

# RED FLAG



## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

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## LET'S PREPARE TO TURN IMPERIALIST WAR INTO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION EVERYWHERE

April 21— Is this World War III? Comrades and friends are asking everywhere. Especially now that the US imperialists' Marines have destroyed Iranian ships on the high seas. And as it leaks out that a US general had to talk Trump out of dropping a nuclear bomb on Iran last Saturday.

But that's not the main question. In this period of expanding fascism and war, the main question is: What can we do more, and do better, to mobilize masses for

communist revolution? And to establish communist liberated zones that will, in the end, merge into a classless communist world without capitalist competition, borders, nations, or any other reason for war.

As we go to press, Iran cancelled "peace" talks in Pakistan. Trump has lost a war he didn't have to start. He desperately needs a way out. US imperialism has long been in a slow decline and would still be, even without

Trump. But he may have pushed it over a cliff.

**Talks in Pakistan. Not in Qatar. That's significant.**

Last May, India provoked a major (though short) four-day armed conflict with Pakistan in Kashmir. Two nuclear-armed powers. Pakistan won handily with the help of integrated Chinese high-end weapons and surveillance technology. In the first major contest between Chinese and Western military hardware, China showed that its military gear can compete and even prevail.

Last June, Israel (backed by the US) waged a twelve-day war on Iran. The main aim was to destroy Iran's nuclear capability. Hundreds of Iranian civilians died. But Iran's nuclear program survived. And it started to get that Chinese military gear.

Seeing the writing on the wall, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed a comprehensive mutual defense pact in September. For decades, the Saudi rulers quietly shared a common security arrangement with the USA, the Emirates, Qatar, and Israel. Now, they are

openly allied with Pakistan, whose main trading partner is the USA, but whose main military partner is China. While Modi aligned India with Israel.

Iran has sent weapons to Russia for use in the Ukraine war. And it sent oil via "ghost ships," circumventing sanctions. Russia has helped Iran with satellite launches and with its nuclear program.

**Whatever happens between the USA, Israel, and Iran in coming weeks, the world is already at war.**

And workers everywhere are suffering. From shortages of cooking gas. From higher prices. From scarcities. And of course from genocidal wars in Palestine, Lebanon, Iran. In Myanmar, Sudan, Congo.

Even if a "peace" agreement is signed, even if it lasts more than a few weeks, conditions for our international working class would not improve. "Peace" is an illusion as long as the class war rages. Our task is to win that class war with communist revolution. And to mobilize masses to build a global communist society.



NEW YORK CITY (USA), March 28, 2026

### GAZA, IRAN, LEBANON: CAPITALIST WAR MEANS ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

Compounding the devastating death toll of this war, the US/Israeli bombing of two fuel depots on the outskirts of Tehran created an environmental hellscape of black rain with short- and long-term effects on the people of Iran, and potentially throughout the region.

People suffered immediately from headaches, irritated skin and eyes, and difficulty breathing. This was most severe for children, older people, people with asthma and lung disease, and those with disabilities.

Soil and drinking water supplies were severely damaged by the fallout. But that's just the beginning.

Crude oil contains chemicals known to interact with DNA and which have been linked to multiple cancers. Experts have identified hundreds of incidents with the potential to cause severe environmental damage.

As the war continues, there is increasing danger that Iranian drone attacks on oil refineries and fuel storage hubs throughout the region and on tankers in the Persian Gulf will cause more environmental catastrophes. Every country in the region has oil processing facilities. The environmental impact on people and ecosystems will be long-lasting and complex.

The destruction in Iran and in Lebanon by the US/Israel threatens to replicate the environmental and human disaster that has resulted from the genocide in Gaza. The soil, water, land, and agriculture have been completely degraded. Sewage and waste disposal systems and facilities have been destroyed.

Bombing has produced millions of tons of debris. Much of it is contaminated with hazardous substances. This has caused hundreds of thousands of cases of respiratory infection and diarrhea, again mostly affecting children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing medical conditions.

Capitalism has been an environmental disaster for over two hundred years. Imperialist competition makes cooperation to protect the environment impossible. We now see the beginning of a third world war, and the menace of unheard-of devastation.

We also see the possibility that world war can be the catalyst for revolutionary change. Capitalism's thirst for profits makes war and pollution inevitable. In a communist society, where our creativity and collective resources will be freed from the profit motive, we can begin to reverse the environmental degradation of capitalism.

**The future is in our hands.**

#### ON THE WEB:

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

Coachella: Spectacle, Luxury, and Capitalist Rot In Wartime

Letters: "All You Had to Do..."

