

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



Seattle, USA
May Day,
page 4



El Salvador May Day, page 3



Los Angeles, USA, May Day

SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN WORKERS LEAD MAY DAY MOBILIZATION FOR COMMUNISM

PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA, May 1--"ICWP flows in my blood," said a new comrade who had spent tremendous efforts for decades in the African National Congress (ANC). He is not alone. Masses are joining the International Communist Workers' Party as they are fed up with various capitalist led political groups like ANC, Democratic Alliance, South African Communist Party (SACP) and various unions. This was a clear message of May Day 2016 in Port Elizabeth.

The main May Day event organized here by the trade union federation COSATU, ANC and SACP was a disaster. But not for ICWP. We were offering communism as the only solution, they were offering capitalism, more repression, racism.

Our contingent of ICWP members and friends started arriving at the event at the scheduled opening time. There was hardly anybody there. Under severe threat of violence, when even holding May Day was illegal under apartheid, ANC used to attract tens of thousands here.

Our contingent, undeterred by the low turnout fanned out in the neighborhoods and distributed *Red Flag* and our May Day leaflets. And as workers started trickling in, we continued to distribute our literature. More importantly, we engaged in serious conversation with the masses about the communist alternative and the need to

join our party ICWP.

The response was overwhelming. Several pledged to join and attend our communist school to be trained as revolutionary members to mobilize the masses for communism. We were the only organization with the literature and almost everybody who attended the May Day event got *Red Flag*. We distributed 1000 copies and another 1500 a week earlier along with thousands of leaflets and *End Racism* pamphlets.

The most important aspect of our activities is the development of women comrades as leaders. Over half of our contingent was women. Several played leading roles in mobilizing. The comrade who dedicated several long hours every day to organizing in various townships exuded confidence. She said, "Next year we will fill up this hall and it will be our May Day event." She added, "At this rate it won't be long before we have 2000 members."

We need her energy, enthusiasm, passion and bold approach to reach the masses with communist ideas. This is in sharp contrast to various capitalist-led organizations that are in disarray. The deeply disappointed ANC, due to their failure to attract the masses, has given up on them. We are seizing this opportunity and recruiting the masses to the revolutionary communist alternative.

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LOS ANGELES YOUTH SPREAD AND DEFEND COMMUNIST IDEAS

LOS ANGELES, USA, May 1--The contingent of the International Communist Workers' Party this May Day was made up of veterans, students and workers. We marched on the streets of downtown. More than eighty marched carrying red flags and two banners, one that read "For a Communist World: No Money, Racism, Borders, or Bosses" and the other stating our guiding principle of "Mobilize the masses for communism."

The young people and workers with much emotion, passion and class hatred chanted slogans like "Long live communism! Power, power to the workers!" We organized five groups of two. One person carried *Red Flag* and the other our new pamphlet *To End Racism, Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. These groups distributed about 900 *Red Flags* and more than 600 of the pamphlets.

The following are comments from some of the young people who marched:

☆ *At the march a young lady asked me if I was for communism.*

"Of course" I said. Then, she asked if I could explain what communism is.

"A world without borders, money, racism, discrimination or bosses. There will be no hierarchy, no rich and no one will be poor," I said.

She responded, "I didn't know that, I thought communism was bad because in school they say

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Where do we come from? Where are we now? Where are we going?

RED FLAGS OF ICWP FLY IN ASIA, AFRICA, EUROPE, THE AMERICAS ON MAY DAY

From India: “Revolutionary greetings! We have a world to win. We will make a world free of oppression, racism, sexism, where there will be no borders. We need to get rid of the disease of nationalism and become true internationalist revolutionaries. The world is ours. A revolution is driven by feelings of love. A lot of love to all the comrades of International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP)!”

From South Africa: “Hello my fellow ICWP comrades all around the world. I started with the African National Congress in the 1950s. I had misconceptions about communism but now I am very clear about communism, thanks to ICWP and the very informative *Red Flag*. Forward with the struggle, forward!”

From El Salvador: “With the power of the factory workers of San Marcos, with the sweat of the farmworkers of Morazán, with the energy of the youth of the capital, we send a greeting with the left fist raising high the *Red Flag*. Long live the working class! Long live ICWP!”

* * * * *

We come from the masses who lived for some 70,000 years in pre-class communism, sharing everything without bosses or any kind of money.

We come from the oppressed classes – slaves, serfs, workers – who have defied adversity and still do today. When society divided into classes they waged relentless and heroic struggles against the oppressors: the slave masters, the kings and nobles and the capitalists, our modern wage-slave masters.

We are inspired by our predecessors in 17th century Brazil who were enslaved but rebelled, escaped and set up a society where they shared everything. They collectively produced for need without money. But they tried in vain to bring back pre-class communism. Our future lies in scientific communism.

We have learned much from the scientific communists of the 20th century.

In 1912, there were only a handful of Russian communist organizers. When the First World War

broke out, they called on the soldiers to turn the guns on the government. The Czar accused them of being traitors. The workers stoned them in the streets.

