiled kidnappings. Mass incarceration in concentration camps. Murderous violence against those defending their neighbors.

The US rulers weren’t ready for the multiracial working-class resistance in Minneapolis. Or for acts of solidarity large and small throughout the US. So the Trump administration is changing tactics while continuing the kidnappings. It is acquiring more warehouses for concentration camps and more offices for hubs.

Mass deportations started under Obama, though with less confrontation. Student protesters eagerly take *Red Flag*. We invite readers to join our party in the revolutionary struggle for a communist world without borders or nations.

More next issue.

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## WORKING CLASS IN CENTRAL AMERICA CONTINUES TO STUDY DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM

EL SALVADOR, February 12— *Industrial workers in maquilas (garment factories) organize themselves to devote part of their break time on their only day off each week to meet with their comrades throughout the country and discuss once again: communist dialectics. Some are accompanied by their families (husbands, wives, sons and daughters, grandparents, etc.).*

The document for discussion appears in the pamphlet entitled: "Fighting for Change." The text covers the basic definitions of philosophy, dialectical materialism, the importance of internal contradictions, and determining what the main contradiction is in our environment, and how to mobilize the masses for communism.

Far from being a precise and comprehensive account of the discussion, this collectively written article aims to reflect the most important points of the discussion and convey the passion and dedication that textile workers show week after week in the struggle for communism. This is intended to inspire other workers around the world in our struggle for a new communist society.

*"Philosophy tells us how to learn about reality and how to change it"*

A comrade adds: "The capitalists want us to believe that their system is eternal, and they lie. When we look back at history, we see that they needed the working class to overthrow the kings. History teaches us about the transition from

the feudal system to the capitalist system. They want us to believe that their system is the end, to prevent the triumph of the communist revolution."

"Dialectics teaches us that reality is always changing. We must understand how we can change it," added an education worker.

The article under discussion continues with dialectical contradictions. It cites as an example the capitalist-worker connection:

"Contradictions imply that two things are connected to each other, but also interfere with, restrain, or struggle against each other. We are together but not mixed up. We are the working class. We live under wage slavery. The bosses need us more than we need them. The study of dialectics serves to help more workers remove the veil that covers them and recognize that they must break their chains. When a worker acquires class consciousness, there is no turning back," said another comrade, a healthcare worker.

He continued, "Contradictions are resolved, they are not eternal. The main contradiction at the global level is the inter-imperialist struggle between China and the United States. It will be either them (the bosses) or us who will die. We must organize so that no other worker ever dies in a war between capitalists again. We must overthrow them."

"Comrades, being here tonight, on your day off, means that you have taken a qualitative step for-

ward, that we have class consciousness and continue to mature in our political thinking," he concluded.

"The internal struggle is the most important thing: overcoming capitalist ideas within ourselves, overcoming fear, and fighting for communism," says E, an education worker.

"Let's imagine an egg. The embryo grows until it becomes a chick. To do so, it must break the shell in which it was formed and lived the first days of its life. Only then can it become a hen or a rooster. The internal contradiction breaks the initial state and generates change. It breaks the egg and the chick is born," explained another comrade, one of many examples of dialectics during the discussion.

"The internal contradiction is realizing that we are workers, that the bosses are the enemies to be defeated. From then on, there is no turning back. The worker frees himself from his mental bonds and wants power," adds the comrade.

We ended the discussion feeling very motivated. "What is discussed in the documents are examples of what is experienced in the maquilas in El Salvador and what all workers around the world experience," said a maquila worker.

"These meetings help to strengthen the party line. They must continue because, in groups, listening to comrades reinforces the knowledge that each one has," said another member of the ICWP cells.

We thank and honor the memory



San Salvador, May Day 2017  
"Make intelligent Decisions"  
"FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM  
ICWP"

of comrade Tom and his collective for their efforts in making these writings on dialectics and philosophy more accessible, illuminating the path for workers' and peasants' cells around the world.

Until Victory Always! Goodbye Tom!

### "Fighting for Change"

available at:



## FROM PALESTINE TO THE USA, from page 1

Here in Los Angeles County, many anti-genocide activists have joined protests against ICE and

Border Patrol fascists. Regular Palestine vigils now frequently feature posters linking ICE and the IOF (Israeli Occupation — not "Defense" — Forces). Our party has consistently made this connection.

"The tactics ICE is using against people with Brown skin here are the same tactics the IOF

has used for a long time against Palestinians," a friend explained to passers-by.

That's no accident. ICE kidnapers have been trained by the IOF. So have Los Angeles Police officers and other local cops. Some trained in Israel. Some wear Zionist flags on their uniforms.

The Israeli company Elbit and the US companies Palantir and Motorola, among others, market their deadly surveillance technologies in Palestine, the US, and elsewhere.

"Fascism is the face of Capitalism," an ICWP poster proclaims. "Mpls — Gaza — LA: Resist, Rebel, Organize for Communist Revolution." People at anti-ICE rallies take pictures. Many, many accept copies

of *Red Flag*. Friends at rallies against the genocide in Palestine ask for copies. They initiate serious conversations. Our reach is limited only by our ability to inspire more comrades and friends to do this work more frequently. And to recruit new members to ICWP.