Sinners: Destroy Money and Capital

Communist Organizing Inside Capitalist Imperialist Armies

May Day Greetings from Costa Rica

**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



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## TURNING ANTI-WAR ANGER INTO HOPE FOR A COMMUNIST FUTURE

TEL AVIV (Occupied Palestine), April 20—"Bring capitalism to the stone age!" That was an utterly disgusted protester's response

to Trump's genocidal threat to bomb Iran "back to the Stone Ages." He has been reading *Red Flag* and coming with the ICWP



TEL AVIV, Occupied Palestine, March 28, 2026

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES, AND SUGGESTIONS TO  
NEW E-MAIL: [CONTACT@ICWPREDFLAG.ORG](mailto:CONTACT@ICWPREDFLAG.ORG)

### The Working Class Must Free Itself from the Capitalists in the US and Worldwide

There is a narrative that we must support the Iranian government and not show, now, its exploitative and oppressive character because that would help the murderous capitalist USA. This narrative disarms the workers of the world.

In Israel, they are trying to resume the trials against Netanyahu. Charges include his documented financing of Hamas to weaken Al-Fatah and the Palestinian Authority of the late Yasser Arafat and his successor Mahmoud Abbas. They were convicted by Islamic Jihad for signing the "two-state" Oslo Accords.

The working class in the USA, in Iran, in Palestine-Israel, and the rest of the world must rebel, unite, and fight for emancipation from all capitalists.

There is a widespread idea that Netanyahu involved Trump in the war, that "the tail wags the dog" and that by doing the dirty work he has become the head. This clouds the fact that although the US capitalist class (which includes Zionist bankers and industrialists) has disagreements about how to maintain its hegemony, it needs that war.

Similarly, European capitalists, including Britain, need Israel's dominance in the area to sustain their business globally.

All capitalists, without exception, are evil. Right now oil producers are getting richer while the working class suffers from rising prices due to wars.

They will continue their bloody wars, until the working class ends them by ending the capitalists themselves.

—Comrade in Mexico

### What Causes World Wars? How Can We End Them?

"Trump is completely destroying the country and the world. The economy is a mess. It will get a lot worse with oil prices going up every day. Killing all those people! Alienating allies. China is beating the US at everything!" said a friend who is very worried about what's going on.

I explained that the US is the declining imperialist power and China is a rising one. "Yes, everyone knows that," she said.

We have to ask ourselves why there have been two world wars and now we are heading into World War III.

"What is the root cause of this?" I asked. "What is it in the nature of capitalism that leads to ever more destructive world wars? How come humankind hasn't figured out how to stop that from happening?"

She didn't have an answer.

I said that no imperialist power in the history of capitalism has given up its hegemony without fighting to the death to keep or regain it. We talked about how the Versailles treaty that ended World War I was a humiliation. The German rulers used it to whip up nationalism to launch their Nazi campaign to conquer Europe and especially the Soviet Union. The US is like a cornered beast, like Germany between World Wars I and II. The US must try to halt China's rise militarily.

She thought that sounded right.

I said that to end this murderous cycle we have to put an end to capitalism. Capitalism, based on competition to exploit workers for maximum profit, makes murderous world wars inevitable. Capitalist profit comes only from exploiting workers' labor power. As competition increases, the capitalists in-

vest in more machines with fewer workers. Exploiting fewer workers, the capitalists' rate of profit declines. Their "solution" is to fight to destroy their competitors' factories, resources, and workers.

There is less anti-communism now. Many people all over respond positively to communist ideas of destroying capitalism and its wage slavery and producing only for human need, not for profit.

A danger is that people will support China as the lesser of two evils instead of fighting to get rid of capitalism.

She didn't think anyone would support China. I disagreed. Many people worldwide think China is the lesser of two evils. They don't necessarily see that China aims to replace the US as the number one imperialist exploiter.

I explained the only answer is to mobilize the masses to turn the im-

perialist war into revolutions for communism. Communism: collectivity instead of competition and exploitation.

In times like these people are open to radical change. We have to be active with them presenting the communist solution now when they seek answers.

During World War I, the Russian workers and soldiers overthrew the capitalist government. After World War II the Chinese working class and soldiers did the same.

Today, the world is more interconnected than ever as capitalism viciously attacks our class worldwide. A victory in one country could be multiplied many times over. The masses will fight for communism—when they understand it.

This discussion will continue.

—Experienced comrade



LOS ANGELES (USA), April 18— Comrades sang the communist Internationale in English, Spanish, and Mandarin at this year's May Day potluck dinner. The May Day committee, led by younger comrades, organized the food, program, and signups for the march. Friends from the schools work, the protests against genocide in Gaza, and gaming buddies participated in lively discussions. New friends of all ages signed up to help lead our communist contingent and to distribute *Red Flag*. This essential work has been needed in growing the Party, as comrades, old and new, step up. This next-generation leadership will develop and innovate ICWP and advance our mission of mobilizing the masses for communism.

## Unity of Communist Factory and Farm Workers:

### LEARNING, STRUGGLING, AND RELAXING TOGETHER

EL SALVADOR, April 4—Workers from three maquila factories, health workers, and teachers gather on a mountain in El Salvador's eastern region. Unity among factory and farm workers is fundamental as communists. We form one big family, discussing the situation here and internationally. We denounce the abuses and outrages against maquila workers. We define important points for May Day.

