

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

March of Janitors in Los Angeles,
February, 2016

LET'S BREAK WITH REFORMISM, MOBILIZE FOR A COMMUNIST MAY DAY

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25—Over 2000 janitors marched through the streets of downtown LA to denounce the building owners and contractors who are fighting to cut their wages and benefits in the upcoming contract. This is the start of their campaign for a new contract. Five hundred janitors eagerly took **Red Flag** and a communist leaflet calling on them to **March on May Day with ICWP to Mobilize for Communism, not for Futile Reforms.** Many thanked us for coming. Portions of the leaflet follow:

May Day, May 1st, is a communist holiday. Also, on this May 1st, the Los Angeles janitors' contract will be expiring. On this May Day, the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) will march holding high the red flag of communist revolution. We call on the janitors and all workers, soldiers and youth to march with us for a communist world without money, wage slavery, racism, sexism, borders or imperialist wars.

Communism: Production For Human Needs, Not for Profits

Only this can guarantee that no human being is better or worse off than another. We will collectively contribute to society according to our commitment, and receive according to our needs.

There won't be any unemployment. We will always have creative useful work. Everyone's contribution, no matter how little, will be welcomed and appreciated. There won't be any privileges

for anyone.

Eliminating money, nothing will be bought or sold. Housing, food, health care, education, transportation, etc. will be provided at no cost.

Education will be a lifelong endeavor. No exams, titles or diplomas. They only divide students and professionals from the working class. Everyone, especially the leaders, will do mental and manual work. No one will be the servant or the boss of others.

We will encourage everyone to learn many skills. We will all do janitorial and agricultural work and also work in other fields like medicine, engineering, science, etc. Free from capitalism's curse of "work or starve," we will be able to flourish and maximize our potential as creative, caring human beings

Is this a realistic, achievable dream?

YES! We can make this a reality if we all join the International Communist Workers' Party and help mobilize the masses for communism. The Russian and Chinese revolutions show that we can defeat the capitalists. Those revolutions failed because they fought for socialism, state capitalism, not communism. We won't make that mistake again!

But, building such a world won't be easy. It will require a great deal of struggle and sacrifice before, during and after the revolution.

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GARMENT WORKERS REBEL AGAINST CAPITALIST ROBBERY

EL SALVADOR—On February 22, hundreds of maquila workers in the free trade zone of Olocuilta took to the streets to burn tires and block the streets in protest against the thieving boss. (See photo, page 3) But in essence it was a protest against the government and capitalist exploitation.

About 300 people worked in this garment sweatshop. The fact that they took to the streets is an admirable action and practice. These strikes or political actions should be used by the workers to call for building a communist society without bosses or exploitation.

The bosses of the maquila left the country without paying the workers' wages and pensions. This is an old practice of capitalists who own the maquilas. In El Salvador, and many parts of the world, it is not new that a boss steals the workers' wages and abandons the maquila. When they have to pay more taxes or the company simply does not generate the profits they expected, they leave the country without paying.

The workers' response to every blow of the bosses should be the struggle for communism. Payment of wages or pensions should not be our battle flag, but instead one more way to show that capitalism does not work for the working class. Our flag must be the struggle for a communist society where money and classes do not exist, and

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**SOUTH AFRICA:
EXPLAINING
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**SEATTLE, U.S.:
COMMUNISM =
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ENDING
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Report from International ICWP Meeting:**LET'S ALL HELP MAKE RED FLAG A BETTER MASS MOBILIZER FOR COMMUNISM**

"I am impressed by your newspaper...I am from Lebanon. And I wish that we had the same attitude as yours in our country. We would like to talk to you more about ICWP and how we can form it here for communism."

Letters like these show how the fight to mobilize masses for communism is spreading around the world. They show that **Red Flag** speaks to the needs and aspirations of the masses

In **Red Flag** we hear the voices of comrade workers, students and soldiers. They are struggling across continents, teaching and learning from each other from India to South Africa to El Salvador and beyond. A worldwide conversation is opening up about what communism is and will be – and how to write about it.

We want to hear your voice in this conversation.

Our fight – to build communism directly on the rubble of capitalism – hasn't been tried before. There is no blueprint. The masses, organized through **Red Flag** and the International Communist Workers' Party, will figure it out collectively.

Lenin: Communist Newspaper as Collective Organizer

"A newspaper is what we most of all need," wrote Lenin in 1901. He called for an "all-Russian" newspaper but **Red Flag** is a paper for the masses worldwide.

Such a newspaper, Lenin said, would gather around it "a regular army of trained fighters" and prepare for armed insurrection. "With the aid of the newspaper, and through it," he continued, "a permanent organisation will naturally take shape that will ... train its members to follow political events carefully, appraise their significance ... and develop effective means for the revolutionary party to influence these events."

Writing for the paper and distributing it regularly "will necessitate a network of local agents of the united party, who will maintain constant contact with one another, know the general state of affairs, get accustomed to performing regularly their detailed functions... and test their strength."

Lenin said that "this work will train and bring into the foreground, not only the most skillful propagandists, but the most capable organisers,

the most talented political party leaders capable, at the right moment, of releasing the slogan for the decisive struggle and of taking the lead in that struggle."

Our party understands that we don't need only the "most skillful," "most capable," or "most talented." We need EVERYONE who is willing to contribute to the communist cause. We want you to join a mass communist party.

Every reader can help. Many already do, but more are needed! Write a letter or make a suggestion. Send information or an article, photograph or drawing.