**From Palestine to the USA, the stakes are higher.** This is fascism, like in El Salvador, India, and many other places. Neither electoral politics nor non-violent resistance will defeat it. Communist revolution will. The responsibility and the privilege of our Party is to organize that fight. As our comrades in El Salvador, India, and Palestine are also doing. As we hope you do, too.



Jerusalem, February 2026—Protests against home demolitions and ethnic cleansing

Volume 17, Number 3 February 18 to March 11, 2026



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### ON THE WEB:

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

**Communism Versus Anarchism (Part IV): Fighting for Communist Workers' Power, 1917-1918**

**CHECK OUT THE ICWPEDIA:** the online communist mini-encyclopedia. .

Available through ICWPRedFlag.org or at [icwpedia.org](http://icwpedia.org) and the QR code to the right



## PREPARING FOR MAY DAY BY MOBILISING THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

SOUTH AFRICA, 14 February —We hosted our regular monthly meeting as a collective in Gqeberha and Uitenhage. Despite the cold and rainy weather, comrades came up to the meeting. We were drawing concrete logistical plans for May Day.

One comrade started the meeting by saying, “Comrades, as you know, the genocide in Gaza is still going on. The international contradictions are intensifying. And there are rising xenophobic attacks in South Africa. This all requires us to do something”.

“Therefore,” he continued, “since the 21st of March is Human Rights Day in South Africa, how about we have a march against xenophobic attacks and stand in solidarity with the people of Gaza and also use the toyi toyi to mobilise for May Day?”

Many comrades agreed. Com-

rade Ase said, “Yes, I agree with that comrade. And it will be convenient for everyone since it will be a public holiday and that means all of us will be available”. We are therefore set for the 21st of March 2026 to have a mobilization. A march and a toyi toyi against human rights abuses in the way of xenophobic attacks against immigrants in South Africa and worldwide, including standing against what ICE is doing in the USA.

We concluded the meeting by having a new high school comrade read us an article in the *Red Flag*. Which talked about the imperialist rivalry. And how, like the communists or socialists of 1912, we should never allow ourselves to fight against our class siblings.

We talked about the need for the whole collective to understand the international conflicts and to view them not as isolated events but part



Human Rights Day in South Africa commemorates the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre. Police fired at an anti-Apartheid rally in front of a police station, killing 69 out of the 300 unarmed protesters. Hundreds more were injured, many shot in the back while attempting to flee. The ensuing State of Emergency forced the Pan-Africanist Congress and the African National Congress to go underground and begin an armed struggle.

of the crumbling capitalist system we must destroy with communism. And that we must view ourselves and what we do as a collective as part of the international working-

class fight against capitalism and imperialism.

We vowed to continue in this vein. We say forward with communism, forward!

### Workers Need Communist Revolution, Not Industrial Unionism

#### ONLY SMASHING CAPITALISM WILL END ICE TERROR

SEATTLE, February 6— Last month, towards the end of a district council meeting, IAM Boeing District President Jon Holden talked briefly about ICE attacks on immigrants and their supporters. He had conferred with other organizations about helping with demonstrations but refused to even consider a general strike.

About the same time, the largest federation of US unions, the AFL-CIO, announced “peacekeeper” trainings from February through April to support non-violent demonstrations.

“This represented a turning tide,” said an Industrial Workers’ Committee member. Massive numbers of rank-and-file workers were forcing AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler to recognize the need for direct action. The pacifist shift is an attempt

to keep the working class tied to capitalist leadership.

President Claude Cummings Jr. of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) released another statement after ICE murdered Alex Pretti. In recent discussions, CWA leadership has been publicly preoccupied with the legality of calling a strike. It prioritizes the maintenance of “order” over urgent needs of the working class. This keeps the capitalists in power.

#### Rank-and-file Industrial Workers Refuse to Accept Nonsense

The industrial working class has been breaking away from corruption and control, rejecting static union “reforms.”

M, a young Boeing worker, always takes *Red Flag* when he goes into work. He is more concerned

with what *Red Flag* has to say than with what the unions say. Every issue of *Red Flag* is distributed at the Boeing gates.

At the last rank-and-file Industrial Workers’

Committee a comrade shared that young workers want to learn more and understand more. Other members agreed and insisted on the need to develop and reach more advanced co-workers. Activists from Minneapolis to Seattle and all over the US are building ways to fight back.

In the Pacific Northwest, four percent of the Boeing workforce have lost their jobs. On the other hand, in St. Louis, Missouri, where weapons are made, Boeing has hired large numbers of new workers. Industrial workers, young and older, have taken notice.

Industrial workers have seen imperialist violence abroad and increasing attacks at home. We can’t focus on bread-and-butter improvements in our workplaces. We must fight against the on-going violence the capitalist system inflicts on us.

Understanding the international nature of the working class is necessary to create a foundation for our communist future. We are one class. We cannot allow our class to be divided by nation, color, or anything else. In this crisis we all have to prepare for communist revolution.

The international fight against on-going genocide in Palestine remains. Industrial workers in Belgium, Barcelona, and the US have refused to load arms shipments for

Israel. Workers in over twenty Mediterranean ports coordinated action on February 6 to oppose “the militarization of the ports.”