During the discussion of the international situation and its impact on the economy and quality of life of workers in a globalized world, the maquila workers stated the following:

"It's interesting to see how the US empire is in decline. I had the opportunity to read that the governments of Japan, the United Kingdom, and France have refused to provide military aid. This shows that Trump is becoming isolated and that there is a struggle among the capitalists themselves over profits from oil and liquefied natural gas," said M, an industrial worker.

"It's important to identify who the workers' enemy is. It's neither Iran nor the US — it's all the capitalists. We'd like to be in Iran to organize and bring communist ideas to the workers," added P, leader of an industrial workers' cell in El Salvador.

"The impact isn't just due to the reduction or possible total interruption of oil transit through the Strait of Hormuz. It also affects the transport of fertilizer, natural gas, and certain metals and minerals," added a healthcare worker.

We know and agree that workers must read and discuss *Red Flag* to understand geopolitical develop-



ments and the global economy. We must prepare for their impact anywhere in the world.

The situation at the factory was discussed. Workers denounced unfair dismissals, workplace harassment, and deprivation of liberty. They are forced to sign a letter of resignation when they are fired by maquila factory owners.

A *Red Flag* reader was unjustly fired from a maquila. To date, he has not received payment of his wages or severance pay. The swift and appropriate response from the maquila workers' collectives was remarkable. They carried out a political strike both inside and outside the factory.

They provided the fired worker with food supplies. Money to pay for utilities. A coordinated response is being organized in support of this young reader, who has demonstrated a fighting spirit both inside and outside the factory. He sent his greetings and thanks to the ICWP for its support during these difficult times.

We discussed very important lo-

gistical and propaganda aspects related to May Day, which, for security reasons, are addressed within the various collectives.

We were welcomed into the homes of farmers and former guerrilla fighters from the Salvadoran civil war. A very welcoming place in a rural area in the eastern part of the country.

Under the shade of large trees, a clear blue sky, and the delicious smell of fish cakes—the signature dish of the season.

A space to share with maquila workers in the countryside, to chat, have coffee with sweet bread, and enjoy a lunch of fish cakes, bean soup, and cheese curd made by the hands of ICWP farmworker members. Workers have the right to recreation and healthy leisure!

As one teacher put it, "Leisure is revolutionary. We must fight for communism so that workers have time for healthy recreation and leisure and can spend time with their families and loved ones."

#### GREETINGS FROM SPAIN

A revolutionary communist greeting. In Spain, we are preparing to distribute *Red Flag* in the May Day march.

I also wish to express my joy upon learning that the rural community in Minitas and Limones—as well as the maquila workers in El Salvador—remain ever-vigilant in their struggle and continue to press forward.

I am glad that you are there, for I know that you constitute a great bastion, and that this May Day you will be carrying forth communist ideas.

I also send my greetings to the comrades in South Africa, who always encourage us to continue building our party and to gather greater strength. And to all comrades throughout the world: may this march be as special as always, and let us step out with all our might to proclaim that we will defeat capitalism.

### END WAGE SLAVERY THROUGH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

EL SALVADOR, April 14—"The work we've done to maintain the collective within the factory is key to recruitment. The workers trust our communist ideas," said worker P.

Young workers organized in the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) took the lead and staged a strike inside a maquiladora. "Comrades, we're going on strike. They increased our daily production target to 500 dozen packages. We mustn't allow it," said J, a maquila worker.

The strike lasted all day, during which discussions were held with the boss. Meanwhile, in the production line, no one operated the machines—which, without the workers, are merely machinery that does not produce. The workers have learned from their comrades that the profits generated for the bosses are the product of the ex-

ploitative labor carried out day after day on the production lines.

The 18 workers in the packaging area, and many more in the production area, are united in the struggle for a system without bosses, without profits or money—a system focused on meeting needs. That will be our victory.

"Who do you think you are? Who do you represent?" the exploitative boss asked J, a worker.

"I represent the working class, those eighteen comrades who have stopped production over there. Go see them," replied the ICWP worker.

After this activity, a proposal was made. "All those workers should receive the *Red Flag*," a comrade pointed out. One young worker answered, "Yes, I think it's a good opportunity, because they asked me who I meet with."

"Some of the women workers in

the module are members of the ICWP. Their determination to go on strike was important," said J.

As usual, the bosses called the police. They said we were causing a disturbance. We are confronting the war that kills our siblings, and the regime's fascism, which sends police to intimidate workers.

Inside the factories, we face supervisors who do the dirty work ordered by the bosses. But they will not stop our struggle for Communism. Wage slavery will not last forever. The dissemination of communist ideas must be intensified. It is a priority to expand the *Red Flag* network and grow our collectives inside and outside the factories where we have comrades from the ICWP.