But the communists did not despair. They patiently organized until millions of soldiers and industrial workers followed their leadership and took state power in the first-ever socialist revolution.

Nine comrades founded the Chinese Communist Party. What could they do in a land of over 450 million? But our class responded to their call. Eventually the Party and its Red Army of millions defeated the Japanese invaders and the Chinese bosses and took power.

Today we are a small party as Russian communists were in 1912 and Chinese communists were in 1921. Size is important. We need millions to win communism and more to build it. But we have two big advantages that they didn’t have: First, ICWP was founded as an international party. And second, we have their experiences to build on.

Today we know that only the masses mobilized directly for communism can build the global society we need. We are confident that we will grow and win because we have learned from the millions who fought before us and we continue to learn from the masses.

We have learned especially from those in China who fought during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution to transform socialism into communism. Their struggle failed but it taught us to fight directly for communism and nothing else. At its best it showed that we can produce and share everything collectively without money, privilege or any economic incentive.

Today we have readers in 35 countries and counting and organizers in 11. More and more workers and youth are disgusted with capitalism and inspired by the communism they read about in *Red Flag*. In this issue you can read about our work in South Africa, where two new clubs—one of students, one of workers—have formed, and about the first ICWP May Day activities in xx lo-

cations in India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh. We are growing modestly in the Americas and Europe.

Today the world’s workers are facing a global capitalist crisis of overproduction. This is accelerating a build-up to a third World War. The conflict between the US and Russia is sharpening from Syria to the North Sea. The US, Russia, and China have entered a new nuclear arms race to produce “small” nuclear weapons they are preparing to use.

Where we are going is to turn the bosses’ wars into a revolution for communism. Again we call on soldiers to turn the guns on the imperialists and fight alongside workers, this time for communism.

We are going to build a mass party, especially among industrial workers and soldiers. Factories, barracks, neighborhoods and schools must become centers of political struggle for communism.

We are going to build more communist collectives to read, write for and distribute *Red Flag*. To develop more communist leaders, women and men. To confront racist terror by mobilizing for communism. To unite workers of different “races” and encourage the super-exploited to become communist leaders of all workers.

The collectives we build today will become the basis of communist workers’ power in the future.

Where we are going is to a classless society where everyone is welcome everywhere. Where the masses will collectively find communist solutions to all the problems capitalism has caused. Where all have shelter and food, comradeship and meaningful work.

We are going to reclaim the best of pre-class communism and take it to a new level. The masses will use and develop our scientific understanding to consciously shape the world we long for: a world where the lives of workers and our children will be valued and cherished above all else.

Come with us! Join ICWP!



SOUTH AFRICA MAY DAY from page 1

Our next event is organizing for the Communist School. New and old comrades are extremely committed and enthusiastically building for it. With the masses we will learn and discuss the philosophy and science of dialectical materialism. We are already using this revolutionary method to struggle with the masses, identify the obstacles and patiently overcome them.

The mood of the masses here looking for an alternative can be summed up in a small example. A young student took a copy of *Red Flag* and asked us what it was about. The comrade explained that we are organizing the workers around the world under our banners of fighting for communism. The student said that he was a member of DA (Democratic Alliance, a right wing political party). But, he added, he liked our ideas. We told

The photo on this page is from the meeting organizing for May Day reported on in the article on page 8.

him about our Communist School. He paused for a minute and then asked us if he could come with a friend. As the conversation went on, his interest in communism got deeper. He asked for a stack of *Red Flags*. As we had to leave, he said, “I will come with four friends to the Communist School.”

This example and many more similar experiences that the comrades are reporting illustrate that we have tremendous potential to recruit thousands of workers and youth to our party in the very near future and lead class struggle against capitalism.



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El Salvador May Day

WE SHALL BE ALL

EL SALVADOR—"Communism is coming and no one can stop it!" The chant rang through the streets of San Salvador. The working class came out into the streets to commemorate the heroic deeds of the martyrs of Chicago. The International Communist Workers' Party and *Red Flag* were there once again together with the working class, fighting for communism.

Starting very early, our comrades mobilized to the capital from the east, center and south of the country to march as a bloc, united as ICWP. Teachers, farmworkers, Internationalists, students, men and women maquila workers, artists

and veterans of the war united under the banners of ICWP and marched for communism.

The task of distributing our literature was carried out by youth and maquila workers. Demonstrators took 1,100 *Red Flags* and 2,500 leaflets. Youth, adults, and seniors surrounded those who distributed our literature to ask for more *Red Flags*. "Give me more. I will take them to my students," said a teacher.

Bringing our communist ideas to the masses is a fundamental task in building our party. The party continues to win the confidence of the workers, students, and farmworkers. During the

march, youth who marched with the youth groups of the old communist movement asked us to chant our slogans and said they would support us. We made contact with them and plan future meetings to discuss our political project.

Chanting "Down with Capitalism!" the march advanced. The hatred and class struggle is each time more apparent. The work-

ing class is losing its patience and calm. Since the FMLN took government office, they have tried to calm the masses. They try to avoid the masses taking to the streets and expressing their discontent against capitalism. But year after year they lose control of the workers' movement. Each time more people decide for the radical struggle and declare themselves openly anti-capitalist.

"For the same enemy, the same struggle," was the general slogan of the march. But this, like "Down with Capitalism!" is not enough. It is not only to fight against capitalism. Communism is the only solution for all the evils generated by Capitalism. Neither social democracy nor socialism nor anarchism can end this evil. We need the massive organization of a Communist party, the ICWP.

May Day is not a celebration, it is not a party. It is another day of struggle. We left motivated and more eager to do our work in every place where we are. Confidence in our line is essential to bring communist ideas to the masses.

We march for the South African miners, for the students in India, for the teachers in Mexico, for the immigrants in Spain. We march for a future without classes in which those who are nothing today shall be all.



May Day from Mexico:

A CALL FOR A COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM



Hundreds of thousands of people marched this May Day in Mexico City. They were from unions and independent groups like the miners, workers from educational centers, cleaning, metro, CTE(Community and Technical Education workers), telephone workers, farmworkers, environmentalists, people fighting forced disappearances, electrical workers, etc. There were thousands of angry people marching through the streets, with signs and leaflets. Workers singing or chanting demanding the govern-

ment give them their "rights," demanding "justice." But what justice can we expect from a government that only serves the capitalist bosses? What justice can we expect from a government that is a fundamental part of capitalism?

Our newspaper *Red Flag* was very clear about that. Exposing the government and the bosses, we said loudly as we gave out the paper, "No to Reform, Yes to Revolution." "Let's fight for a world where each receives according to their needs and each contributes according to their capacity and commitment." We also said, "Let's not be fooled by the capitalist bosses." "Let's unite in one single struggle, a struggle for a communist world."

The workers warmly received our newspaper, read it and asked

for more. As they walked or sat, they did not reject it. They asked, "What does the paper say?" "What is your goal?" "We need a newspaper like this." They took it happily.

Self-critically, 750 papers were insufficient for the hundreds of thousands of people and insufficient for the people who helped distribute it, who this day responded to the call of our international working class. This call inspires us to continue struggling along with our comrades in the rest of the world, from South Africa to India, in Latin America, the Middle East, the US and wherever our party with its clear political line is responding to the needs of our working class to finally free itself from the capitalist bosses.

This May Day we joined with the voices of the workers of the world and with the view of those who one day are not going to ask permission, or who from now on do not ask permission. We say: Long live our international working class! Long live Communism.



LOS ANGELES, May Day--Young workers and students who have been Party members for several years gave crucial leadership to younger students. They contributed to the seriousness and discipline of the contingent.

PUTTING COMMUNISM FRONT AND CENTER AT SEATTLE MAY DAY

SEATTLE, US, May 1--Our communist contingent made a big impression on at least one marcher. She came up to our table to tell us that, to her amazement, she ran into someone “who believes in capitalism”!

No wonder she was amazed. The vast majority of people who gathered for the Seattle May Day march were obviously against capitalism. The chants, signs and leaflets made it clear they were fed up with racism, deportations, low wages, unemployment, killer cops, homelessness, and all the other capitalist horrors big and small.

We in the ICWP were there with an alternative – communism. A society based on mutual aid, rather than competition. A society where everyone works and the product of this work is distributed according to need. A society without money or wages, where everyone gets food, shelter, education and healthcare.

Only the ICWP offered this alternative. Some supposedly Marxist groups timidly offered socialism. But socialism is just capitalism: it maintains wages and the market economy. Therefore, as an alternative to capitalism, it is a non-starter.

There were also groups promoting identity politics and single-issue causes like a \$15 minimum wage. At best these movements make small, temporary changes then collapse. Typically, they collapse without having any effect. We don't ignore these movements; we reach out to people who are involved. But we want to get activists off the reformist treadmill and into the ICWP, to make a revolution that will permanently end capitalism's horrors.

We spent many weeks building for May Day. We held a dinner whose highlight was a speech by a person new to us about the importance of May Day. We made a list of people who would or might come and kept in touch with them by phone, email, texts, and of course good old fashioned physical face-to-face visits in their homes and at work. We made a big banner with the ICWP logo and with MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM in bold yellow type on a red background. (See page 1)

When the day came we set up an ICWP table at the march starting point. The table had *Red Flag*, of course, the new *End Racism* pamphlet, the global May Day leaflet, the global refugees leaflet, a leaflet on Bernie Sanders and socialism, and our *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. On the march itself we distributed 550 copies of *Red Flag* with our communist anti-racism pamphlet as an insert.

As usual a number of people encountered unexpected obstacles and couldn't make it. But enough showed up that our contingent was able to make an impression. The decisive factor was not the size of our contingent but the fact that we were offering something – namely communism – that nobody else dared (or even thought to) mention.

Joining the ICWP: Those Who Do the Work Make the Best Decisions

In evaluating our experience one thing struck us. This is the situation (which we've seen before) where people who do not consider themselves ICWP members work just as hard as

people who are members. For example, they distribute *Red Flag* and other ICWP literature. They talk to other workers about communism and bring them to ICWP events. They proudly hold a banner calling for communism.

The one thing members do that our great friends don't do (or at least, not as much) is regularly meet to make decisions on how to carry out the work. This mirrors a devastating characteristic of capitalism: those who do the work don't make the decisions.

Our plan must be to break with our capitalist training. Those that do the work can make the best decisions. This is a key aspect of communist culture. These new friends have the ability by virtue of their practice, not only to join the party, but to lead. And those who have been in the party for a time must listen carefully to the contributions of our new comrades.

Many new comrades have joined the party all around the world. For example, after our conference in South Africa new recruits began almost immediately to explain to other workers, family and friends what it means to join the ICWP. Another part of our plan is to show how these (and other) new recruits contribute to mobilizing the masses for communism.

Everyone in our contingent was happy with how it turned out and the first-timers were impressed. Our next job is to recruit them (and those who couldn't make it) to the ICWP. Together we can end capitalism and all the evils that the May Day marchers denounced.

LOS ANGELES MAY DAY from page 1

it's bad.”

I said to her that we are taught a capitalist education and they don't want you to know how communism really works. They want to keep us blind and distracted from what's really going on.

☆ An older lady said, “You've been brain-washed.”

I responded to her, “I understand communism and I'm against any capitalist government and everything they stand for. If you're accepting the fact that you need a president or a government to tell you what, how and when to do it or how and when you're going to work or even how much you're going to make, then that just shows that you're not open-minded to new ideas and it seems that you need someone to tell you what to do. What's better is that we should be helping out each other and stand together as one.”

☆ All of us were there, fighting for what is right. We proudly stood our ground waving the red flag. I enjoyed very much being part of this event. I will keep participating in the years to come.

☆ My comrade and I went with *Red Flag* and the *End Racism* pamphlet talking and answering questions about communism. A young man said to us that our party was anti-union. He showed us a copy of our newspaper to prove it to us. He insisted that we were wrong.

“Yes, we are against unions because they negotiate workers' wages, we want to eliminate wages all together.” Then I added, “Unions work with the government. They don't stand with the

people.” As a communist I believe that to truly achieve a communist world we must exile all capitalist ideas.

☆ There were many different people marching for many reasons; for immigration reform, to stop deportations and to raise the minimum wage. There were children holding signs, banners, and posters that read “Don't deport my parents.” But we were the only ones there marching to mobilize the masses for communism. Only with communism we will create a world where no one will be an immigrant, there will be no deportations because we will live without borders.

These young comrades and many others

played a very important role. They took the lead in many aspects of the march, both planning and implementation. The other demonstrators in the march were amazed in a very positive way. Often they approached the contingent and took many pictures and asked who are you?

We are the International Communist Workers' Party. Our summer project will have a communist school, write and distribute *Red Flag*, visit factories, schools, transit and military bases. In this way, these young people will develop politically and practically even more. **The Party is in good hands!**



COMMUNIST COLLECTIVITY WILL BREAK BOSSES' RACIST THEORIES

SEATTLE, WA, USA—Eyelids were drooping at our early morning crew meeting. The topic was Boeing's "new safety culture." Most had heard this kind of pitch before. That is, until the bosses started to justify the company's blame-the-workers approach by invoking the discredited broken-windows theory. Then all hell broke loose.

Broken-windows is one of the most racist blame-the-victim theories that capitalist academia has invented. It asserts that if one house on the block has a broken window, the whole neighborhood will deteriorate. It advocates for cracking down on petty crime as a supposed way to improve workers' lives.

Of course, no evidence was ever presented to prove this. But who needs evidence when you can blame workers—particularly black and Latin workers.

The New York City police department first put this theory into practice. It rapidly escalated into the notorious stop-and-frisk program. Black and Latin workers were routinely harassed for no reason other than the (racist) whim of a local cop. (The justification: you won't want the whole neighborhood going to ruin because some miscreant might misbehave on the street.) Too often racist murder by the cops was the end result.

The crew boss parroted what he had heard at a larger managers' meeting: "What if there's a gang jumping the subway turnstiles? Then everybody will start jumping the turnstiles and people will no longer pay the fare." He later admitted he wasn't thinking of a gang of white kids. And besides, why should there be fares at all?

In communism we'll collectively provide the

transportation we need. No more transit cops or cashiers to collect fares. After we eliminate those jobs, these folks can actually help people get where they need to go!

Bus drivers can concentrate on getting their passengers safely to their destinations, freed of the obnoxious job of demanding money.

While we're at it, we'll redesign housing. Broken windows will no longer be the responsibility of an individual home owner. We'll design, build and repair housing collectively.

"Hell, in 2008 the banks foreclosed on at least 3 million homes," commented one irate worker. "Who's responsible for all the broken windows in those abandoned buildings? And the banks got billions for really destroying neighborhoods!"

Workers are the solution, not the problem

When the bosses talk about a "safety culture," they point the finger at us. Individual workers, they say, are responsible for taking unsafe shortcuts and ignoring safety violations. The bosses' need to amass more profits doesn't even enter the picture.

According to the anti-worker bias of capitalism, one bad apple will spoil the bushel. Communists have much more confidence in the working class.



Boeing workers at Seattle May Day

No longer will we suffer a culture and laws that blame other workers. All too often this blame falls on black or Latin, Muslim or immigrant workers.

Hence, threats and punishment form the backbone of capitalist social relations. This is the opposite of communist social practice.

Comradely struggle for communist principles will mark our practice. Millions will become skilled at deciding things collectively. The power and potential of the masses will not be a thing to be feared as do the bosses and their academic mouthpieces. It will be our great source of strength.

Masses mobilized with communist collectivity will guarantee our safety. The confidence we build in each other during this process will bury racist theories like "broken windows."

COMRADES IN SPAIN

SPREAD COMMUNIST IDEAS ON MAY DAY

"This is what we need," said a retired worker when we gave him a copy of *Red Flag*.

"Keep it up! You are the future," said another worker who was part of the same group. We left them several copies of *Red Flag* and invited them to join ICWP. We hope that they get in contact with us soon.

This May Day the working class again went out into the streets to demand more education, better wages, fewer layoffs, etc. We in ICWP brought 500 copies of *Red Flag* and more than six thousand leaflets calling on workers to mobilize for a Communist May Day. We know that the essence of our work consists of spreading communist ideas massively. The working class must realize that every year the unions and the political parties of the fake left only use them to continue in power. Every year these sell-outs try to fool the working class, telling them that we must go out and fight for the miserable reforms that the bosses design.

We with *Red Flag* expose every movement that these unions make. ICWP calls on the working class to fight to build Communism. The political line that we advocate is not in order to collect wages, nor much less to climb up in power in an organization. We fight be-

cause we workers are the ones who produce everything. We fight so that this production must be used to meet our own needs.

We fight because we know that in the whole world we workers live enslaved and that the opportunities the bosses offer are absurd. We fight to have dignified work without them telling us in a hospital that if we don't have money they can't cure us.

The building of a new system, of a Communist System, begins with taking the political line as the vanguard to all the workers in the world. From that we must develop political cadres and communist leaders who can lead the masses forward to communism.

We workers can build everything we put our minds to always and only when we are united and we work for everyone collectively, not individually, like what is done in the capitalist system. We the workers can be certain that if we build a communist world, our children can live in peace with good health, better education, and collective communist relations. Let's build communism! Join the International Communist Workers' Party and we will have a better society!

LONG LIVE COMMUNISM! LONG LIVE ICWP! LONG LIVE MAY DAY!



LOS ANGELES, Saturday, April 30th—About 700 Bernie Sanders supporters held a May Day march in downtown Los Angeles. Most were young and, it seems, they had a struggle about whether to march or to work with phone banks.

ICWP brought *Red Flag*, the new *End Racism* pamphlet, and a leaflet titled "Communism, Not Socialism, Will Liberate the Working Class." We distributed about 300 of each. Many of the marchers were open and very interested in talking about the difference between socialism and communism, and what communism will be like. We talked about armed revolution for communism vs. capitalist elections. Several thanked us profoundly for our literature and ideas. "Bernie Sanders hijacked May Day," one said.



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INDIA: THE STRIKES OF WOMEN TEA PICKERS AND GARMENT WORKERS POINT BEYOND REFORMISM

“We pick the tea leaves, we heave the sacks of the tea leaves, you heave the sacks of money leaves, there has to be an end to this.”

These were the words on a protest sign at a recent strike by 6000 women tea workers in Munnar, Kerala State in India. The nine-day strike won a higher bonus for tea workers. It inspired other strikes at nearby plantations.

Communist society will eliminate the sacks of money leaves altogether. Tea is largely an export crop. Tea leaf picking here is a “women only” job. These women – like all wage slaves - work to make a profit for the plantation owners and the banks that finance them. We’ll eliminate money, banks, and profits, and we’ll decide together what we need to grow and where to grow it. This will be decided by ICWP’s worldwide collectives because communist production will be solely to satisfy the needs of workers worldwide. Thus, the masses worldwide need to participate in making those decisions.

Communist production will also decide and change not only what we produce and where, but also who produces it and how. The vast majority of production processes can be mechanized to eliminate the tedious, boring, back breaking hours of labor that the capitalists’ profit-driven wage slavery imposes on us. Nobody will be picking tea leaves or chained to a sewing machine 8 hours or more a day for life. Communist production and social relations based on cooperation and collectivity will develop the communist education and practice to guarantee this.

Communist education will be tied to our communist production. Not only will we train the inventors, builders, mechanics and operators of the machinery necessary to make our work more enjoyable, but we will guarantee the same person combines these skills. Communist education will bind theory and practice – everyone will be a doer and a thinker. We will all, including leaders,

take our turn doing tedious, boring, and disagreeable work that can’t be mechanized – while working in other fields like medicine, science, etc.

Eliminating wage slavery will strike a crucial blow against racism and sexism – deadly capitalist ideologies used to super-exploit some sectors of our class, while preventing us from uniting to destroy capitalism with a communist revolution. In a communist world there won’t be a “Third World” where the capitalists use racism to super-exploit our class brothers and sisters. In a communist society there won’t be “women only” or “men only” work, including house work. This will be done collectively with many families – men, women, and children – participating.

Reformism Won’t Take Us Where We Need To Go

The strikers in Munnar rejected the unions, both those affiliated with the Congress Party and those with the Communist Party, because they collaborate with management. This is a good start. These workers, however, need to reject unions – no matter how militant and honest their leaders are--because of their reformist ideology. Trade unions don’t want to destroy capitalism, but to reform it, leaving its wage slavery, racism, sexism, and all its horrors intact.

Some strikers were members of a group called Sembilan Urumqi (Women’s Unity) and some reports have claimed the bonus they got is a victory for feminism, since men played no role in the strike. Feminism blames all men instead of class society for sexism. It is another divisive capitalist ideology that must be rejected, which communism will bury with all capitalist ideology.

An even larger wildcat strike led by

women garment workers in Bengaluru (Bangalore) in April blocked roads, shut down the city and forced the Modi government to cancel a big cut in their benefits. Unions also played no role in that strike. Temporary “victories” like these, whether or not led by unions, tend to blind workers to the need to destroy capitalism, reinforcing deadly reformist ideology that capitalism can be made to serve our needs.

Both strikes, however, showed the anger and the power of the masses of garment and tea workers. The tea workers’ sign, “There has to be an end to this,” shows that the Indian masses, like the masses worldwide, are fed up with capitalism.

They are looking for radical alternatives. They are open to communism. We must win them to see that “the heaving of the sacks of money” stolen from our labor and the horrors capitalism imposes on us to get it can only end by mobilizing the masses for communism. Our task is to win these militant women workers to join ICWP and organize political strikes to mobilize for communism. It takes commitment and determined class struggle to end it. It can’t come too soon.



Mass strikes of garment workers in Bangalore shut down a major highway

LETTERS

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

ICWP *End Racism* Pamphlet Should Have Educated about US Racism

When I first read *To End Racism: Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, I was very upset. I thought it was useless because it has nothing for African American and other readers in the US. There are articles about racism in Latin America, India, and South Africa, nothing on the sordid, long history of racism in the US. While the intent may have been to reflect the international aspect of racism, African Americans and others in the US are also part of the international working class. I have since read and studied the document and reconsidered

my initial reaction. However, I do have some suggestions.

It explains how ancient and feudal slavery was different from capitalist slavery and document how racism is a capitalist invention, not something ancient and universal. However, some clarification is needed. The 3rd paragraph on page 1 says, “Starving European laborers of Jamestown, Virginia saw Native American societies...” This needs a date and explanation that Jamestown was a British colony in what eventually became the US.

In the 4th and 5th paragraphs, it talks about the creation of a multi-ethnic maritime proletariat and servant and slave codes in British colonies. Which British colonies should be stated, particularly in what is now the US.

Paragraphs 1-3 on page 8 should be expanded into an article on the value of slaves in the US and their labor in producing the cotton that provided the capital for industrialization and international banking. This could include the information in Baptist’s *The Half*

Has Never Been Told (although he writes about passive resistance to capitalism, survival, not its elimination).

I think that an article on the racist history of the US—slave-holding founding fathers, concessions to slave-holding in the Constitution, racist terror and Reconstruction, Jim Crow, racist Supreme Court decisions, etc. would inform African-Americans and others in the US as well as people internationally. I grew up in the South and experienced Jim Crow, US apartheid: racially separate schools, even on the college/university level, not being able to eat at lunch counters when shopping, segregated seating on buses, railroad cars, wards in hospitals, etc. There was also apartheid in the US military until 1948.

These most gross aspects of U.S. apartheid are gone because of multiracial class struggle in the Civil Rights Movement. However, racism still exists in mass incarceration of African American males, racially segregated housing, police murders, and, particularly, racist ideology perpetuated in capitalist media, politics, and education. The more things have changed, the more they have remained the same.

Red Flag must continue to educate on the capitalist origin of racism, why reforms will never destroy racism, and why only communism will eliminate racism.

--Bay Area, California, US Comrade



India:**COMRADES ORGANIZE ICWP IN A POLICE STATE**

This is a brief report from our collective of ICWP members and readers living in a large industrial city in India. We are happy to report that we were able to read, discuss and distribute some literature of ICWP (*Red Flag, Mobilize the Masses for Communism, Education pamphlet, End Racism and Nationalism*) among our colleagues and coworkers before, during and after May Day. We were unsure how to do this work because we are living in a police state.

The government and its Hindu fascist groups are terrorizing the masses. We are also sur-

rounded by pro-capitalist revisionist parties like the Communist Party of India and the Communist Party Marxist. And another ideological struggle is with various Maoist groups that are involved in class struggle. They are fighting the repressive state power. Their heroic fight against the state has given them some respect and mass base. However, they have an incorrect line of fighting for socialism. As ICWP has explained, socialism with its market system and wage slavery is state capitalism.

Amidst all these trends, all of which we are

fighting, we feel overwhelmed. However, communism and revolution are built on scientific laws. We can't go back in history. Socialism can't be reformed. Fascists can't be voted out. Revisionists can't be wished away. We have to smash capitalism with communism. Intense ideological discussion that is going around the ideas of ICWP is helping us understand and advance our line of fighting for communism. We are very encouraged by the international line of the party. Also the work of the comrades in South Africa is very inspiring.

LETTERS**LETTERS****LETTERS****CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS**

Messages of greetings were received from 11 industrial cities across South Asia. Most importantly many comrades discussed and distributed *Red Flag* at various May Day events. The highlight was the industrial city of Bengaluru (Bangalore) where our literature reached the garment workers. We are making similar efforts to reach tea workers in Kerala, India where we have some readers of *Red Flag*.

Fight Sexism to Win Communism

A great strength of the El Salvador May Day article was that it reflected the material concerns of women workers. But it was a mistake to write that "in ICWP we are conscious of the need to restore the dignity of women as a form of reparations" for past sexism.

First, dignity is a sense of self-worth and self-respect. Nobody can give it or take it away from you.

True, capitalism constantly tells the masses, especially women, that we are worth little or nothing. Communism arms us with the understanding that we are the creators of value and the makers of history. But many, many women have maintained dignity – and courage and fighting spirit! – in spite of all the sexist attacks.

Second, some demand "reparations" from those who have exploited, robbed and profited hugely from our labor. For example, some in the US demand "reparations" for slavery. This is not a communist outlook. We do not make demands on the capitalist ruling class. We fight to overthrow it.

When the article says that "we" will make "a form of reparations" for what "they" (women) have suffered, the "we" sounds like "we men." It implies that male workers (not capitalism) are mainly responsible for the humiliation, violence and disrespect inflicted on female workers. It also implies that "we" in ICWP are men when

May Day Greetings Circle the Globe

We also received May Day greetings from Turkey, Croatia, Lebanon, Nigeria and Brazil. A comrade in Turkey said he distributed the global leaflet on the refugees under fascist conditions prevailing in Turkey. He also reported that there is virtually a civil war in Turkey and the masses are looking for an alternative to the fight among the bosses. The workers and students are ready for revolutionary

the article itself talks about the important roles of women comrades in ICWP.

A better sentence might have read: "In ICWP we are conscious of the need to fight against all forms of sexist attacks on women in order to build the unity we need to win and build communism."

And that's what we must do!

—Comrade in Los Angeles, USA

Revolutionary Greetings from Afghanistan

May Day greetings from Afghanistan comrades and thanks for keeping in constant communication with me here. I want to assure you that I am trying to form units of comrades who will form part of our movement and I am doing all I can afford to translate the literature in Dari, the language commonly spoken in Afghanistan. I will write articles about the situation here. I really appreciate your struggle for the international working class and will remain in contact with you.

--Comrade in Afghanistan

The End of Apartheid Only Changed the Skin Color of the Capitalist Oppressor

On this day (27th April, 1984) all South Africans came out in numbers to vote for a free and fair South Africa. Little did they know what

change. He also said that a worker was run over and killed by the police at a May Day demonstration.

Our party is growing internationally and the masses are looking at the only alternative that will end wage slavery once and for all. ICWP is determined to mobilize the masses for communism. Join us now.

was in store for them. Pain, suffering, abuse and starvation. The ruling African National Congress (ANC) took everything for themselves and their capitalist backers and left the vast working class that brought them to power to fend for ourselves.

Every time we go to mobilize the masses for communism all the comrades that we meet have a lot to complain about.

"The ANC has brought us nothing but pain and more suffering," said a comrade from Despatch near industrial town Uitenage. I am really happy about the work we are doing when I heard an elderly comrade say, "Thank you ICWP for coming here. Now we have hope for the future."

Even a student from a local college got very interested in the communist ideas and the future without the bosses, borders and money. He asked for more *Red Flags* to give to his friends and family.

In conclusion, this so-called Freedom Day should be seen as the day when white on black racism of open apartheid ended only to start black on black racism. The end of apartheid has put a small number of blacks in positions of power and some have become millionaires. Only communism will end this racism. The masses are with us everywhere we go. They want to hear about the communist future.

--Comrades in South Africa



May Day, Los Angeles, USA

South African Masses Respond to Communism

ICWP TAKES BIG STEPS FORWARD

SOUTH AFRICA, April 27—Communist ideas of ICWP are spreading like wildfire here. Masses are joining our party. This report describes one of the many meetings we organized this week.

An enthusiastic family of *Red Flag* readers invited us to their house for a meeting. They invited their friends to talk about communism. In this township in the last year angry masses have confronted cops and government officials with violence and mass protest against horrific living conditions.

We arrived early to a huge room, with three large sofas and a stack of plastic chairs. As the meeting time approached, the sofas were filling with comrades. Then more workers took every chair from the stack. Newcomers started squeezing in. We had to use empty pails of paint as chairs. This was not enough: some of us had to stand.

Young and old, men and women, employed and unemployed introduced themselves. A woman in her 60's described bloody battles she had fought during apartheid. She had joined the South African Communist Party (SACP). Now she is disgusted with its class collaboration. She said she was looking for us.

Another comrade became very emotional when he saw a young ICWP member tirelessly organizing in her neighborhood and among comrades everywhere in the city. He said that young ICWP members give him hope. He himself had been in the movement for decades as an SACP

member but got disillusioned with their reformist line. He was so encouraged by our party and comrades that he wants to invite all his neighbors to join ICWP.

Our meeting was serious. Comrades expressed in very eloquent Xhosa language their class anger, hatred of the bosses, total disgust for the reformist policies of all the political parties, their corruption and false promises.

The focus of the meeting was how communism will work. Communism is a society that will fulfill the needs of the working class. However, as we fight the bosses, and the bosses fight among each other, it will create tremendous destruction. ICWP will organize the masses to take power. We will face enormous shortages of everything from food to housing and healthcare. During this revolutionary transition to communism we will have to fight the old capitalist ideology of selfishness with the communist principle of sharing.

The comrades are prepared for it. They took stacks of *Red Flags*. Everyone pledged to come to the Communist School to get a deeper understanding of our movement and how to build the new society. Each and every one in the room who was not already a member of ICWP joined.

Comrades are prepared for difficulties that lie ahead. They are determined to build the party. Even after a long and exhausting day of mobilizing, they went on to another area to continue building the base for the party.

Overwhelming success and the passionate re-

sponse we are getting from the masses have created good problems. In one week we have distributed over 2000 leaflets for May Day, and 1500 *Red Flags* and *End Racism* pamphlets. This is more than we expected. We will need more money to advance and spread our political work among the masses. We will have to print more *Red Flags* and transport many more workers to May Day and the Communist School after that. We urge party members, friends and supporters all around the world to contribute financially to our party so we can build our future without the bosses, or their parasitic system of wage slavery based on racism, sexism and nationalism.

Communist Fund Raising

How do we raise money to fund our paper, transportation, literature, international projects? We get donations, members give monthly stipends, and periodic fundraisers. But to meet the need of our growth we must be more collective and creative about fundraising. Surely there are party members or friends who have a talent or interest in this aspect of party build

If you like what you are reading in *Red Flag* and want to learn more about communist society, I would invite you to contact *Red Flag* about forming a fundraising committee. We have many projects that need funding and we need a collective approach to do it!

--Enthusiastic comrade

COMMUNISM WILL END SEXISM: A CALL FOR STUDY AND ACTION

Communism will create the material basis for ending sexism. We all need to understand this more clearly and in more depth. We also need to understand the sharp political struggle required, now and after communist revolution, to actually end it.

The El Salvador May Day article in the previous issue (v. 7 #6) describes some of the ways that communist society will differ from capitalism. That includes the same opportunities for women and men, collectivity in child-rearing and household chores, mutual respect instead of violence, an end to sexist prejudices.

But many have fought for these anti-sexist ideas and practices in the past. Many still do. Many have struggled to change their own

lives and attitudes. We need that! But that alone is not a winning strategy. Why couldn't socialism end sexism? How do we know that communism can?

An earlier *Red Flag* article (v. 7 #2) began to answer this last question.

Communism will end the private ownership of the means of production: land, factories, mines, forests and all the rest. This will destroy the material basis for the capitalist attitude that we are all things to be used for someone else's benefit. In particular, it will allow us to win the political struggle against the outlook that women are men's property and the abuses justified by this divisive idea.

Production for need will replace the wage and profit system. This will destroy the material basis for the separation and devaluation of "women's work." It will enable us to win the struggle to organize collective labor in all spheres, including responsibility for children. This will end the isolated drudgery of housework.

As the May Day article said, communism needs to unite the masses, in contrast to capitalism's need to divide us.

Each one of these points needs a whole article! And there is much more.

How can the communist philosophy of dialectical materialism help us counter capitalism's idealism and mechanical materialism that teach us to think of "male" and "female" as essentially and wholly opposite?

How can 21st century communism go beyond the gender division of labor that existed even in pre-class societies?

What are the similarities and the differences we confront in our communist fight against sexism in the many places our Party is organizing? What do we learn from this about building international communism?

Readers and Party collectives should discuss these and other questions. Then send in contributions for a series. The *Red Flag* editorial collective should make sure that the series develops our line as well as possible. It should guarantee that disagreements are aired in these pages.

The series should also answer questions some have asked about why we say that working-class women are often the best-prepared to become communist leaders. It should provide guidance to the work of developing many more new comrades, especially women, in leadership roles.

Wherever possible, articles should inspire us with stories of communist-led anti-sexist struggles in the past. They should also show how these were limited by mistaken strategies like feminism, nationalism and socialism. Most of all, they should show how we can win.

The bosses' press said that the first day of the wildcat strike of Bangalore (India) garment workers, April, 2016 was peaceful, because "only women were involved." These pictures expose this sexist lie.