Download and print an article. Distribute it to people you know – or massively. Get a bundle of papers to distribute. Contribute and collect funds to support our expanding network.

Most important, masses – not just a few – must learn to think critically. Masses must help develop the communist political line, grasp the historical process and collectively shape the future!

Red Flag Must Inspire Us with a Communist Vision

This paper needs different kinds of articles. All should contribute to our understanding of communism and how to mobilize masses to fight for it.

We must continue to denounce capitalism, but that's not enough. We must show, as best we can, how communism will eliminate the horrors of capitalism and solve the problems it has created. This is especially important when we write about class struggles that involve our comrades and friends.

An example would be the mass student protests in India. The letters on p. 7 show how new comrades and friends are bringing **Red Flag** into this struggle. We must better guarantee that the articles their friends read carefully make the case for communism.

We must strive to clarify communism but we must also elucidate how to get there. As one comrade put it, we can't just describe communism as a beautiful mountain without mentioning the tumultuous rivers or thorny valleys we'll have to cross to get there.

So we must talk about organizing political strikes for communism. We must learn about the histories of armed insurrections and the importance of building a communist political base among rank-and-file soldiers and sailors. Our international party needs to learn from the history of the working class everywhere.

Articles about capitalist political economy should point us toward an understanding of how communism will work.

Analyses of international affairs should show how the development of capitalist imperialism increases the urgency of mobilizing the masses for communism. They should inspire confidence, not fear. They should prepare us to take advantage of opportunities, now and in the future.

Reports on our political work should strive to use dialectical-materialist philosophy to analyze the contradictions and point the way forward. We should write about political disagreements and struggles.

In six short years we have made a good start. **Red Flag** is fostering the growth of an international communist party. An ICWP member in Bangladesh declared, "When I receive **Red Flag**, everything seems possible."

It is! Communism is winnable. Our new comrades are proving it.



MARCH UNDER THE
COMMUNIST FLAGS OF
ICWP
ON MAY DAY 2016



**MOBILIZE THE
MASSES FOR
COMMUNISM**

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USE DIALECTICS TO EXPLAIN TO MASSES WHY COMMUNISM CAN WORK

SOUTH AFRICA—“How should Communism work? It was tried in Russia. It didn’t work.” That’s the most common question people ask me when I raise the question of communism.

I talk to about communism to neighbors, friends, people I know from work and others that wanted to talk to me regarding other stuff. We end up talking about communism because everything now is capitalism and communism.

People are starting to see that we are in a crisis. The system is brutally attacking the working class. And they don’t know that there is a solution. I explain that communism is the only solution for the working class.

The majority know something about the Russian revolution. But they don’t know that communism has never been put into practice. So I always go back to dialectics and tell them, “Look, Russia achieved a revolution. They did put down the government. But the reason their revolution went back to capitalism or didn’t succeed is because when the government was put down, they didn’t implement communism. They implemented socialism.”

And they said, “We have to go to socialism because communism is too advanced—you can’t

just go to communism. We start with socialism. After socialism we’re going to achieve communism.”

Most of the comrades have a problem explaining this. So at a recent meeting I said, “Look, we have to use dialectics because so many ask this question. We should all know how to answer it. Communism was never implemented in Russia. So there is no such thing as it was tried and failed. It’s never been implemented.”

A friend who works at a car-rental agency said that communism has been tried and failed. I answered, “No, communism has never been tried. After a revolution, the first thing you have to do is remove money. If you don’t get rid of money, it’s not communism. It’s socialism, which will not lead to communism but to the opposite of communism, which is capitalism. So communism was never practiced in Russia after the revolution was won. The money is the root of all this evil. We must remove it.”

I went to school with this friend. He got high marks. He understands capitalism, history and religion, but he didn’t understand communism.

After I explained it to him he said, “Hey, for me to meet you was something magical because

now this information you’ve given me fills in the empty pieces in my puzzle. Now I understand about communism and capitalism.” He took a copy of the *Red Flag*. I am going to print out the dialectics articles for him.

I am planning to open a class with four or five people. One is an old ANC comrade but I think that deep inside his heart he’s a communist, as we all are. All human people are communists; they are just caught up in the brutal capitalist system.

He told me, “The only thing that will free people from capitalism is to open their own community organization, not follow all these pro-capitalist organizations which are corrupt. We need our own community organization as workers—employed and unemployed.”

I replied, “Look, there’s no need for that. Even if it went all over South Africa, it wouldn’t be powerful enough because the system is global, so we would be fighting a global system with a domestic organization.” I told him that, fortunately, an organization already exists that is exactly like the one he wants, that directly fights against capitalism and for communism. And it’s international. That organization is the ICWP, the International Communist Workers’ Party.



South Africa: The sign says “Workers of the World Unite for Communist Revolution” In Xhosa

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Is communism worth it?

YES! It is the only thing worth fighting for. Anything else is futile. The following example from the LA Janitors’ struggle proves this irrefutably:

In 1983, janitors in Los Angeles earned over \$7 dollars an hour with full health benefits. That was the equivalent of \$17 dollars an hour in 2016 dollars.

After more than 25 years of struggle, starting with a strike in 1990, janitors in Los Angeles now earn: \$15/hour in area 1, \$13 in area 2, and \$9.75 in area 3. They earn less than they did 33 years ago!

Furthermore, their work load has increased drastically. In some cases it has almost doubled to 95,000 square feet per worker per 8-hour shift.