Constant dialogue with industrial workers is key to the communist revolution. These daily struggles unfolding within these

centers of worker exploitation must consolidate our communist work.

We must teach the workers how the dialectical struggles against the bosses' regime must be guided and organized by comrades of the ICWP. Let there be no blow left unanswered. Let capitalism's servants understand that organized workers are there to raise awareness that we must fight for a better world. A communist world led by the International Communist Workers' Party.

Many of these workers were invited to participate in the ICWP contingent during the great working-class march on May 1, 2026.

"Fight, Win, Workers to power!"

"The more repression, the more struggle!"

"Faced with imperialist wars, Communist struggle!"

## FROM “FANCY” SLAVES TO EPSTEIN’S ISLAND: CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION OF GIRLS’ BODIES

LOS ANGELES (USA), April 15— Everyone’s appalled by Jeffrey Epstein’s web of child sex-trafficking. But take a few steps back, and we can see how deeply the sex-trafficking of girls (especially) is bound up with racist US capitalism.

In capitalism, everything is a commodity to be bought and sold for a price.

US capitalism rested on human trafficking: the slave trade. Enslavers turned children and adults into commodities. Commodities whose labor produced profits for the enslavers themselves and for Northern merchants and bankers.

But there was a twist.

“The youngest and handsomest females were set apart as the concubines of the masters,” wrote a former slave calling himself John Brown in his 1855 autobiography. “The slave-pen is only another name for a brothel.” These “fancy slaves” sold for two or three times as much as a strong male worker.

The sex-trafficking of these children and young women shows the interconnection of racism and sexism in the very foundation of capitalist America. That commodification of girls and women is deeply embedded in US society even now.

### Beauties and the Beasts

The modeling and entertainment industries make a business of fetishizing young girls. The Epstein/Maxwell sex-trafficking ring worked through the Elite Modeling Agency, Brunel’s MC2, and Trump Modeling Agency.

For a model, your body is a product. It’s what you have to sell. And while you are exploited for the agency’s profits, you’re conditioned to be exploited sexually.

Trump bragged about barging into beauty pageant dressing rooms while contestants were undressed. Even underage girls at Teen USA.

The American Psychological

Association concluded in 2007 that “the sexualization of girls is a broad and increasing problem.” It made detailed recommendations. But here we are with the “Epstein scandal.” Reforms can’t solve a problem baked into capitalism itself.

CNN reported in 2014 that at least thirty-five Disney employees were arrested for sex crimes against children over an eight-year period. Most worked at Disney theme parks. What happier place for a predator!

Disney’s children’s programming sexualized girls. “From the time I was 11, it was, ‘You’re a pop star!’” Miley Cyrus said, recalling pressure to “put on some glittery tight thing.”

Former child star Cole Sprouse said in 2022 that “the young women on the [Disney] channel were so heavily sexualized from such an earlier age [more] than my brother and I.”

A 2024 docuseries, *Quiet on the Set: The Dark Side of Children’s TV*, focused on Nickelodeon. Nickelodeon’s “iCarly” (2007-2012) included weird shots of children’s feet and sexual double-entendres. Its producer, Dan Schneider, had young Ariana Grande perform eroticized scenes masked as gross humor. In 2024 she reflected that “so many adults had to approve those.... It was for the bottom line.”

These networks helped the sexual commodification of children go mainstream. “Commodified pedophilia has become a systematic pathology because of capitalism,” says a therapist who works with sexual trauma patients.

### Capitalism commodifies everything and everybody.

Today’s wage slavery forces workers to sell their

own bodies for the wages they need to survive.

Communist revolution will overthrow this system of production for profit. In communism, nothing will be bought or sold. Everything will be produced for use and shared according to need. The material basis of commodification will be destroyed.

Communism will end the abject poverty and alienation that can drive young people into the claws of an Epstein or a Trump. With a collectivist way of life, children will have many safe and supportive adults. They will no longer be taught to be compliant. Healthy approaches to sex will replace today’s sexual negativity and prurience.

A long-term struggle will continue against capitalism’s poisonous ideologies. Those include sexism, racism, and the individualistic mindset that others are there to be used or abused.

Pedophilia will change from a systemic problem to an individual pathology. Rather than fighting against entire capitalist industries that profit from exploitation of often impoverished young people, we will just have to deal with isolated individuals who try to abuse others.

**Our answer to “Epstein’s island” must be a communist world.**



**In every struggle—including those against slavery in the US and occupation in Palestine—women have played an important role in fighting for the working class and against all exploitation.**

**Read our pamphlet:  
THE COMMUNIST FIGHT  
AGAINST SEXISM**

available here



PALESTINE, 1974

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

### Victims and survivors of labor exploitation: Never forgive! Never forget!

2026: One hundred forty years of commemorating the historic struggle where union workers were repressed and executed on May 1, 1886. They, who led the struggle for an 8-hour workday, are called “Chicago Martyrs.”