We must create communist collectives of industrial workers out of these struggles. This will create opportunities for more political struggles, which are already spreading internationally.

#### Stand With the Working Class and Our Communist Future

But just what are we standing for? Beyond Minneapolis, deadly force by ICE and other federal agents is rising across the US.

Young Boeing industrial workers are pressuring union leadership to use their power to stop the fascists. But we have seen how the union leadership bows to capitalism.

Political struggles in the factories and meetings can bring friends closer to our party. We are participating in the Industrial Workers Committee, hosting potlucks, and meeting with workers one-on-one to build communist relationships. These will enable us to recruit many more people to ICWP and deepen our understanding of communism.

With communism, factories will be built to meet the needs of the working class. Capitalism focuses on individual competition, inequality, exploitation, and profits. Communists focus on collectivity, equity, and meeting the needs of the masses.

ICWP calls on industrial workers around the world to embrace communism. We can advance based on the needs of the international working class, to destroy capitalism and pave the way to build a new communist society.



Dockworkers in Ancona (Italy), February 6, 2026. Strike banner reads: “The port that resists wars, rearmament, and fascist laws.”

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## March 8: International Working Women's Day

### ALEXANDRA KOLLONTAI ON COMMUNISM AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF EVERYDAY LIFE

LOS ANGELES— “What got Alexandra Kollontai exiled from the Soviet Union to Mexico in 1927?” asked Lucy. “Was it really that she angered some monks and a countess in providing housing for veterans and orphans? Or because of her radical rethinking of love? Or something else?”

We were reading *Arise*, by Christina Heatherton, about the fight for internationalism in the era of the Mexican Revolution. “She brings a lot of strands together,” said Armando. “And you can see that internationalism is not automatic. You’ve got to fight for it.”

“I said that at her book signing,” replied Lucy. “But this chapter about Kollontai isn’t very convincing. It leaves out a crucial fight going on in Russia in 1921.”

“I don’t really know anything about that,” said Guamá. “Enlighten me.”

After the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, civil war and mass disruption dramatically threatened the survival of children and families. During “war communism” (1918-21) the Bolsheviks established public dining halls, free food for children, wages paid in the necessities of life rather than money, and state rationing of commodities.

Many communist women, including Kollontai (the only woman on the Bolshevik Central Committee in 1917) saw this as a chance to implement their ideals about transforming everyday life. Most party leaders, however, saw it as only an emergency measure. They agreed with Marx that advancing to communism had to wait for industrialization and abundance.

When the civil war ended in

1921, the Bolsheviks had urgent problems in even maintaining power. They hadn’t built a mass base among agricultural workers, the vast majority of the country. They had fought for “peace, land, bread,” not communism. These errors prevented them from overcoming divisions between rural and urban workers.

And the revolution in the rest of Europe that they had expected at the end of World War I was defeated before it began.

The 1921 Tenth Party Congress faced starvation in the cities and uprisings of workers, peasants, and soldiers. There were hundreds of thousands of starving, homeless, and abandoned or orphaned children. Was the way forward to extend “war communism” into a fight for communist social relations and institutions? Or to retreat to capitalism to build up the “productive forces” through industrialization?

This debate centered largely around industrial unions. Kollontai spoke for the Workers’ Opposition. She argued that the Party was stifling workers’ initiative which would be crucial to building communism. Unions, the organizations of industrial workers, should play a much larger role in making decisions about production and distribution.

The Congress adopted instead Lenin’s formulation that unions should be “schools for communism.” It condemned the Workers’ Opposition. Trotsky and Lenin made sexist personal attacks on Kollontai.

The way was then clear for adoption of the New Economic Policy (NEP), a money-based econ-



Alexandra Kollontai reports on the history and work of the International Women’s Secretariat of the Communist International, December, 1921.

omy with openly capitalist social relations. A year later, Kollontai was nearly expelled from the Party. Instead, she was sent to Norway to negotiate an agreement to trade herring for wheat. Later she was exiled to Mexico.

In Norway Kollontai wrote a letter to youth calling for comradeship (*Make Way for Winged Eros*). She wrote *Love of Worker Bees*, stories sharply critical of NEP.

Vasilisa, the main character, a communist organizer, struggles to organize a communal living arrangement in her hometown while separated from her comrade husband. When she travels to meet him, she finds that he has become a NEPman, a factory manager. He boasts about his luxurious house, scolds his wife for shaking hands with the maid, and engages in an affair.

Vasilisa begins political work among the factory workers and invites them to their home. Her husband accuses her of harboring the enemy. The contradictions sharpen. Vasilisa, pregnant, leaves him to go

raise her child in a communal living arrangement.

“What if, instead of concentrating on *Make Way for Winged Eros*, Heatherton had concentrated on *Love of Worker Bees*,” asked Lucy. “*Love of Worker Bees* is a sharp attack on the main contradiction of the New Economic Policy—of communists building capitalism. That could actually get you exiled to Mexico City.”

“That’s what you should have asked Heatherton,” said Guamá.

“Send her this article,” concluded Armando. “See what she says.”