Presently, BOMA (Building Owners’ and Managers) pays the contractors, which hire the janitors,

\$85 per worker in area 1, \$70 in area 2, and \$45 in area 3.

BOMA wants to pay all areas \$45 per worker. It will drastically reduce wages and benefits in areas 1&2. BOMA strategy is to have the janitors fighting to defend previous “gains,” hoping they will happily settle for whatever crumbs they throw at them.

The janitors are not the only ones. From Greece to Argentina to South Africa to the USA workers are seeing all their hard-won “gains” being taken away.

Let’s not put our energy and creativity into reforming a system that can’t be reformed to meet our needs. Let’s fight for communism. Join ICWP and help mobilize the masses for Communism. March with us on this May Day and help advance the struggle for a communist world. Read and distribute *Red Flag!*

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where we all work collectively.

The uprising of these workers shows us the need to create contacts between the comrades organized in ICWP in other maquila factories and our class brothers and sisters in different industrial areas. Constant communication would allow us to join in the fight and bring *Red Flag* these workers.

The Biggest Robbery is In the Factories

“This company went around passing out flyers so that we would work with them. They said they would give all the benefits; and now they left,” said another maquila worker.

As of today, the ministry of labor has confiscated the machinery and hopes to sell it to distribute the money to the workers. This does not solve anything. They are trying to solve a momentary problem without touching the roots of exploitation.

Neither the FMLN government nor the unions accuse capitalism of being the responsible party for the biggest robbery that is produced inside the factories. This is where all the bosses steal the workers’ labor power through the production of

commodities. The bosses take the profits, leaving the workers in poverty.

In communism, there won’t be bosses or exploitation. We workers (the whole society) will have complete control of the means of production. We will collectively plan production based on the needs of humanity.

Our lives will not depend on the thieving bosses but on a society composed of our class brothers and sisters. There will not be long hours of work. We will learn multiple skills, and we can help in different areas. Work will not be related to individual subsistence. The factories and other places also will be centers of learning for the new generations. Technology will advance in a way that will facilitate our work and that is in harmony with the environment.

We have a task as ICWP members and that is to create communist networks among the working class through *Red Flag*. The struggles must be fought by everyone. Solidarity is a fundamental aspect of the struggle for communism. This will only be possible if we have full confidence that Communism is the only solution.



Garment Workers in Olocuilta, El Salvador block highway to denounce capitalist robbery

COMMUNISM MEANS WORK AND HOUSING FOR EVERYBODY

SEATTLE—The ICWP invites you to join us in eliminating homelessness and unemployment. Completely. Forever. How?

Don't ask Seattle Mayor Ed Murray. He says he doesn't have the budget to provide housing for the exploding number of homeless. Don't ask Boeing commercial head Ray Conner. He says layoffs are unavoidable to save cash to compete.

Instead we will do it by establishing communism.

The number of homeless increased 30% last year. The homeless, including many veterans, have camped in "The Jungle," a dangerous 3-mile stretch under a freeway where they have been attacked and killed and fires have broken out. The city's "solution" is setting up three flimsy tent cities in working class neighborhoods. At least one blew down in a windstorm recently before anyone could move in.

At the same time, Boeing layoffs will worsen the problem of homelessness. Boeing's competition with rival Airbus to increase its share of a shrinking market is sharpening. To try to win this competition, Boeing needs capital to build a new plane. This capital will come out of our hides. How many of us will be laid off has not been announced, but the situation is serious.

None of this will happen under communism. For a start we won't have money and workers won't slave for wages (if they can get a job). Instead everyone will work for our collective needs, and everyone's needs (including housing) will be met.

Help circulate the ICWP leaflet inside the plants and outside the factory gates. First we will go to our regular readers and ask them to pass out the flier. We'll be passing out the flyers in Murray's tent cities scattered throughout various neighborhoods. Our members and friends will be taking this campaign into several community organizations and unions.

Our goal will be the same wherever we bring this message. We can no longer accept non-solutions that are driven by the bosses' budgets and their need to make profits. We can't afford to waste our time trying (and failing) to make these reform band-aids work. Those facing layoffs and possible homelessness and those already there must unite with soldiers and the industrial workers left in the plants in a powerful army to uproot the cause of these twin evils: capitalism.

On May 1 we will organize a contingent in the May Day march to mobilize for the one and only solution: communist revolution.

Communist Production

The number-one priority of capitalist production is to make profits. It's the same whether you are producing planes, housing or anything else. Governments, whether national or local, are tasked with preserving this system.

Communist production will destroy this model. Production will be based on the slogan "from each according to their ability and commitment; to each according to their need."

First, we'll eliminate wage slavery to implement this slogan. The wage system pits worker against worker competing for jobs. Our future



will no longer be tied to whether or not some boss decides he or she can make profits exploiting us.

Under communism, we will share the fruits of our collective labor. In this way, we'll lay the basis for finally ending divisive racism, sexism and nationalism.

There will never be any incentive to lay off workers. If we decide we need fewer planes, firings will not be the inevitable result. If we have some other priority, like building homes, we'll just set more workers to that task.

As each of us knows there is no shortage of socially useful tasks to perform. Industrial workers can build homes, not as charity, but in the normal course of our work. That's how you end homelessness!

What and how much to produce will no longer be determined by sales and budgets. We will decide based on the most important needs of the greatest number of people.

...Part of Communist Mobilization

The guiding principle of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) is to mobilize the masses for communism--now and in the future. Under communism this will not change. Mobilizing production to fulfill the greatest need is one practical example.