In Costa Rica, we face the worsening of a so-called democratic system of a capitalist-patriarchal-authoritarian nature. We will march for a world without exploitation, without capitalism!

In connection with this date, it is important to mention “modern”

slavery. This is growing in prevalence every day—paradoxically, despite a legal landscape marked by supposed initiatives in defense of social justice. In 2021, 50 million people lived in conditions of “modern” slavery, an increase of 10 million compared to 2016 (Global Slavery Index).

Slavery is present in forced labor and/or the absence of labor and social guarantees. People are subjected to deception and coercion of all kinds, against a backdrop of deepening and feminized poverty that has become a daily and normalized reality. The system conditions us to consume products resulting from labor exploitation,

thereby legitimizing consumerist culture.

This is a phenomenon we experience in our own countries, and beyond Latin America. For example, in the United States, the migrant population is exploited and overworked. In the maquilas of India, girls are victims in the production of Sara-brand clothing and many other brands. In Africa, with the exploitation of children forced to harvest cocoa under the most inhumane conditions.

Also, on May 1, we cannot ignore the scourge of slavery and the sexual exploitation of children and women of all ages. Capitalism has even assigned reprehensible

terms such as “inappropriate relationships” and “child marriages” to what are, in fact, vile acts of rape and all forms of sexual violence.

Without fair work, there can be no dignified life!

Social protest is a vital human right for the working class and communities!

The defense of labor rights and social gains achieved in the face of capitalist tyranny knows no borders!

Down with capitalism!

—Comrade activist, social fighter, Human Rights Defender in Costa Rica

**THIS IS ABRIDGED FROM A  
LONGER LETTER THAT IS ON  
THE WEBSITE**

## FOR EDUCATION AND WORK THAT SERVE THE MASSES! NO BORDERS! NO PROFITS! NO BILLIONAIRES!

LOS ANGELES (USA) April 14—Today, at 4:00 am, students, parents, and school employees found out that school would be in session. At the last possible moment, the school district reached an agreement with the union that represents the people who make the schools run: cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, aides and other staff. Most of them are barely scraping by. The main thing they won was enough hours for more of them to qualify for medical coverage.

A planned strike was called off. The district had already settled with teachers and administrators for modest improvements in pay and benefits. But the district played the racist division between teachers and other school workers until the very last minute, hoping the non-teaching employees' union would fold.

No surprise there. Schools in racist capitalism are contradictory. On the one hand, we want better schools because we want our young people to learn what they need to survive and thrive in this world, and to fight to make it better.

On the other hand, schools were invented to socialize kids for work and for war, and to teach the rotten values of the ruling elite.

One such value is that some people, because they studied hard and went to college, deserve to live better than others. That some work—like being a teacher—is a little bit more valuable than the essential work of construction, production, transportation, cooking and cleaning. That teachers' kids deserve to go to the doctor—and aides' kids don't.

All our work is valuable. Our party fights for a world where we produce for need, not for profit.

And share what we make based on need, rather than what someone can afford. In that communist world, we will all share in life-long education and in necessary work like cooking, cleaning, and taking out the trash.

**All this is happening amidst capitalism in crisis.** The fascist attacks on workers' communities and the war in Iran are clear signs of that crisis. It was already developing before Trump. It's how capitalism works, and what happens in a declining empire.

We all worry about our kids' future. Fewer people have confidence that getting an education will get you a decent life. Many of us fear for our families and neighbors during the fascist ICE raids. Many of us have family members in the military who are being deployed to a war zone, and others who will be registered for a possible military draft next year.

And as we fight for better lives and better education here, let's remember that the first attack in the current war on Iran was the bombing of a girls' school in Minab, where 168 girls were killed. In Lebanon, according to UNICEF, Israeli attacks on civilians have killed or wounded the equivalent of one classroom of children every day since the beginning of March. In the Gaza genocide at least 20,000 children have been killed and 92% of the schools have been destroyed since October 2023.

One key mission of public schools is to teach patriotism and obedience. The billionaires don't fight their own wars. They send workers' children to kill other workers while the capitalists consolidate their power, profits and control.

That's their weakness. Young people can think. They can see

working people around the world as their own class siblings. They can refuse to be part of committing war crimes. Teachers and others must encourage young people to question orders, and when necessary and possible refuse to carry them out. To turn their guns on the bosses instead of workers on the other side of an artificial border.

The strike got called off, but the struggle continues. The struggle to survive, and the struggle for a world without bosses, without borders, and without war. Students and school workers will join with other workers to march on May Day as part of that struggle for commu-

Read our pamphlets:  
**SOLDIERS, SAILORS,  
MARINES: CRUCIAL TO A  
COMMUNIST WORKERS'  
REVOLUTION**

AVAILABLE HERE



and  
**COMMUNIST  
EDUCATION FOR A  
CLASSLESS  
SOCIETY**

AVAILABLE HERE



OCEANSIDE (USA), April 11— Comrades reaching out to Marines in this little town outside the Camp Pendleton Marine Base ran into a former student walking down the sidewalk. His teacher had talked to him previously about organizing inside the US military. The young man, not entirely convinced, was nevertheless happy to take the paper and give us his number.