Read our pamphlet:

THE COMMUNIST FIGHT AGAINST SEXISM”

Available at:



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#### A Communist Glance at Mexico

The capitalist system is organized so that the bosses govern through the elements that make it up legally. These are the state and its institutions, the laws, the electoral political parties (right or left), money, the wage system, religion, among others. And illegal elements: piracy, drug cartels, migration, etc.

In the capitalist system, it is impossible for left-wing electoral political parties to govern for the interests of the working class, because they keep intact the elements that make it up. It is necessary to change the root of the capitalist system and destroy the exploiting class in order to truly liberate ourselves.

It is an illusion that left-wing governments are in the interests of the

working class. For example, in Mexico, according to data from the World Inequality Report 2026 and the World Inequality Database, in 2002 when the PAN (right-wing party) governed, the richest 1% owned 33.1% of the wealth generated, while the poorest 50% owned 3.2%; However, in 2018, when the left was governing, the richest 1% accumulated 41.7%, the richest 10% accumulated 73.4% of the wealth and the poorest 50% only owned 1.7%.

This phenomenon is happening with all leftist governments around the world such as Brazil. The maneuver of leftist governments is that more wealth is generated or redistributed differently. As a consequence, it trickles down to the working class a little more. But as wealth increases, its concentration is still greater in the exploiting

class.

Under the pretext of corruption and austerity, the government of López Obrador and Sheinbaum cut budgets for health, education, science, among other sectors. And it eliminated several trusts financing welfare and infrastructure programs. In this way, they make the poorest believe that the situation is improving.

It does not matter which electoral party governs, because the system of exploitation of the working class is still in force. We do not want more crumbs! We want a world without exploitation, in which the priority is satisfying all the needs of the working class and the care of nature.

That is why we invite comrades



Mexico City, May Day, 2013

to continue joining the ICWP because to be a communist is to build a better world for all and by all.

—Comrade in Mexico

## COMMUNISM WILL END CAPITALISM'S HUNGER AMIDST PLENTY

VANCOUVER (Canada), December 30, 2025— Canada is one of the most food-rich countries on the planet. Every year Canadian agriculture produces enormous surpluses of necessities: thirty million tonnes of wheat, twenty million tonnes of canola, millions of tonnes of pulses (lentils, peas), vast quantities of oats, barley, potatoes, fruits, vegetables, meat, milk, and eggs.

Canada is among the world's top exporters of grain and oilseeds, shipping food worldwide from its highly mechanized, productive farming system at home. The agri-food sector generates well over one hundred billion dollars annually. It produces far more food than the Canadian population itself could ever consume. Canada already produces more than enough calories, protein, and nutrients to feed everyone living here.

Yet the reality for working people is brutal. Despite this abundance, around one in four Canadians lives in a food-insecure household. Millions of people skip meals, cut portion sizes, rely on

food banks, or worry constantly about whether there will be enough to eat at the end of the month.

Food insecurity is not evenly distributed. It hits hardest among low-wage workers, Indigenous communities, single-parent households, seniors on fixed incomes, migrants, and people on social assistance. Children are growing up hungry in a country that exports grain by the shipload. This is not an accident or a temporary glitch. It is the normal functioning of capitalism.

The ruling class wants us to believe that hunger is caused by personal failure, bad budgeting, or unfortunate circumstances. But hunger in Canada exists alongside overflowing silos, supermarket waste, and record corporate profits. Food is treated as a commodity, not a social necessity. It is produced to be sold at a profit, exported when prices are higher abroad, and destroyed or dumped when markets are saturated. Under capitalism, the question is never "Do people need food?" but "Can they pay?" If they

cannot, the system has no solution except charity, food banks, and moralizing lectures.

This contradiction exposes the lie at the heart of capitalism. Hunger does not exist because we lack resources or productive capacity. It exists because the means of production and distribution are privately owned and organized for profit. Farmers are squeezed by agribusiness monopolies. Grocery chains rake in obscene margins. And workers face rising prices while wages lag. The result: abundance on paper and deprivation in reality.

Communism offers a fundamentally different principle: "From each according to their ability and commitment, to each according to their needs." In a communist society, food production will be socially planned to meet human needs directly, not filtered through markets and profit calculations. The land, equipment, processing facilities, and distribution networks will be collectively owned and controlled by the masses.

Surpluses in one region will be

used to guarantee food security for our class everywhere, not to pad export revenues or corporate balance sheets. No one will have to prove their desperation to a charity or line up at a food bank.

In communism, the question of hunger disappears. Not because food magically increases, but because social priorities change. When society already produces more than enough, ensuring that everyone eats becomes a straightforward organizational task, not a moral dilemma. Canada's existing agricultural capacity makes this especially clear. Hunger here is not tragic; it is obscene. It is the result of a system that subordinates human life to profit.

The fight for communism is not abstract or utopian. It is about ending the daily violence of hunger in a world of plenty. Canada already has the food. What it lacks is a social system worthy of that abundance.

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### Bullying: Violence in a Competition-based System

Every morning knowing that they will make fun of her clothes, her body, her way of speaking. Being isolated at recess. Humiliating messages. Arriving home in silence. Not wanting to say anything. To begin to feel less, to doubt her own worth. Wondering if she herself is the problem.

That pain is not an exaggeration. It's real. Anxiety. Insomnia. Depression. Constant fear. There are young people who stop studying. Others self-harm. Some, tragically, can't take it anymore. Situations that many young people live day by day as a result of bullying.