The decision of what and how much to produce is partly technical, but mostly political. Workers will have to become knowledgeable about both. The division that now exists between the blue-collar laborer and the mental labor of those making the decisions will be abolished.

Much of our time at work will be spent gathering the facts and knowledge necessary to run society. Mobilizing the masses does not mean giving workers tools and orders (as capitalism does). It means mobilizing the initiative and collective experience, the potential and power of millions of workers.

There is no force on earth greater than masses mobilized for communism. Join the ICWP now to build for the day when we can put this power to use.



MAKING DECISIONS UNDER COMMUNISM

SEATTLE—Recently I attended a community meeting in my neighborhood. It was well attended, considering most people—including me—never saw any public notification.

We had found out that a tent city was being erected for the homeless just a few blocks away.

The meeting started out with the usual explanations and excuses, presented by well-meaning but useless people from the Mayor's task force. Neighborhood residents were getting impatient and didn't want to wait for

the questions time slot. Several people had their hands up, including me. But we were ignored! I murmured loudly, "There should not be ANY homeless people in Seattle." There should not be ANY homeless people ANYWHERE, including Calais, Gaza, Nigeria, and Seattle!

An older African-American woman sitting next to me had been quietly listening to the presenters. At this point she turned to me and said, "If you ask me, it's a done deal. They really don't care what we think!" Then she got up and left with a disgusted look on her face.

How true were her words! The reality is that the capitalist ruling class of Seattle created this disaster! They continue to lay off thousands (Boeing) and do nothing to provide decent housing for workers and their families. Tents in the middle of rainy, cold Seattle winters just don't do the job!

There are 12 million empty foreclosed homes in the US. To move people into the empty foreclosed houses, the city would have to pay the banks for the homes. That's capitalism, where exchange value, not use value, decides everything!

When we have communist meetings, we'll ask the questions, "Why is there homelessness?" and "How do we end it?" Then the whole discussion will be different. That's the kind of meeting the party will organize to tap the knowledge and initiative of the masses to get social problems solved.

Only communism can solve this situation. A communist meeting is what that women needs. We plan to have plenty of them during this campaign! I'm involved with a community group of people that are working on the housing issues. We will work hard to bring some of these people to May Day this year.



FROM SEATTLE TO GAZA

Boeing is causing homelessness in Seattle with its layoffs while in Gaza hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were made homeless by weapons that Boeing provided to the Israeli government.

Security is a Question of Social Relations

COMMUNISM WILL CREATE TRULY HUMAN SOCIAL RELATIONS

LOS ANGELES--“These are our employees, we want to make sure their workplace is a safe place,” said Paul Gonzalez, an LAMTA spokesperson.

He was addressing the fact that attacks against LAMTA operators have risen yearly from 79 in 2012 to over 155 in 2015.

According to him, MTA has taken “proactive steps” to combat this. Some of these, Gonzalez said, include “the installation of surveillance monitors, outfitting new buses with polycarbonate barriers that protect drivers, or using an automated fare announcement.” This last one because 34% of bus driver assaults concern disputes over bus fares.

This might be good enough for MTA to elude responsibility and limit its liability in case it is sued, but not enough to protect the operators, the passengers, or the public at large.

Security for the working class involves much more than installing a few gadgets, because in the final analysis, security is a question of social relations.

A society's mode of production determines its social relations.

In human society everything revolves around the mode of production--how it produces the things needed to survive and advance.

Humans' first mode of production was communist. The means or instruments of production were owned collectively. The work and the sharing of the products of labor were also done collectively.

Class societies - slavery, feudalism and capitalism - changed this. Small ruling classes stole the means of production and the products produced by the toiling masses, and declared them their private property.

These rulers used violence, and created ideologies to legalize and justify their exploitation. They developed whole cultures to push their dog-eat-dog ethics on society. Thus, inhumane modes of production imposed inhumane social relations on society.



Capitalism's social relations are dictated by its wage slavery

Under capitalism the working class has nothing except its labor power which we must sell to the capitalists in order to survive. Thus the term: wage slaves.

For us having a job is a question of life and death, and money (the wage) dominates every aspect of our lives.

The stress of competing for a job, the threat of losing it, worries about paying the rent, buying food, going to the doctor, etc., is the material basis in the working class that reinforces the individualism, racism, sexism, and other anti-working class ideologies capitalism constantly bombards us with.

These are the cause of our anti-social and anti-working class behavior. They cannot be legislated, willed or prayed away. We need to create a new society with a humane mode of production that will encourage us to develop humane social relations. That society is communism.

Communism's mode of production is based on human needs

Communism will eliminate money and the market. Money will no longer rule our lives. Nothing will ever be bought or sold. Collectively we will satisfy our needs, contributing to society according to our commitment and receiving according to need.

We will no longer have to compete for jobs. Capitalist exploitation and the racist and sexist super-exploitation of some sectors of our class will

be no more. This will deal a big blow to two of capitalism's worst plagues: racism and sexism.

We will no longer have “jobs” but creative useful work. “You're fired!” will end with capitalism. Furthermore, in a world without borders, we will live and travel wherever we want. Wherever we go we will be welcomed. Whatever we contribute will be appreciated.

This will give us a worldwide understanding that “an injury to one is an injury to all.” It is the antidote to nationalism and patriotism, two ideologies the capitalists use to get us to fight and die in their wars for profits and empires.

