

# RED FLAG

## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY \* [WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG](http://WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG)

## YOUNG WORKERS FIND HOPE FOR A BETTER WORLD IN COMMUNISM

MEXICO— We ended a nine-hour day among farmworkers with a study group in the home of a couple of ICWP comrades. Seven of us met. One comrade traveled an hour and a half, another couple lives two hours away, another two comrades live a half an hour away, but we all gladly came to the meeting.

All are the children of farmworkers with whom we work. They went to school (higher education) but they have poverty-wage jobs or are unemployed. They no longer believe in capitalism and they're willing to build ICWP for a communist world.

We welcomed a new sympathizer of the Party who agreed to read and learn more about communism. We're sure that soon she'll be in our revolutionary struggle.

We read the editorial in the latest *Red Flag* called "Sharpening Conflict between US-Iran Shows Urgent Need to Build ICWP Worldwide." A comrade commented that the Chinese bosses have sharpened the fascism and exploitation of workers in China and other parts of the world, due to their insatiable need to control the world and to take the US bosses' empire away from them. He explained that each group of bosses use patriotic propaganda to get us to join their side, but with any of them we'll only find death and poverty. The comrade urged us to spread the ideas for the side of communism.

A comrade said that it's true that people are fed up with capitalism and are open to new ideas, although not necessarily communist ideas, but that this is a very big opportunity for people to learn about communism.

Another comrade reinforced this idea and mentioned that the day before he had gone to sell our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, with his wife, at a university. Her speech in the classrooms gave them the opportunity to present communism from the point of view of communists. She pointed out that it is vital to take some time to read the literature of the interna-

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GREECE, Feb. 13—While the Greek parliament passed an agreement to accept drastic new cuts, over 100,000 people demonstrated in Athens, confronting the cops, and burning banks and other buildings. There were clashes with police in cities throughout Greece. The austerity measures include cutting the minimum wage by 22% and 150,000 more government layoffs by 2015. Even these cuts may not prevent the Greek government from defaulting on its loans. Some angry Greek workers are referring to the German government and banks as Nazis and attacking the Greek government for letting them take over Greece. However, workers have no interest in defending any country. They all belong to the bosses.

It's telling that the birthplace of democracy (the bosses' dictatorship over workers) is burning. Capitalism in crisis reveals its true nature, forcing workers to pay and pay for the bosses' failing system. These angry workers need to mobilize for communist revolution to eliminate banks, money and debt, to produce only for workers' needs.

### LA Metro:

## BREAK THE CHAINS OF UNION REFORMISM

LOS ANGELES--The union movement is rotten to the core. It stinks to the heavens. It only produces slimy worms like Neil Silver, James Williams and the whole cabal of union officials. This scum can do two things well: feed off our union dues and serve the MTA and US bosses at our expense.

In these changing times, the US bosses will demand even more from the union officials. Expect them to become more treacherous as US imperialism becomes deadlier for workers at home and abroad. This is the logical outcome of a system based on competition which makes crises, wars, and world war inevitable (See editorial, page 2).

This will demand great sacrifice of our "blood and treasure." The unions' main job today is to get us to surrender both of these, passively and patriotically. Ramming give-back, no-strike contracts down our throats and letting MTA's reign of terror go unchallenged are part of this treachery.

Recently MTA management demanded access to the cell phone bills of drivers and mechanics to fire them, if they feel like it, for "illegal" use of their cell phones. Mechanics at Division 15 refused to comply. Shop steward Robert Pacheco met with them supposedly to support their struggle. "Instead, he convinced us to sign the authorization form. He said he would appeal it later. He hasn't shown up since," a mechanic told *Red Flag*.

### Let's not be snared in the bosses' electoral trap

Besides trying to demoralize us and keep us passive, the bosses' union officials want to divert our anger and aspirations for change into the deadly trap of the bosses' electoral circus. Neil Silver, president of MTA mechanics union, ATU, uses smoke and mirrors to try to lead us there.

Reading his President's Report in the ATU Local 1277 February newsletter, one would con-

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clude that the biggest attack against MTA and all US workers is an unnumbered proposition that has qualified for the November ballot.

Silver writes that this proposition is an assault on “our jobs and futures” because it “would prohibit the use of any union money for contributions to candidates! It would silence your union political voice once and for all and, in essence, eliminate our ability to even exist as the voice of working men and women – your voice!”

He asks for us to contribute money and time to defeat this “union-killer” proposition.

### **The voice of the bosses, their politicians and union officials is not our voice**

Our voice is that of the oppressed masses worldwide clamoring for a better world. A world without hunger in the midst of plenty, a world without unending butchery for the profits of the few, a world without exploitation, racism and

sexism, a world without borders and privileges of any kind.

Elections, no matter the “race” or “nationality” of the politician or how charismatic he or she may be, will never get us there. The bosses’ electoral process hides their dictatorship over us while deluding us into believing that the system can be reformed to meet our needs. Obama, Romney and Santorum differ only in how best to oppress us and serve the US bosses’ interests nationally and internationally.

The anti-communist pro-capitalist union officials would love for us to see voting as our salvation. But, more MTA and other workers are beginning to understand that the world we aspire to, and need, can only be achieved with a communist revolution. Only by destroying the capitalists and their system based on money and wage slavery can we build a communist world.

### **Union politics are not our politics either**

Unions have never and will never serve the political interests of the working class. They serve the bosses’ political interests. Unions’ struggles are reformist struggles that strengthen capitalism by building illusions that it could be reformed. They must be destroyed together with the bosses’ agents.

Many workers, however, are trapped in their reformism. Some believe that changing the union leadership or completely voting in a new union will solve our problems. In these times of crises, fascism and war, these are dangerous illusions.

To break out of the bosses’ enslavement, we must break the chains of union reformism. For that we need revolutionary communist ideas. ICWP is committed to massively spread these ideas among workers. Communism will end wage slavery and never again will we be forced to sell our labor power to survive. There won’t be any more contracts or unions.



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tional working class. They sold 170 manifestos and collected 310 pesos (about \$30).

Another comrade was very pleased that we came to talk and listen, to show that there's hope of a better world. He commented that every time he goes into the street he sees so much injustice that when he comes back home he shuts himself up inside his home and cries with shame that his wife and children will see this. He promised to read, write for, and organize around *Red Flag* .

We all pledged to read and analyze our manifesto and distribute our newspaper. We emphasized that it was very important to meet consistently and we'll do so every two weeks. In the next meeting, a comrade will talk about how religion is a mortal trap for our class, and we'll analyze our literature as a group. We ended the meeting with a delicious dinner and with the joy of continuing on the revolutionary road of ICWP.