In schools, in neighborhoods, in digital networks, bullying is usually presented as an "individual problem," as a lack of values, or as simple juvenile cruelty. But from a communist perspective we must state clearly: Bullying is not

born in a vacuum. It is born in a capitalist society organized on competition, inequality, and the humiliation of the weakest.

Capitalism teaches us to compete, not to cooperate. From childhood we are taught to "be better than others," to stand out individually, to measure human value according to performance, appearance, or material success.

In this fertile ground, the logic of harassment grows: the strong impose, the popular dominate, the one who has resources humiliates the one who lacks them. Violence is not a deviation from the system. It is its daily reflection.

The capitalist school reproduces social hierarchies. Classify, label, and exclude. The children of the working class are burdened with economic precariousness, discrimination, and a lack of institutional support. Differences in class, gender, sexual orientation, or cultural identity become reasons for aggression. Bullying is

the micro-expression of the structural violence of capital.

The system that normalizes labor exploitation, extreme inequality, and ruthless competition cannot aim to foster solidarity among individuals. The same order that legitimizes the accumulation of obscene wealth by a minority while millions survive in precarious conditions, reproduces in the classrooms the logic of domination: a few above, many below.

The position of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) maintains that the real eradication of bullying cannot be achieved through moral campaigns or disciplinary regulations alone. It is necessary to transform the material basis of society.

In a communist society, education will be oriented towards cooperation, equality, and collective development.

Communist society does not educate people to com-

pete but to collaborate. It does not train them for individual accumulation but for the common good. Where exploitation and structural inequality disappear, so too do the social roots of systematic violence among peers.

It is not enough to condemn bullying. We must point out its origin. And its origin has a name: capitalism.

The fight against bullying is also part of the fight for a new society. Let's not reproduce the logic of the oppressor.

Let's organize ourselves to transform everything! Join ICWP and distribute *Red Flag*.

—Comrade in El Salvador

Read our pamphlet:

### GENOCIDE IN PALESTINE DEMANDS COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Available at: <https://icwpredflag.org/wp/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/egaza2.pdf>



Sydney, Australia, February 9 -- Masses attack visiting Israeli Prime Minister Herzog and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese as war criminals.



Dockworkers in Piraeus, Greece, February 6, 2026. Banners read: "PALESTINE" and "We Are Marching to Gaza"

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## Learning from the Histories of Cuba and El Salvador

“Look, comrade, I have enormous sympathy for the Cuban people. In my youth in the 1960s, I felt hope in the struggle against the US empire. We felt we could fight and win,” said a *Red Flag* reader.

“Then came the civil war in El Salvador (1979-1992). Cuban aid to the Front (FMLN) with people and military support was enormous. I know things didn’t turn out the way we thought they would, either in Cuba or in El Salvador, but we learned a lot and the struggle continues, as you say.”

My friend told me this during a conversation in which I explained, based on our communist understanding, the roots of the failure of socialism in Russia and China. Socialism leaves exploitation, money, banks, and capitalist pro-

duction intact. We discussed how Cuba was dependent on Russia for its economy and politics.

“But with Cuba, it was US imperialism that was responsible. They stifled that process,” continued my friend.

“It’s true, imperialism had an influence and currently has the destruction of Cuba on its criminal hands. But the Cuban government and bosses continued with capitalist practices and did not develop a communist ideology for the working class,” I replied.

Beyond that discussion, I believe that the romanticism of the Cuban revolution, nationalism, and patriotism still affect the vision of a true communist revolution. Looking at these revolutions objectively, there is much to learn. We learn from mistakes and advances in terms of organization and how the masses are ready to



Los Angeles, USA, September, 2017

fight with what is presented as the most advanced in that area or moment.

The nationalism of the 1960s, expressed in the global National Liberation movements, left behind the Soviet or Chinese type of socialism. They created alliances with national bosses against imperialist domination but never spoke of the elimination of wage labor or of a communist vision.

The current struggle against

local and imperialist bosses must raise our consciousness to class consciousness, the working class without alliances with bosses or with capitalist ideology.

Today, we learn from comrades and friends who were part of the FMLN and who today fight as part of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) for a true communist revolution.

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

## Fascism or Communism?

Fascism in Soviet Russia (social fascism) is the elephant in the room. Ignoring it gives free rein to the ruling class to discredit communism. And they sure take the opportunity to do so.

In France after World War II, communist ideas attracted a lot of workers. The Communist Party (which was not a true communist party) would get a third of the votes at national elections. The CGT was a powerful communist-based union. Many artists and intellectuals proudly claimed to be communists.

Now it is quite the opposite.

After the May 1968 rebellion, the bosses got scared and they orchestrated a propaganda war against communism. Newspapers, books, magazines, and so on were full of revelations about ‘communist’ horrors in the USSR – the Stalin cult, the NKVD, the gulags, the purges, etc., etc. The tone changed, too, about the French Revolution. The king and queen were now “martyred” by the revolutionaries.

In my small French town, very conservative, I had two friends who belonged to the Communist Party. They were loved and respected and they put a lot of work and dedication into spreading communist ideas. In fact, it was their life.

In the 1980s, they totally withdrew, embarrassed and ashamed because they felt they were associated with the mistakes and cruelty of what had become Fascist Russia.

They did not need to be. Communists must keep proudly defending their ideas – not by

denying what happened in the USSR – but by condemning it. Purely and simply.

Social fascism was not communism. Communists do not fall back on cruel capitalist ways (prison, labor camps, famine, killings) to terrorize and exploit workers. Let’s quote Che Guevara: “Let me say that the true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love.” Che reserved hatred for the enemy.

As one of my older friends told me once: “Capitalism did not succeed the first time.” Same with communism. It is difficult and long work to convince people. Let’s not get involved in the extent, exaggeration, etc., of the events but instead admit and forcibly say that what happened in the USSR was not communism. It is not that hard.

—Comrade from France

**Red Flag responds:** *We appreciate the comrade’s letter, and we have always said that the USSR was never communist. The comrade’s explanation of the French rulers’ anti-communist campaign after 1968 is helpful. But we think the letter reflects the impact of that campaign’s claims about what happened (or allegedly happened). We don’t agree that the term “social fascism” (in its commonly used sense) is an apt description of the USSR at any point. We expect that other readers will want to contribute to this discussion.*

## Greenland: The Fight for World Hegemony

The *Red Flag* article about the imperialists’ fight over Greenland is informative and welcome. It was based on a collective discussion about the struggle between

the imperialists. The article encouraged more readers to be part of this discussion. This letter aims to contribute to it.

The article says that the main reason the US imperialists fight to control Greenland is that they covet the minerals, oil, gas, and other resources. Those are for long-term profitable investments.

The urgency has more to do with the strategic geographic location of Greenland and its surrounding waterways. They are crucial in a war with Russia. US military bases there will give the US closer access to every city in Russia—closer than Ukraine would!

The US also wants to deprive Chinese and Russian imperialism of sea lanes and resources for war and to secure them for US imperialism. Today, war is primary over immediate profits.

The Arctic has become critical for imperialist competition. Melting ice opens faster sea routes and exposes vast natural resources. It is becoming a key route for Russian and Chinese imperialists to transport oil for war, bypassing chokepoints controlled by the US Navy, including the Suez Canal.

With the petrodollar and USD in decline and the BRICS growing, US imperialism is desperate to control Greenland not only to halt the advance of China, but to attack Russia.

Losing the economic competition, the US urgently seeks to stop China and Russia militarily. US imperialism, not just Trump, needs to fight for its lost hegemony. The fight to control Greenland and the newly navigable seas around it, and its minerals, is part of developing World War III.

For Russia, the Arctic is an existential economic and military priority. Over 50% of the Arctic coastline is Russian. Russia has reopened over fifty Soviet-era military bases and modernized its Northern Fleet to protect its nuclear second-strike capabilities. It seeks to control the Northern Sea Route as a domestic waterway, aiming for year-round shipping. The Kremlin views the Arctic as essential for resource extraction (oil/gas).

China declared itself a “near-Arctic state” in 2018. Beijing is investing \$90 billion in Russian energy and infrastructure to create a Polar Silk Road that could reduce shipping times to Europe by 40%. Greenland contains thirty minerals that China considers vital for its defense industry.

The US is fighting to increase its presence, surveillance, and polar navigation abilities to counter Russia and China. The US is aiming for potential control and increased military basing to secure the GIUK Gap (Greenland-Iceland-UK)—a vital maritime corridor for tracking Russian submarines.

The US increasingly depends on newly-admitted NATO allies Finland and Sweden to maintain a persistent presence and provide icebreaking capabilities it currently lacks.

The sharpening fight between these imperialist butchers means more attacks and deaths for the working class in Greenland and worldwide. The imperialists compete and kill for control and profit. We need to get rid of all of them with communist revolution.

—Comrades

## BAD BUNNY'S SUPERBOWL HALFTIME SHOW: IMPERIALIST "INCLUSION"— OR A COMMUNIST WORLD WITHOUT CAPITALISM'S RACISM, IMPERIALIST WAR, OR BORDERS

February 12— “Did you see the halftime show? It was amazing!” a young friend said.

“We heard him call out our country at the end. And we danced to the music,” another added.

There’s nothing wrong with that joy.

The performance led by Bad Bunny was powerful. It centered workers: cutting sugar cane, playing dominoes, repairing Puerto Rico’s crumbling power grid after Hurricane Maria, which the US government refused to pay for. It was mainly in Spanish. It was angry and celebratory at the same time. It showed a multiracial group of workers dancing together and it criticized gentrification and displacement. It said “America” is the whole continent (north and south) and all its masses.

For many people, it felt like recognition. It felt like visibility, dignity. That matters.

But why was this vision allowed on one of the world’s biggest corporate stages?

There are competing visions of “America.”

One is openly racist and nationalist. It pushes white supremacy, English-only policies, deportations, and brutal repression. It divides workers by race and nationality.

Another is inclusive, multiracial, and multicultural. It celebrates diversity, promotes representation, encourages unity across skin color and language.

It’s seductive to prefer the second vision!