Collectively planning, producing and distributing the products of our labor to raise the future generations of communists will replace capitalism's individualistic mentality of “I” with communism's collective mentality of “we.”

No longer pitted against each other, we will treat one another with respect, dignity and love. Only then can we flourish as truly caring, creative human beings.

To get there, however, we will have to wage a long hard struggle. Class society was born with violence. Only a mass ICWP, mobilizing the masses for communism, can unite us and wage the ideological struggle needed, before, during and after the revolution, to destroy capitalism and uproot its poisonous ideologies from the working class.

Our security now and in the near future lies in joining and building ICWP.

RESOLVING INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS STRENGTHENS COMMUNIST COLLECTIVES

SOUTH AFRICA--Working as a collective always brings good results. We have seen this in the build up towards the conference in South Africa and the conference itself. Lately, we've seen some deviations from this very important principle of working together as a collective with devastating results.

These weaknesses almost did serious damage to our work. Very important decisions would be taken hastily outside of the collective. When one checks for the motivation, one finds the blame game.

Festive season is now long gone, we need to put renewed efforts in building the party, we need to take off from where we left. We are not starting from scratch, we have the base, we only need to tighten those loose ends. We had intense internal struggle recently about strengthening our collective by recognizing everybody's strengths but at the same time struggling in a comradely way about weaknesses.

Self critically we felt that the success of the conference would propel our work by itself. While there is tremendous enthusiasm and energy in building the party, we neglected to solidify the organizational structure of the leadership collective. We have recognized this and we are determined to correct this. Criticism and self-criticism has made us stronger and given us the confidence

in the party and the masses. This struggle clearly shows that within ourselves there is a constant struggle between capitalist ideas of individualism, competition on the one hand and collective communist resolve to build the party. We have come out of this by winning comrades to communist ideas.

Communism is not something in distant future but we see the seeds of communism in how we struggle with each other, how we live and how we strive to overcome capitalist ideology and obstacles as we encounter alcoholism, drug addiction and issues of mental health.

Comrades in one township are doing their bit in distributing the *Red Flag*. They have not yet put any of their efforts and strides to build the party in writing but rest assured, something good is brewing there. Circles of *Red Flag* readers are being formed amongst industrial workers, teachers, students, nurses, and other civil servants.

All these readers are open to our ideas. We may not necessarily get to see them but they are always looking forward to the next issue, they are keeping track of all the

articles. In no time the township will be painted red.

These are efforts that must be supported and encouraged because they inspire confidence, determination and zeal to continue to work to build the party in particular and the working class in general.

Comrade L is doing tremendous work in East London, where she works. She plans to extend invitations to her recruits to come to May Day celebrations. Our old comrade Tata, wherever he goes, is spreading communist ideas amongst his peers. Our party, ICWP, is always on his lips. To learn about these efforts comrades are doing almost brought us to tears. We dare not fail these gallant fighters. More *Red Flags* and more comrades joining ICWP is exactly what is happening.



ICWP conference in South Africa, November 2015

Class Struggle in Tibet (Part II):

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM, NOT SOCIALISM

“In the past we lived worse than animals,” said a young Tibetan woman leader in 1959. “Now we have stood up! In the past we wore rags; now we have a change of clothing from the master’s stock of goods. In the past we slept with the donkeys and now we sleep in the manor-house.”

Anna Louise Strong noted that “Tibet faced the problem of where to head. Letting individual ownership develop freely would inevitably lead to polarization [and] produce a new exploiting class.

“Responding firmly to the Party’s call,” she continued, “the serfs and slaves just liberated from hell took the socialist road at a gallop.”

They joined the Socialist Education Movement and mutual-aid teams. Many later organized communes.

During the Cultural Revolution the masses denounced “karma.” They broke the chains of religion. They turned “sacred” mountains and rivers into high-yield fields and irrigation systems. Groups of women hunted “sacred” animals. They caught “sacred” fish.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) often tailed the masses instead of leading them.

The People’s Liberation Army (PLA) arrived in Tibet in 1950. Thousands of serfs rose up against the nobility and the lama monks. They attacked and vandalized monasteries. Many took revenge against their former oppressors.

But the CCP outlawed these actions. Their policy was uniting with “progressive” feudal lords instead of waging class struggle.

Their “democratic reform” ended forced labor and personal servitude (but not exploitation). It reduced (not ended) land rent and interest. Later, they “bought out” land from the masters and distributed it to individual tillers.

The masses had already paid for this land with their sweat, blood and tears. Real communists would have organized them to seize it and work

it collectively.

The CCP also tailed peasants in fighting religious superstition.

Some peasants confronting a sudden flood used stones from a pile built for religious purposes. “What are you doing, acting against religion?” asked CCP officials.

Official policy was to avoid discussing the Dalai Lama. But one peasant was overheard telling others: “The Dalai Lama is the biggest serf-owner in Tibet! We may have to ‘struggle’ with him.”

Former serfs learned to read. Many studied Marxism and “Mao Zedong Thought.” But often this only meant reciting slogans. For many, Mao replaced the Dalai Lama as the new guru.

We communists today fight for mass study of communist philosophy (dialectical materialism). Millions of workers, not just a few professors, must help develop our communist political line.

Socialism maintained key capitalist social relations

Tibetan communists organized “inhabitants’ committees” to clean up neighborhoods and organize housing for all. But the CCP sharply distinguished these from “state power.” Real power – the PLA and control over the means of production – was not in workers’ hands.