The conversation will continue with this Marine, and with other enlisted personnel as we return regularly to Oceanside. On this visit, most of the Marines we ran into were recent graduates of boot camp—filled with propaganda and enthusiasm and as yet unacquainted with the reality of war. The teacher, a veteran of the Iraq war, talked about his experience.

Marines from Camp Pendleton are in the Persian Gulf. They have been put in harm's way and ordered to harm other workers to further the goals of the imperialists. So have the soldiers and sailors of the Iranian military. Soldiers, sailors, and marines on all sides will be key in ending imperialism altogether, by joining the working class to fight for communism.



## WORKERS REJECT CAPITALISM AND ITS WAR-LOVING UNION OFFICIALS

SEATTLE (USA), April 21— Industrial workers at Boeing have welcomed our party, ICWP. When we walked the picket lines with them during the 2024 strike and when we distribute *Red Flag* at the gates, they have told us that they are concerned not just about pay raises but also about the role the company plays in genocidal wars.

But amid the current Middle East war, the IAM union head made sure industrial workers walked in capitalist propaganda.

“As global conflicts continue to escalate, the importance of this work cannot be overstated,” said International Association of Machinists (IAM) Union International President Brian Byrant. “Our members are standing up for a fair contract. Their sacrifice is essential in

supporting our nation and its allies.”

What kind of work? Approximately 1350 IAM union workers at the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant in Independence, Missouri (USA) have been on strike since April 4. US union leaders praise this fight to keep manufacturing ammunition for this and other wars. They never attack the capitalist warmakers. These disgusting nationalist remarks are pushing workers towards war.

Some industrial workers, including ICWP comrades, are reaching out to the international rank-and-file who also want to put an end to capitalism.

We are involved with a group of workers who are disgusted by the union propaganda and want to reform the IAM. Two of them came

to our recent May Day dinner. One is an experienced worker from Mexico who had recently been let go from Boeing. He spoke passionately about how industrial workers must eliminate capitalism. Another is an anti-imperialist activist. “I'm working for a classless, money-less society,” he said. “And for growing solidarity between trade unionists and immigrant groups.”

A longtime friend who is a retired Boeing worker also attended. As an African American, he has been fighting racist oppression all his life. “America is a country of lies. The chickens are coming home to roost now,” he said. “They want a war but that's not the answer. We, here, are trying to make a difference. Keep up the fight!”

Another long-time friend was

excited about meeting the new active industrial workers. And a comrade who is a teacher spoke about his fight to get his job back after being viciously attacked by fascists. He and other educators and neighbors have organized a patrol around a local elementary school to ensure that ICE does not approach any students or their families.

The potluck discussion was encouraging. Constant wars, increased racism/sexism/fascism, homelessness, and poverty are what the working class is facing. And we want to fight back!

Some of the people at the potluck will be going to the May Day March and Rally with us. Our plan is to recruit some of the promising activists to ICWP in the coming year.

## PALESTINE 36 —THE FILM AND THE HISTORY

“It’s class struggle,” said a friend after seeing *Palestine 36*. “The haves versus the have-nots.”

That was true of the 1936-39 Palestinian revolution. This moving film depicts the Palestinian masses as fighters, not just victims. It shows that the class struggle is not always simple. It’s worth seeing and discussing.

The revolution began among urban workers and landless peasants. They were responding to worsening economic conditions. Worsening, largely because of British imperialism’s decision to empower Zionist capitalists who employed only Jewish workers. Usually the British relied instead on indigenous rulers to suppress the masses.

A six-month general strike began in April 1936. Civil disobedience and armed struggle spread in the countryside. This was not a religious conflict but a nationalist revolt against British imperialism. The film’s story line is mostly fictional, but it represents history accurately. The three main British villains are all real historical figures.

An early scene contrasts the outlooks of the peasant youth Yusef and his employer, a wealthy land-

lord living in Jerusalem. It shows how Palestinian feudal-clerical landlords and the urban bourgeoisie thought they had more control than they really did. How they conspired to control the direction of the struggle and limit the uprising. How they collaborated with the British and the Zionists to betray the masses.

The British rulers reacted to the Palestinian general strike by forming a commission headed by Lord William Peel. Its 1937 report proposed partitioning Palestine between Zionists and Arabs. It recommended the “transfer of populations” (ethnic cleansing) as the British would later do in dividing India and Pakistan.

The film shows how this dashed the hopes of Palestinian “leaders.” It provoked mass Palestinian outrage and emboldened Zionist terrorism.

The movie does an excellent job of showing life in Jerusalem and the Palestinian countryside. It immerses you in how people lived: cooking, riding a bus, drinking tea. You almost don’t notice where they integrated archival footage (up-scaled and colorized).

“It was very tasteful – not orientalist stereotyped generic stuff,”

commented a friend.

The film shows Muslim women playing key roles. It portrays peasants respectfully, as people with a political understanding. For example, a child introduces his donkey as “Balfour.” The Balfour Declaration was British imperialism’s formal endorsement of the Zionist project.

Some have criticized *Palestine 36* for focusing on indigenous Palestinians instead of European Jewish immigrants. This is a racist stance.

“If they had showed more about the Jewish militias and such, the Jews would have come out looking even worse,” an activist commented. “They shied away from depicting the brutality of Jewish settler militias to walk the razor’s edge of centering Palestinians and depicting the villainy of British imperialism. All while dodging illegitimate accusations of antisemitic bias.”

“It’s hard to critique from the left. It’s hard to imagine even making a movie like this in these times,” he continued.

That’s true. It’s the only film shot in Palestine since October 7, 2023.

But does *Palestine 36* leave

viewers more angry than sad? More hopeful than despairing? People are leaving the theater in tears. Yet the final scene shows the masses in motion. Key characters who were on the sidelines join them.

“It left me feeling angry,” said a comrade. “But seeing that the struggle didn’t end there. And it still hasn’t ended.”

We must continue that struggle, but now for communism.

*Red Flag* readers might wonder why the Palestine Communist Party (PCP) is missing from the film. The answer is that its practice and political errors marginalized it in real life.

During the 1920s, the Comintern pressured the PCP to “Arabize” its primarily European-Jewish membership and leadership. The PCP consistently opposed Zionism. It tried to win Jewish workers away from the Zionist union leadership of the Histadrut. But by fighting harder for reforms instead of fighting harder against Zionism. These efforts had only limited success.

By 1936, the Comintern had adopted a “United Front” line. In Palestine, this led communists to promote “the revolutionary struggle for liberation from colonialism and Zionism.” Instead of organizing urban and rural workers to fight directly for communism (or even for socialism).

The PCP platform called for “nationalization” of production in the hands of “the people.” But the PCP didn’t challenge feudal or bourgeois Palestinian misleaders. It was too isolated to play a significant role. It was already splintering as some of its members made their peace with Zionism.



West Bank (Palestine), April 2026- Children of Umm il-Kheir protest razor-wire fence erected by Zionist illegal settlers to block their path to school.

### TOWARD A MAY DAY OF STRUGGLE AND RESISTANCE

MEXICO, April 21. The “leftist” government here—or as it calls itself, the Fourth Transformation “in favor of the poor”—is making deals with the owners of BlackRock, a giant investment company. These capitalists generate and concentrate the world’s greatest wealth while the working class remains, and we remain, mired in the yoke of this predatory system.

This is why on May 1st we take to the streets. Where the struggle and memory remain alive. Where we as the working class rekindle the flame of those comrades who fought for their rights and ours.

Returning to this pact that the Mexican government has made with the monsters of Capital who strip away and appropriate life in all its forms and manifestations:

The conditions of inequality for the working class grow more uncertain every day. Where each of us experiences daily the ravages of capitalism, manifested in the meager wages we earn, which are felt when buying food. As well as the hours we spend commuting to get home after a workday of more than eight hours.

This is how a Mexican government that claims to support the working class embraces the capitalists of BlackRock, whose aim is to continue lining their own pockets at the expense of others.

In this regard, we reiterate the importance of continuing to fight through the

International Communist Workers’ Party for unity among all comrades worldwide. This unity—manifested in a collective conscious-

ness—will enable us to collectively build a better world without capitalism and its political parties.



MEXICO CITY, April 22, 2026 Teachers’ Protest  
“Whichever government is in charge, we defend our rights”

## Bosses Fight, Workers Starve:

### AUTO WORKERS DISCUSS IRAN WAR AND COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

CHENNAI (India), April 18— When the US/Israel started the war with Iran, the price of petrol shot up 40% overnight. Liquid petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders, which the working class relies on for cooking, were in short supply. Before the war, one cylinder cost ₹800 (US\$9 or R141). Now it costs between ₹3,500 and ₹5,000 (US\$38-54 or R616-880). It is available only on the black market.

The effect of this greed, created by capitalism, was immediate. Many comrades in Bengaluru were laid off. A mass exodus began in North India. Hundreds of thousands of workers, newly unemployed, began returning to their villages.

Comrades in Chennai, under very difficult conditions, decided to offer *Red Flag* to the masses. Everywhere we distributed *Red Flag*, there was renewed interest. Our friends, neighbours, and coworkers wanted to know if there was going to be World War III.

Just as in any war, the workers suffer massively. The lack of fuel and fertilizer leads to widespread starvation. It is happening here more starkly.

Comrades in our auto workers' collective described how everyone was talking about the war. Lunchtime turned into an opportunity to organize for communism. Usually, the bosses control the short lunch breaks. But now everyone was talking about the LPG shortage. Many workers had to pay for exorbitant private transport to come to work. Many others could not make it. The workers

described the LPG shortage as creating a catastrophic crisis and hunger.

#### Working People Have No Nation

"I hate the US and Israel," said a long-time *Red Flag* reader who distributes many papers in his neighbourhood. "They are all for the oil, and they want to steal it from the Iranians. We should support the Iranians." This began a long ideological struggle among more than thirty comrades who had gathered to hear about our line on the war.

This meeting took place while Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, was negotiating a ceasefire with the US. ICWP comrades had prepared a leaflet, "Billionaires to decide how to attack the working class." Ghalibaf is a billionaire supported by other billionaires. They have nothing but contempt for our class.

Ghalibaf amassed his billions from oil, media, security, and banks. He has faced serious corruption charges. The infighting in the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) over power and money has led to violent police action against oil workers in Esfahan. Ghalibaf was directly involved in this violent suppression. And to cover up his crimes, he floated a charity organization led by his wife, who was also in-



NOIDA (India), April 2026. Garment workers on strike in the face of raging inflation. The government promised an increase in minimum wage, but workers need to end capitalist wage slavery.

involved in graft.

We read this leaflet together. Reading it aloud shook many people in disbelief. "Are you supporting people like Ghalibaf when you say, 'You support Iranians?'"

The comrade who said he wanted to support 'Iranians' said he was mistaken. "There is no way I am going to support him. It reminds me of our own system. There are so much money and corruption involved in the BJP. They sound just like our politicians."

Another ICWP comrade said, "We are making a fatal mistake by supporting a country. Any country is created by the capitalist bosses to exploit the working class. These two classes cannot peacefully co-exist."

"The oil workers in Iran have more in common with the refinery workers in Noida and Surat who led a violent struggle last month,"

said a comrade with friends in North India.

Another comrade had started reading *Red Flag* with the ICE racist raids in the USA. He said, "I completely agree. The immigrant, undocumented workers in Assam, Kashmir, Bangladesh are just like those brutally attacked by ICE. Today, I have decided to join ICWP. I say no to ICE, no to the capitalist bosses like Ghalibaf, Modi, Trump, and Ayatollah. They are all our enemies. Only the international working class can create a communist society for the masses."

We concluded our long meeting by asking everyone to take a bundle of *Red Flags*. We are planning a massive show of support around May Day by doubling our *Red Flag* circulation to one thousand and forming another collective in Chennai.

## Workers Everywhere Are "Our People"

### COMMUNISTS MUST FIGHT NATIONALISM

GQEBERHA (South Africa), April 19— "We are all the same. The economic conditions immigrants are subjected to are the same as us," said comrade X. This was during our meeting where ten comrades attended, and one joined via video.

Comrade Z began the meeting: "Comrades, today we will talk about xenophobia and the xenophobic attacks, especially considering what happened in East London last month".

In March, a video circulating on social media provoked a mass xenophobic march in East London (in South Africa's Eastern Cape) against Nigerian immigrant workers.

Comrade Z continued: "What happened was bad, comrades. We should fight against such nationalism, which is opportunistic and seeks to divide the working class further".

The capitalist lackeys are trying to divert attention from capitalism's own failures by blaming immigrants, particularly those of African descent. They pump propaganda all the time by pretending that the lack of service delivery is a re-

sult of too many immigrants in the country.

However, we are actively fighting against such propaganda and nationalism. This was evident in our meeting when comrade S said, "Look, even crime, comrades, and drugs. Many people blame foreigners, but it is our people that are selling drugs in townships and doing crime".

Comrade Z replied, "Yes, comrade, crime is a result of the failure of capitalism. And we should be careful in our words such as 'our people'. Our people should mean the working class. Those are our people and they are the majority around the world".

He further said, "Capitalists divide us all around the world. In the USA, they blame immigrants from Latin America. And here in South Africa they blame immigrants from Zimbabwe and Nigeria. But the script is the same. That's why we should reject that

propaganda".

A comrade asked, "Should we not react when immigrants sell drugs and do crime"?"

Comrade Z answered. "Yes, we should fight crime. But crime is not an immigrant thing. It is not like we wouldn't have crime if there were no immigrants. We have to unite with all the working class of the world. In our party, we have people from different countries. And if in South Africa we have an opportunity to meet people from different African countries, we should use that opportunity and mobilise them".

The comrades vowed to fight and educate themselves on xenophobia and unlearn some of the nationalist notions they might have. We cannot be communist while still clinging to nationalistic prejudices. In the May Day event, we will again touch on xenophobia and the dangers it poses to the unity of the working class.