But its capitalist promoters mean “unity” as long as we are all patriotic and don’t rebel, or stop rebelling, and trust the “better” capitalist rulers. Both visions operate within the same system: capitalism. One governs through open division and fear. The other also pushes inclusion and hope. But both rely on wage slavery, profit, exploitation, and war.

The inclusive version says: “You belong.”

It does not say: “You should run society.”

It celebrates multiracial workers dancing together, but not workers collectively controlling production and ending wage slavery. It highlights injustice, but does not challenge the structure that creates it.

When rebellion grows, history shows that liberal politicians and open reactionaries will unite to preserve the capitalist system itself. The form may change. The foundation — capitalism — remains the same.

That’s why we need something completely different.

The communist vision and struggle are not about better representation within capitalism. They are about ending this system based on wage slavery, profit, borders, competition, and war. For a world run by the people who do the work. Producing for human need, not profit. A world without racism because the



Santa Clara, USA, February 8, 2026

material basis for racial division will be eliminated. A world without wage slavery and imperial wars because capitalism itself will be abolished by communist revolution.

If you were moved by the anti-racist unity on that stage, ask yourself why that unity feels powerful.

Because deep down, we want collective dignity and collective power.

We want to belong.

We want an end to classes, racism, sexism, and obscene privilege for a tiny minority.

Love alone won’t end racism or capitalism. But love for our class can sustain the long struggle required to transform the world. Our anger must be informed by the understanding that capitalism is the source of all the attacks on us and communism is the solution. Love can anchor our commitment.

A halftime show won’t call for that transformation. We do.

Let’s build the unity of the international working class. Not only to dance together, but to dismantle a system that cages migrants, exploits and starves workers, brutalizes women and all workers, commits genocide, and is burning the planet for profit.

We deserve something different from representation inside oppression. We deserve a communist world of sharing, mutual respect, and love, without oppression. For that, we need to mobilize for communist workers’ power. No flag but the red communist flag of the international working class!

That message won’t be on TV. But it is in *Red Flag*. Help spread it! Join the fight to unite the international working class for communism!

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

### What Does Mobilizing for Communism Mean?

“Mobilizing masses for communism” is “our guiding principle.” “Our program.” “An apt slogan.” All this in our original manifesto some fifteen years ago. By now we should have a better understanding of its meaning, based on practice.

I read every article in *Red Flag* carefully, especially those about our work. And it seems that there are two contradictory ways we understand “mobilizing.”

When a government “mobilizes”

troops, it prepares and organizes them for active service. It musters or readies them. Mobilizing does not yet put them into action.

But “mobilizing” people can also mean organizing and encouraging them to act in a concerted way, to bring about a political objective. In this sense, “mobilizing” does mean putting them into action.

I understand “mobilizing for communism” in the second sense. We mobilize people to take actions now that, usually in small ways, advance the struggle for communism.

We mobilize them for communism when we convince them to distribute *Red Flag*. To march on May Day, join a protest, or come to a party meeting. To donate money. To write for *Red Flag*. To talk to friends and coworkers about communism. To find ways they can put communist ideas into practice in their daily

lives. To join ICWP and enrich the collective with their experiences and ideas.

Building communist relationships makes it possible to do this. Doing and discussing communist work together strengthens those relationships. I think this understanding of “mobilizing masses for communism” is key to growing a mass party now. And how the party functions now is key to understanding and explaining how communist society will function.

But some reports of Party work seem to reflect the first (military) concept of mobilizing. That is, the present task is to prepare friends now to do communist work in the future. In this model, building communist social relationships means creating a context to talk to people. And, hopefully, to listen to them. Building a mass base for the party now in order to build a mass party later.

Of course, no collective’s work is 100% one or the other of these. Both center personal-political relationships and struggle. But I think

the two meanings of “mobilizing” are dialectical opposites.

Our party arose in a period of capitalist crisis and mass struggle. The “Occupy” movement in the US and elsewhere. The “Arab Spring.” This is another such period, galvanized by the Gaza genocide and open fascism. There are huge opportunities for us to grow.

We need to develop, spread, and enact the best possible understanding of mobilizing masses for communism.

—Fired-up comrade



Read our manifesto:  
**MOBILIZING THE  
MASSES FOR  
COMMUNISM**



# IRAN: WILL ANGRY MASSES TURN TO COMMUNISM... OR BE COOPTED BY IMPERIALISTS?

February 16— *Red Flag* readers in Iran report that some Iranian oil workers went on strike last month after the rial (Iranian currency) was devalued. Most are contract workers. They resented the contractors' direct connection to the Iranian military. At the peak of their walk-out, the government gave them a 43% pay increase.

An oil workers' strike in 1978 brought the US-backed Shah's regime to its knees. Another massive nationwide oil workers' strike rocked the Islamic Republic in 2021.

When oil workers fight to end wage slavery, raising the red flag of communist revolution, real change will not be far off.

## Iranian Capitalist Crisis: Huge Global Implications

Israeli military attacks last June hit the economy hard. So did fall's renewed UN and US sanctions. Caught between profit-hungry imperialists and local bosses, Iranian workers' purchasing power has dropped by 90%. That, and more, brought angry millions into the streets in January.

Iran's rulers harshly repressed the protesters, killing thousands. They blocked the internet and banned international journalists. They blamed US and Israeli provocateurs — and not without reason. The Israeli rulers are scheming to bring back the monarchy. They invite Iranian dissidents to contact the Israeli military. Israeli intelligence agents infiltrated the protests.

Iran is Israel's main regional rival. Since last summer, leading Israeli politicians and the Jerusalem Post have spoken openly about dismembering Iran along ethnic lines. Like Syria.

Other capitalist powers are taking this possibility seriously. For example, India invested heavily in the strategic Chabahar Indian Ocean port in eastern Iran. Indian

capitalists recently discontinued that financing. It's not clear how Trump's last-minute tariff reductions might affect this.

## Why Iran Matters to Imperialists

Oil, clearly. Despite sanctions, Iran is a major oil exporter — mainly to China. US imperialists want to destroy that relationship. But Iran supplies under 15% of China's oil.

There are bigger issues.

Iran is a gateway to central Asia. This matters to Chinese and Indian capitalists who want access. It matters to the Russian rulers. Controlling Iran would strengthen their grip on the former Soviet republics. It matters to US imperialists, who are desperate to slow the unstoppable rise of their rivals.

US imperialists are eager to end Iran's nuclear program. Two US aircraft carrier strike groups are in the Persian Gulf. More could follow. Meanwhile, a second round of talks are slated for Geneva.

## Will There Be War?

Sooner or later, yes. Civil wars. World war. But there are too many contingencies to have a clear picture.

Iran's 86-year-old leader seems willing to curtail the nuclear program in exchange for lifting sanctions. But Trump has said that regime change in Iran would be "the best thing that could happen."

Melik Kaylan, writing in the Wall Street Journal and Forbes, advocated the ethnic partition of Iran. The "fragmentation" of Iran, he says, would be "for the benefit of people being massacred." Oh, sure.

Another US imperialist analyst called fragmentation of Iran "dangerous nonsense" that would "accelerate the very threats it's meant to neutralize." He compared it to US imperialism's setbacks after its war on Iraq.

Kaylan's real concern was that "Iran is too important geopoliti-

cally" to be left to the Iranian masses.

A recent Foreign Affairs article, in contrast, takes those masses ("the fragmented opposition movement") very seriously. It advises the US rulers to encourage the monarchists, college students, ethnic minorities, feminists, trade unions, and others to agree on a common program like elections for a constituent assembly.

Many Iranian leftists learned a bitter lesson after the 1979 revolution that deposed the US puppet Shah: The enemy of your enemy isn't always your friend! After they helped Islamic fascists take power, the new regime turned on them. Tens of thousands were executed, jailed, or forced into exile.

Let's remember that lesson now as US imperialism promotes broad anti-Khamenei rallies in the US, Canada, Munich, Melbourne, Athens, Tokyo, and London.

There are no "lesser evil" imperialists or capitalists. All are enemies of the working class.

Iranian oil workers: Help mobilize the Iranian masses for communism and nothing less.

Communism will transform the material basis of society. It will end capitalist relations of exploitation for profit. It will reorgan-



ize production and distribution based on collectively meeting the masses' needs.

Unity based on our shared interest will replace division based on language, religion, or culture. No nations, no borders. All vestiges of privilege, inequality, and gender discrimination will be struggled against and eventually eliminated.

The Iranian working class has a proud communist history. We invite readers there (and everywhere!) to build ICWP collective. Find ways to bring communist ideas and organization to the masses! Oil workers and rebellious soldiers must lead the only war workers should fight: communist revolution.



Iranian oil workers on strike, October 2022

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## Learning from *Red Flag* Readers in Iran

I recently talked with Red Flag readers in Iran. I should have been in more frequent contact with them. They were asking about articles in our paper. Particularly Minnesota and ICE. And everything about Palestine.

They think that war is imminent. But everyone thinks the system needs a change.

Some of the poorest oil workers come from the Azari and Baluch areas. They have not been paid for months. People associated with the government get permanent jobs in the oil sector.

Our readers know some oil workers. They agree there is a huge need for the communist alternative. There are some underground socialist groups, but they don't have an outlook of building a mass base. They mostly identify with a cadre model.

The idea that we are building a mass communist party appeals to our friends. One problem is the language barrier. We need help translating *Red Flag* into Farsi. But they also said that they were afraid of severe repercussions if the secret police found out.

A bigger obstacle than language is that our friends need to find

ways to really get to know the oil workers better so they can show them *Red Flag* electronically. And interpret it into Farsi for them.

They said the government is constantly telling the masses that it is negotiating with the US to lift sanctions. They said there is even a possible deal with the US. Joint mining in Iran is possible, as Iran has rare-earth minerals. And that the Iranian rulers are looking at a large purchase of Boeing airplanes.

I asked them about China and Russia. They said the masses are extremely wary of them and view them with suspicion. They pointed

out that during the Bolshevik Revolution, a northern province of Iran came close to becoming a Soviet Republic. I will continue to discuss with them whether a split in the Iranian ruling class is possible between pro-West and pro-China/Russia factions.

They said that our talk has opened up more ways to discuss *Red Flag* with friends they trust. I feel that they are open to the mass line of building for communism under severe fascism and the possibility of war. We can all learn something from them about how to advance the line.

—Comrade in the USA