Communism will massively organize workers at the point of production and in neighborhoods into Party collectives. These will lead still broader masses to make and carry out all decisions. They will form one world-wide organization that unites the masses “from each according to ability and commitment, to each according to need.”

Today fewer than 10% of all Chinese adults are CCP members. After three generations of real communism we’d expect almost all youths and adults to be active Party members. We ask **Red Flag** readers to join the Party now (if you haven’t

already). Help build communist collectives!

Tibetan inhabitants’ committees planted community gardens. Socialism decreed that those who worked should get vegetables in proportion to the work they did. However, many people who helped plant gardens let their vegetables go to those who needed them.

We communists mobilize the masses for distribution according to need, not according to work. We reject all individual material incentives.

The CCP openly embraced capitalism in its *Central Document #1* (1983). The Tibetan masses, no longer serfs or slaves, are now wage-slaves. As Strong predicted, “letting individual ownership develop freely” has led to polarization. It produced a new exploiting class, led by “communist” party officials.

A regional CCP leader openly declared “the rule of market economics” to be “indispensable for the development of Tibet.” He admitted that this causes “an imbalanced distribution.”

Today about one-third of Tibetans live in poverty. Wages have increased for state-sector employment but Tibetans don’t often get these jobs. The gap between the richest and poorest is growing. Eighty-three Tibetan gold miners were buried alive in 2013 in a massive mudslide caused by capitalists’ unsafe cost-cutting practices.

And workers in Tibet are again fighting back. In 2012, hundreds of Sichuanese migrant telecommunications laborers in Tibet protested, demanding millions of yuan in unpaid wages. In 2014, 160 long-term “substitute” teachers demanded equal salaries and benefits as other teachers.

These workers and billions like them around the world must be mobilized, not for reform or democracy or socialism, but for COMMUNISM.

India from page 8

vide the working class and the wars in which we kill each other will be eliminated. Production for the needs of the working class will be based on cooperation and not on competition among workers. No one will be condemned to do the same task for their whole life. Every task to build communist society will be shared by many and we will eliminate the separation between mental and manual labor.

Building our movement for communism is not easy. It is full of obstacles. However, capitalism creates its own gravediggers. The Dalits in India, the miners of Marikana, the garment workers in El Salvador, Dhaka, Los Angeles, the autoworkers in Flint, Michigan, and Chennai, India, have one enemy – the capitalist class. They are few, we

are many. The rulers try to blind the workers and students with nationalism and religion.

“Communism is the doctrine of the conditions of the liberation of the working class,” wrote Engels. We are creating this doctrine among the masses by ideologically struggling against nationalism and religion among many other things.

In India, Pakistan and Bangladesh we have dramatically increased the circulation of **Red Flag**. Students and workers are joining ICWP and we are getting an enthusiastic response. We are distributing our main document *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* and efforts are underway to translate it into more languages.



September, 2015--Railway workers in Allahabad during general strike against fascist Modi

Our new members and readers are gaining confidence by struggling around our line and studying communist philosophy and science of change – dialectical materialism. As one reader in India said, “I read all the **Red Flag** articles and it gives me confidence that communism is possible.” Another worker in Pakistan echoed, “**Red Flag** is the best newspaper in the world.”



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LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

**OPEN FOR DISCUSSION--
BUT NOT FOR RACISM**

Building an international party to destroy capitalism and construct communism out of the rubble of capitalism has never been done before. This requires humility, patience and openness to struggle, to make mistakes and correct them in a comradely way.

The letter in Vol. 7 #2 criticizing the previous editorial unfortunately was written in an offensive way. It ends up making a racist complaint by mocking the weavers whose thumbs were

chopped off as part of the British policy to eliminate any competition to the emerging textile mills in Britain ("poor" weavers).

The pages of *Red Flag* should never be used to promote such racist ideas to make criticism. Let us keep the letters to *Red Flag* as a platform for workers, students and soldiers to express their experience fighting capitalism and building the party as well as promoting comradely criticism and self-criticism to advance communist theory and practice.

--a comrade

The editorial committee accepts this criticism. We agree there is no place for racism in the pages of *Red Flag*. The comment was dismissive, mocking and therefore racist, although that probably was not what the writer intended. In this case we failed to go back and compare the editorial in Vol. 7 #1 with the letter criticizing it, and mistakenly thought that "poor weavers," meaning impoverished weavers, was in the original. We need to be more careful.



Burning Calais: On January 22, refugees in the tent-filled refugee camp in Calais organized a sit down strike and started fires to protest the French government's demolition of the camp. Witnesses say the police prevent people from putting out the fires. Thousands of refugees have gathered in Calais, France to cross to England. This camp with its squalid conditions, is a testimony to capitalism's inability to meet the needs of refugees forced by the war in Syria and crushing poverty elsewhere to migrate for their survival. We need a communist world without borders which welcomes workers everywhere and builds housing for all.

**South Asian Readers Say: Destroy
Caste and Class with Communism**

We are a group of students at the University where a Dalit student committed suicide. We are reading *Red Flag* sent by ICWP. There is a big debate about the origins of caste system. It is very important for us to have a clear class view on the caste system as your article pointed out.

What we read in the *Red Flag* is very different. Many think that because the caste system has existed for thousands of years, it will stay here forever. What we liked about the article is that it destroys the myth that caste system cannot be crushed. The political parties are pushing this reactionary interpretation of history.

We are determined to build a solid chapter of ICWP in Hyderabad. More history articles on this topic will help us in the ideological struggle against our enemy. This will surely help a lot to build a Hyderabad Chapter of ICWP

—Students in Hyderabad, India

The literature of ICWP is very good. It's not only the real identity of communism but it also teaches how we can live like real human beings. Nice articles and pamphlets! I am sharing that literature with my friends and classmates. Thank you.

—SP, student in India

I read the article about the caste system in India. In Pakistan also we have a similar caste system. Although Islam has no castes, it was introduced during the British colonialism divide-and-conquer policy. They applied the Hindu caste system to Islam so workers fight among each other. As the article pointed out, the caste system implemented by the British was the result of capitalism. The rulers in India and Pakistan use this same system to attack the working class. Because this was created by capitalism, we must finish capitalism with communism by uniting workers of the world.

—SA, worker in Pakistan

The *Red Flag* is the most revolutionary communist paper in the world. Please keep sending us your literature. I started reading the articles

about India. They are very good and attack the real enemy. We have many fake parties here that are based on the caste system. ICWP has the correct line.

—JC, student in Chennai, India

Thanks for sending me the link to your newspaper. There is so much new information about how in India the caste system is only a matter of capitalism. That's true. I would like to add some points. Ambedkar also said that we have to fight Brahmanism and capitalism. But Ambedkar believed caste is more important than class. This is false. The article makes it clear: we have to fight for communism based on the unity of workers of the world.

—AJ, a worker from Mumbai, India

**ICWP Fighting Directly for Communist
Revolution**

Comrades, it is a great pleasure to meet and join the ICWP since the 2015 conference in South Africa. During the conference I acknowledged that I have been robbed by the Government of the capitalists who led me to believe that capitalism is the right system for the working class whilst our brothers and sisters are suffering day after day because of the poverty that has been caused by the capitalist government. Under capitalism the rich get richer and the poor are getting poorer.

It was a great honour to notice that the ICWP is the multi-racial international party fighting directly for communist revolution. ICWP is not like the fake communists of the Communist Party of South Africa who are busy wearing the cap of the capitalists.

—Comrade in South Africa

MTA Security: Question of Money

It is standard for any one in power to hide the real facts behind the word "safety," mostly to justify abuse or killings. In [MTA operator] Singh's case, we can easily see the systemic association that led to his assault.

Can you see how the media, businesses, politicians' profit and self-centered interests encourage public hysteria? We are born without distinction of races or religions but leaders poison our minds into liking or disliking one another.

Singh's assault is a clear case of identity racial hatred. It is obvious that his looks (a beard

and traditional Sikh turban) triggered a negative aggressive reaction landing him under medical care. Hopefully his body may eventually heal but his mind will be affected for life. He was known to be a community pillar. Public bus drivers have become a punching bag of our society's systemic frustrations.

The US is considered throughout the world to be better off than the average nation. But how can we explain that in third-world countries "fare cheats" are not a problem? MTA claims that 34% of the incidents out on the road are fare disputes, between driver and passenger, due to negative attitude mostly instigated by bus operators. MTA would have been delighted to label Singh's case a fare dispute and blame him for it.

MTA puts bus drivers into these unmanageable challenges and then finds a way to blame the drivers.

We can easily see the care and dedication given to the train operations, from nice facilities to fare-check security mostly intended to deter the homeless from using the trains as a source of protection from the elements and a safe place to rest.

MTA pays professional speakers to tell the public how they care for the drivers, but we know best. MTA can talk about safety and concern for the bus drivers but the facts are clear that MTA forces bus drivers into challenges requiring certain outcomes. If there is to be a potential liability toward the company, it is standard for the driver to be blamed. This sets up an inappropriate mind set, hindering the problem-solving capabilities of bus drivers.

A passenger called for assistance for Singh. Do buses have adequate safety communication?

—An MTA operator

**We'll Live IN Communism, not UNDER
Communism**

The history of the world tells me we will never live *under* communism. We humans started out organized in small egalitarian groups. Then, splintered into classes, we passed through various stages. We lived under Ancient Civilizations, under feudalism, under capitalism even some of us under socialism. The whole purpose of our movement is to smash class rule and live *in* a communist society.

—A comrad

COMMUNISM WILL END CENTURIES OF BLOODY RACISM IN INDIA, PAKISTAN & BANGLADESH

The student leader of Jawaharlal Nehru University remains to be in jail on charges of giving an anti-national speech. At his bail hearing a group of pro-BJP lawyers mercilessly beat him up in front of the judge and police. He has been taken to an undisclosed location for further interrogation. More students are similarly charged for questioning the hanging of a Muslim detainee on dubious charges of attacking the Indian Parliament.

The Second World War left British imperialism crippled and unable to directly rule its colonies in Asia and Africa. Five centuries of colonial rule of divide and conquer created numerous countries based on religion, language, ethnicity etc. In South Asia, India and Pakistan were born which resulted in one of the most horrific bloodsheds in modern history. Over two million Hindus and Muslims were killed and 14 million were left homeless when a lawyer from London was appointed to draw an arbitrary border creating India and Pakistan. The civil war in Pakistan in 1971 created Bangladesh as the fascist Pakistani army butchered and terrorized three million Bengalis.

The creation of India under the leadership of the pacifist Gandhi was seen as liberation of the masses that had suffered enormously under British subjugation. Similarly, Bangladesh was born giving hope to the masses dominated by the Pakistani rulers.

However, the Congress party and the current rulers of BJP have continued and intensified the

British policy of dividing the workers based on religion. The minority Muslim workers are seen as anti-national and face discrimination in education, employment and housing. By intensifying anti-Muslim racism, the rulers viciously discriminate against the Dalit workers. Muslim and Dalit workers are part of 200 million industrial workers that create enormous wealth for the Indian capitalists.

The Indian national movement against Britain was financed by the rising Indian capitalists like Tata, Bajaj and Birla. Today these same capitalists along with the new capitalists like Reliance and Adani are fiercely competing in the global market for auto, pharmaceuticals, textile, heavy machinery, steel, software and energy. These capitalists have bankrolled fascist Modi who pushes nationalism to enable the bosses to exploit the workers so the Indian capitalists can compete with the capitalists in China, the US, Europe and elsewhere.

In the last 20 years India has created over 100 billionaires. The combined wealth of the richest five Indian capitalists is more than the wealth of over 800 million poor Indian workers. Nationalism has created enormous wealth for a few and huge slums and horrific working conditions for the industrial workers living in large cities.

Recent student demonstrations have given us



India: Women cops arrest a woman protesting the death of Dalit student Rohith Vemula. How can class enemies be "sisters"?

an opportunity to offer the communist alternative to the students and workers in India and other places. International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) is building the revolutionary communist movement to create a communist society without borders, religion, racism and sexism.

Only communism can end centuries of atrocious conditions faced by Dalits, Muslims and other workers because we will smash the foundation on which exploitation is created and justified. By building communist society that will end production for profit we will end the terror of the billionaires, their fascist rulers and anti-working class religious bias. The borders that di-

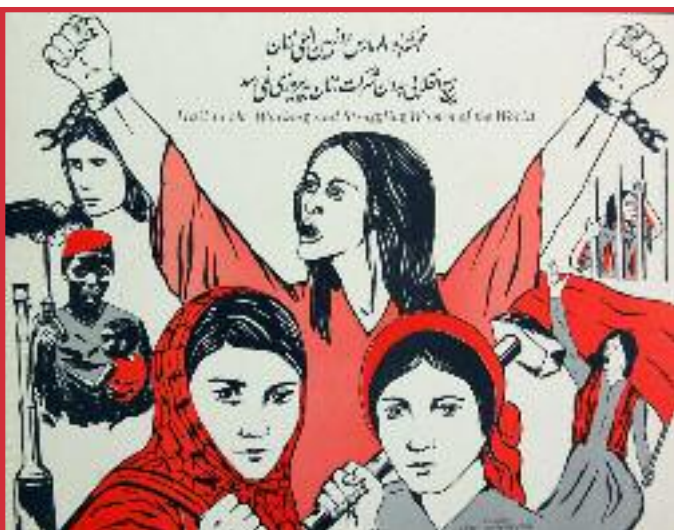
See [INDIA, page 6](#)

TO HELL WITH CAPITALISM! MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM TO END SEXISM

If there were a hell, it would have a special place for former US Secretary of State Madeline Albright. Not because she and Gloria Steinem insulted young women who support Bernie Sanders. Because she implemented sanctions on Iraq during the Clinton presidency that killed 500,000 Iraqi children. And because she told CBS reporter Leslie Stahl in 1996 that "we think the price is worth it."

We don't mention this to debate who is or isn't a "real feminist." Our point is that the masses of women around the world need communism, not feminism. Sexism – the special exploitation and oppression of women – is rooted in class society. Only the abolition of private property can create the material basis for ending it.

Cleopatra and her slave attendants. Marie Antoinette and her seamstress. Shahzadi Gulbadan Begum and a poor peasant woman. Madame Chiang Kai-shek and a landless widow. Margaret Thatcher and the wife of a laid-off coalminer.



Madeline Albright and a grieving Iraqi mother... How can class enemies be "sisters"? Women of the ruling class participate in exploiting the masses of women and men, even when they are disrespected and subordinated by their own fathers and husbands.

Sexism is a class issue and a feature of all class societies in history.

Capitalist imperialism today must squeeze out maximum profits by super-exploiting women workers. That exerts downward pressure on men's wages too. Capitalism depends on women wage-workers coming home to a "second shift" of unpaid housework to nurture the next day's labor power and the next generation of wage-slaves and soldiers.

Communism will end private property. Then we can end the divisive and abusive culture that leads to the mistreatment of women as property. Production for need will replace the wage and profit system. This will make it possible to end the gender division of labor and the devaluation of "women's work." We will organize collective labor in all spheres, including responsibility for children. This will end the isolated drudgery of housework.

When we mobilize for communism today we reveal the common class interest of the masses of women and men. We create the opportunity to wage a sharp political struggle against every aspect of sexist thought and practice that capitalist society has instilled in us.

Mass mobilization for communism fosters the development of hundreds, thousands, mil-

lions of new leaders – many of them women. Communist leaders are not those who (like capitalist politicians and corporate executives) lie convincingly, promote themselves shamelessly and treat others ruthlessly.

Communist leaders are not even those who have read the most or are surest of themselves or more comfortable speaking in public. Instead, communist leaders fight hard and in a principled way to advance the communist political line. They build comradely relationships and strong collectives. They do whatever tasks, small or large, are most necessary to advance the work.

Working-class women are often the best-prepared to become such leaders. We must make and carry out plans with them to develop their confidence, skills and understanding. We must struggle for all comrades and our friends to recognize and respect the leadership of women workers.

Together we will win!



MARCH 8: INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY