



# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**

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



## **Deadly Philippine Factory Fire: MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM: OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT**

Seventy-two of our brothers and sisters died horribly on May 13 as fire raged through a Kentex shoe factory in an industrial district on the outskirts of Manila. Many burned to death, trapped by steel bars and mesh on second-floor windows. Others were suffocated by fumes from burning rubber and chemicals. The factory's main gate was padlocked.

Government officials rushed to notice – too late! – the many violations of safety rules at the Kentex factory. Labor groups blamed these officials, too: they failed to inspect the many sweatshops like this one or enforce existing laws. A government report last September actually found Kentex to be “in compliance” with safety requirements!

There are plenty of guilty parties to this crime. Some will probably be charged. But the guiltiest of all is capitalism itself.

**Seventy-two workers were murdered by capitalism's inner drive to maximize profits.**

The barred windows were meant

to keep workers from “stealing” off-brand flip-flops that were the products of their own labor. We say that every penny of Kentex's profits was stolen from the workers!

And how many more did Kentex murder with its poisonous chemical atmosphere? With its starvation piece-work wages ranging from 300 – 500 pesos (U.S.\$6.70-\$11.25) for a 12-hour shift?

Capitalist competition drives bosses to maximize profits by minimizing costs – especially labor costs! – and by selling as much stuff as possible.

Communism is the opposite. We will maximize the well-being of the masses by minimizing the burdens. We will produce for need, not for the market.

In communist society we will produce high-quality goods for everyone under the safest possible conditions. If something can't be produced safely, we won't produce it at all.

In communist society, we will work to serve each other, not for

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## **American Apparel Factory NO MASTERS, NO SLAVES**

LOS ANGELES, CA. May, 2015. “I don't have any reason to defend him. Whatever I have, I have gotten it by working hard; they haven't given it to me for free,” said a garment worker and *Red Flag* reader from American Apparel. She was referring to the current campaign to reinstall the former owner Dov Charney as executive director of the factory.

The workers are unhappy with the current bosses of American Apparel. Charney and Hermandad Mexicana—an organization that supposedly fights for immigrants—are taking advantage of this discontent, trying to return Charney to his old throne.

These community “leaders,” hired by Charney, want to impose our former master on us. We don't need masters. We need to unite and fight for a communist society without masters or exploitation. In a communist society the garment workers will produce to clothe the international working class, not to make anyone rich. Likewise, other

workers will produce to feed, house, and provide medical care to the whole society. There will not be exploitation, speed-up or money.

**Victory of Charney: Based on Exploitation and Deceit**

Charney became famous—hailed by the bosses' press—for producing in the US and for paying a little more than the minimum wage, providing massages to the workers and supporting the campaign to “Legalize L.A.” on behalf of undocumented workers.

Because of this he could sell the products for high prices. However, his production circles, based on incredible competition and inhuman speedup, produced desperation, tears, and illness among the workers.

Charney used the massages when a worker showed signs of fatigue. This was his whip: he mobilized the masseurs to guarantee that the worker didn't stop producing. The machine had to keep roaring.

His campaign for legalization was to create an image that he cared

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## MIGRANTS CAN BE MASS LEADERS FOR COMMUNISM

The trials of the African migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea remind me of the stories of WW2 I grew up hearing. Both my French parents were refugees when they were young. In 1942, my father had to flee his hometown, Lorient, a harbour in the west coast of France where the Germans built a massive U-Boat base. Unable to destroy the base itself, Churchill decided to burn and bomb the whole town to the ground.

Later, in July 1944, the Allies bombed my little hometown. All its inhabitants, including my mother and her family, had to leave immediately with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Allied planes circled above them while the Nazis pointed their guns at their backs.

Seventy years ago Europe was awash with refugees from all sides fleeing war and all its destructions and horrors. And yet now, African and Middle Eastern immigrants are suffering the same fate at the hands of their own and the EU and US bosses. Too many European workers, influenced by racism, join with their bosses in rejecting the refugees.

This is not just a European policy, but one carried out by capitalist governments in East Asia as well. That's the situation of the Rohingya refugees from Myanmar who are currently being shuttled from Thailand to Malaysia and increasingly set adrift to die at sea.

**The horrors of capitalism know no end, take all forms, and nobody is protected from them. Under communism none of this could ever happen.**

First there will be no countries, no borders, no "foreigners," and no "immigrants."

No group will invade, bomb or pilfer the resources of another because there will be no reason for it. In communist society, profit won't exist. We'll use and share the resources needed for the wellbeing of all humanity, not for the obscene profit of some capitalists.

People will live in communities where we collectively take care of everyone's needs. Therefore there will be no economic reason why someone would want to flee to another place. We will, however, do a lot more traveling to promote communist internationalism.

Until capitalism is eradicated from the entire world, the military defense of a communist society will be necessary. Apart from that, the only purpose of a communist society will be to take care of the needs of its members. Therefore, nobody will be considered useless or a burden, and society will collectively do whatever is necessary to take care of everyone.



We will fight incessantly to eradicate the scourge of racism. Therefore, everyone will be acknowledged as able to contribute and worthy of care. No groups of people (like the Europeans now) will be considered superior or privileged to grant charity to another group.

If communism exists only in some parts of the world and there are still refugees from capitalist countries, we will welcome them. The masses will mobilize to provide necessities. Our navy and party will mobilize masses to rescue them and take them to a safe place. Unlike the European Community, we won't send them back or confine them in camps.

We will see them as part of our working-class community. Everyone will contribute according to their commitment and capabilities to meet the needs of all.

Primary among those needs is to spread communism worldwide. The potential of these African, Asian, and Middle Eastern immigrants to build communism is endless.

First, newcomers will experience communism first hand, and many will join our party. These new recruits can, in turn, lead thousands – be it in the area they were raised or the area to which they were forced to flee.

Whether new recruits or experienced communists, immigrants' international experience will be an invaluable revolutionary asset – as it is today.

Twenty years ago a French Minister, talking about refugees, said, infamously, "France could not take care of the misery of the world." Like profits and war, this is the way capitalists see the world. Rid of the notion of profit, communists see the world another way. We will not take care of the misery of the world; we'll make sure it no longer exists. Help us build this new world. Join and contribute to IWCP!



### Boeing Workers Debate Immigrants' Revolutionary Potential

In the week before May Day, the discussion about the "immigrant crisis" in the Mediterranean was hot and heavy. "These immigrants are not fleeing for a raise," insisted a Boeing worker, who has relatives that made that journey. "They are fleeing from a gun.

"If they are going to kill you anyway, why not risk it?"

A worker born in Europe was incensed. The hypocrisy of EU leaders knows no bounds.

"The capitalist regimes destabilize whole continents and push all sorts of racist garbage about those fleeing the ensuing chaos," he spat out. "They call the Mediterranean 'the moat.' As in a moat to keep the 'African hordes' out of Europe!"

A comrade born in the U.S. presented a different "take" on the situation. After describing in detail how a communist society would mobilize to make sure nobody drowned and each got what they needed, he emphasized the revolutionary potential of these immigrant workers (see article).

There are no foreigners to a communist. There is no "my country," only the international working class.

Everything stopped while they considered a communist alternative. Most who were in the discussions thought a communist outlook was good, but faced with the horror that is capitalism they wondered if it was possible.

We must have made some progress because everyone took more *Red Flags* and some came to our May Day dinner (see last issue).

These big industrial concerns include workers from around the globe. When workers like these join the ICWP, the improbable becomes inevitable.



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## From Soweto to Baltimore:

### REVOLUTIONARY POTENTIAL OF BLACK YOUTH AND WORKERS

SOUTH AFRICA--The comrades of ICWP here in South Africa met to discuss the uprising in Baltimore. Indeed, it shows a revolutionary potential of black youth and workers to mobilize masses for communism.

It also reminded us of Soweto students' uprisings on June 16, 1976 in South Africa. Those uprisings started in Soweto but spread throughout the country like wild fires. We have also seen quite a number of similar uprisings in the Middle East and East Africa toppling formidable regimes, tyrants.

What we have also seen is the hijacking of these uprisings by opportunists who used them

for their dead-end reformist interests. The opportunists were able to put themselves on top of these rebellions and pushed for their own selfish agendas which resulted in the abortion or derailment of these struggles by the masses.

We noted that the article raises sharply what must be done and does not harp endlessly on the mistakes committed. This distinguishes our party, ICWP, as the revolutionary party amongst the rest of the reformist parties. We agreed with the assertion that violence is a class question. It has different meanings for the capitalist class and for the working class. We are indebted to the *Red Flag*

for the tutorials. It has simplified what was made to look daunting and complex into most basic and ordinary.

Dialectical materialism is the science of the working class which teaches us that the contradictions between the working class and the capitalist class must be resolved violently by communist revolution. Learning from and inspired by the Baltimore rebellions, the comrades have made plans to distribute the *Red Flag* and our literature to autoworkers around here. One of the comrades in an industrial work force is also recruiting inside the factory.



Comrades in South Africa organizing for May Day



## Kentex from page 1

wages. There won't be money or profits or accumulated wealth in the hands of a few.

Over one hundred Kentex workers had to get their jobs through a middleman who took a cut of their miserable pay. In communist society, nobody will have trouble finding useful work. Everyone will have the chance to learn and do many kinds of work. Nobody will suffer if there are times when they can't work.

### Seventy-two workers were murdered by capitalism's obsession with private property.

The fire started when a welder was told to work on a steel door even though highly flammable chemicals were stored right next to it. "Why was welding work allowed near all those chemicals?" asked Interior Secretary Manuel Roxas.

We ask, "Why do factories need steel doors at all?"

Under capitalism, doors and locks exist to protect the bosses' private property. So do laws, courts, and cops. They protect this property from the masses who labored to create it!

In communist society the masses will collectively own and operate factories, farms, and all other means of production. We will produce what we need and share it freely. No more private property! No more steel bars! No more steel doors! No more padlocks!

### How many more of us must

### capitalism kill before we rise and destroy it with communist revolution?

Labor and political groups, including the militant socialist Partido Manggagawa (PM) have organized protests against the "partial privatization of labor inspection." They demand compensation for families of the dead, criminal charges for the owners of Kentex and its illegal subcontractor CJC, and enforcement of safety laws. They call on workers and the families of the victims to "organize themselves" to "demand justice."

Said a PM spokesman: "Unfortunately it took the death of dozens of workers to make it as clear as daylight: Contractualization kills! Labor rights violations kill too!"

We say: **CAPITALISM KILLS!** PM and its allies are trying to lead workers into the dangerous trap of reformism. Reform struggles, however militant, don't build the revolutionary movement we need to realize PM's stated hope for "a society that is free from the chains of wage slavery."

We can only destroy the deadly chains of wage slavery by mobilizing the masses for the communist world we need. Read and distribute *Red Flag* in the Philippines--and everywhere! Help translate this and other articles into Tagalog and other languages! Join and build the International Communist Workers' Party!

## American Apparel from page 1

about his workers seeking in exchange their gratitude so they would be loyal slaves, producing the maximum for him.

### Charney wants to return as our master pretending to be our savior

"We know that you have many problems like layoffs, lack of health insurance, and fewer hours of work. But our goal is that Charney return to his post. Then he will resolve all these problems," Nativo Lopez, leader of Hermandad Mexicana, told workers in a meeting.

But the company that Charney founded in 1989 with twenty workers, that grew to have more than 10,000 workers, experienced serious economic problems. The company sustained losses of \$340 million in the last 5 years and had a debt of \$200 million. It was bought by General Standard in 2014.

Hermandad Mexicana is organizing meetings with many workers to get them to support Charney. According to Hermandad more than 2,000 have signed cards and formed a Workers' Committee. This will meet with the current management and partners of American Apparel to demand Charney's reinstatement.

We should go to the meetings to be with these workers and to expose the game of these agents of exploitation and mobilize the workers around a communist vision of a world without wages.

### There Are No Good Capitalist Masters

Our problems are caused by capitalism which is experiencing a global crisis of overproduction. This crisis is forcing many people to not buy or to

buy less. The dog-eat-dog competition forces many manufacturers to produce more than they can sell. To avoid bankruptcy, they cut wages, benefits, work hours and jobs.

The laws of capitalism dictate that we are always sacrificed for the profits and fortunes of the bosses. No boss wants to or can change this. Only we can do that through a communist revolution.

Under capitalism the bosses make us believe that we depend on them, that thanks to them we can survive. But this is a big lie. It is the opposite: they become millionaires thanks to the work of the workers.

### Our labor power is the most powerful engine in the world

The bosses can put fabric and a wad of bills on a machine. The executives can dance around it all night and nothing will happen. However when the worker sits and makes the machine roar, he or she creates added value that the bosses, when they sell the garment, convert into their profits.

They are millionaires; we are poor. "I'm very angry, I'm making \$9 an hour and I pay \$1000 in rent. Charney lives in the mansion that Charlie Chaplin owned. He is fighting for his own interests," said another *Red Flag* reader.

A new communist world will be very different—we will not be exploited or be wage slaves. Let's make our communist vision a reality. We invite the hundreds of readers of *Red Flag* at American Apparel and in the whole garment industry to join us in study groups, to distribute *Red Flag* and fight for communist revolution.



## Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority

### TALKING ABOUT COMMUNISM

“Why do you concentrate on LA MTA to distribute your paper?” asked an LA MTA bus operator to a comrade distributing *Red Flag*.

“Because, you are part of the industrial working class. Industrial workers and soldiers are key to revolution. Industrial workers produce and transport everything in society. If they stop working, nothing moves. That’s why we also concentrate on Boeing workers, garment workers in Los Angeles, and industrial workers in South Africa and El Salvador. Also, industrial workers in motion could influence other sectors like the soldiers, intellectuals, and students,” answered our comrade.

**Worker:** I see. Things are really getting bad here. We make close to \$30 an hour and I can barely survive.

**Red Flag:** Things will get even worse; especially as the US bosses prepare to fight China and Russia.

**W:** But, nobody likes the US. They have no al-

lies.

**RF:** Well, the Japanese Prime Minister Abe’s recent trip to Washington was to strengthen the Japan-US military alliance.

**W:** I don’t think it will happen after what the US did to them during WWII. They dropped two atomic bombs on them.

**RF:** It seems that the Japanese rulers are divided. The sector Abe represent supports the US.

**W:** Could be, but France is a question mark and Germany will ally with Russia. Of the great powers, England might be the only one allying with the US.

**RF:** England is not much of a power anymore. This isolation makes the US even more dangerous. They will resort to nuclear weapons. But, things will be very different from WWI and WWII when not even a shot was fired on the continental US. Today, Russian and Chinese missiles can easily reach all major US population centers.

**W:** In a situation like that, I think people here will go crazy. They will start killing each other.

**RF:** That is why we distribute *Red Flag* to give workers a revolutionary outlook. We would mobilize workers here to make a communist revolution, to take away those weapons of mass destruction from the bosses and appeal to workers in Russia and China, and all countries, to do the same.

**W:** I don’t think that will happen.

**RF:** Well, the Russian and Chinese workers made revolutions under similar circumstances, during WWI and WWII, respectively.

They can do it again. They also don’t want to be incinerated for the profits and empires of their imperialist masters.

**W:** The Chinese are not very trustworthy. See what they did to the Dalai Lama. They stabbed him in the back. They forced him to leave his country.

**RF:** The Chinese working class is not to blame. The Chinese government is a capitalist one just like in the rest of the world. They are our enemies, but the Chinese and Russian workers are our class brothers and sisters.

**W:** As you know, the Dalai Lama is a very devoted Buddhist. He fights for world peace. He regularly addresses the United Nations calling for peace in the world.

**RF:** He is not doing humanity any favors. There could never be peace as long as capitalism exists. The capitalists wage war against workers 24x7. Every year millions die of starvation and treatable deceases – millions are homeless, unemployed, billions are forced to live on less than \$2 a day. This unending list of horrors can only be ended by destroying capitalism and building a communist society based on production for human need, not for profits.

**W:** It’s been nice talking to you, but I have to go. Thanks for the newspaper. Have a nice day.

**RF:** Thanks. Have a nice day too.

Before departing, we introduced ourselves. On driving out, the operator rolled down his car window and asked, “Can you give me three more newspapers? I’ll share them with my friends and neighbors.”

Slowly but surely, workers – especially industrial workers – and soldiers are beginning to contemplate communism as a viable alternative to inhumane capitalism-imperialism.



### Attack Against MTA Mechanic Shows:

## OUR NEED TO END WAGE SLAVERY

Capitalism is like a shark: it smells workers’ blood and goes in for the kill. That’s precisely what’s happening at LA MTA Division 5. Management is taking advantage of mistakes made by a mechanic with 23 years seniority to try to fire him.

**Red Flag** has written about this mechanic before. He is meticulous in his inspections. Therefore, many of the buses he inspects end up spending more time in the shop for repairs. MTA doesn’t like this. They want the buses on the streets making money. They could care less about the drivers’ and the public’s safety.

However, recently this mechanic made a couple of SMALL mistakes that management claims are SERIOUS. As punishment, management suspended him for one week without pay. This will speed up his termination process.

#### This worker is very controversial

He has a lot of problems in his private life, which impact his performance at work and his relationship with his coworkers. His individualism, indiscipline and stubbornness have exhausted his coworkers’ patience.

Some don’t think we should publicize his case. We disagree. He is not being targeted by management for his private life or for how he relates to his coworkers. He is being targeted for sending too many buses to repair.

#### Serious mistakes?

“That is nothing serious. I and other mechanics have made similar mistakes and nothing happened to us because we were not being targeted by management,” commented a mechanic from another division on hearing about the case.

On one occasion, the mechanic changed the motor oil of a bus and put on a defective filter. He forgot to start the motor to double-check his work. When the next shift started the bus, all the oil spilled out.

On a second occasion, after draining the old oil from the motor, he forgot to refill it. The next shift discovered that it had no oil.

Both mistakes were easily fixed. Was anyone injured or killed? NO! Were the buses damaged? NO! What’s more, this couldn’t have happened because a special mechanism shuts off their motors for protection, when they have no oil.

#### **Red Flag’s issue is with capitalism and its threat: Obey us or be fired!**

This shows the inhumane nature of the dictatorship of capital. NO job means NO money, NO money means NO life or a Bad life. Its main purpose is to keep us from rebelling and organizing against them – especially from organizing for a communist revolution.

This dreadful threat hangs daily over the heads of billions of workers worldwide. It stresses and drives many to an early grave – including many MTA workers, like the operator from Division 1 who died from a heart attack a few weeks ago.

Our task as communists is to build the revolutionary communist consciousness of our class to see and act upon the need to destroy capitalism. The attack against this mechanic, whether we like him or not, is an attack against our class.

We are at their mercy because we own nothing but our labor power which we must sell to them in order to survive. This enslaves us to them.

This was no historical accident. When the cap-

italists overthrew the feudal kings and nobles, who ruled before them, they purposely created our class: a property-less class that they could enslave and exploit.

#### **We need to and can organize to smash their wage slavery**

Why should they have the power to enslave and exploit billions of us? We produce everything of value in society. They produce nothing. Just as the slaves of antiquity did not need their slave masters, we wage slaves of today do not need our modern masters.

ICWP and *Red Flag* organize internationally to destroy capitalism and its wage slavery. In its place we will build communism, a system without money to chain us to anyone. Our labor power and its products will no longer be sold but shared collectively according to need.

#### **How would communism deal with problems like the mechanic’s?**

We would call a meeting to discuss how to prevent mistakes - not to be more efficient - but to guarantee the safety of us, the drivers and the public. Instead of just one mechanic, we would have a team of mechanics thoroughly inspecting and repairing each bus, no matter how long it took.

We would also discuss collectively the emotional issues workers might have, distracting them from properly doing their job, and affecting their relationships with others. Collectively, we would work to solve them. However, no one will ever face homelessness, starvation, lack of clothing or medical attention because of honest mistakes.



## **Commuter Train Wreck:**

### **CAPITALISM WAS THE KILLER**

May 12—A commuter train going from Washington to New York derailed and crashed in Philadelphia killing 8 people and injuring 200 more. Before any facts came out, the bosses' media immediately started blaming the conductor.

The facts show that capitalism was the murderer. Not installing proper safety equipment and putting workers under constant excessive pressure is a recipe for disaster. Tragic accidents become inevitable. Communism will guarantee safe mass transit and will make workers' health and safety the most important thing.

Tuesday afternoon, before the accident, the driver, Brandon Bostian, drove an express train from New York to Washington. The electronic signals malfunctioned and he had to carry out a long series of safety procedures including slowing the train. He pulled it safely into Washington, but was 30 minutes behind schedule.

This meant he had no time to rest. He only had time to fill out paperwork and check equipment before having to start the next run.

The portion of the track where the crash occurred, one of the most heavily used lines in the US, did not have "positive train control" which controls the speed of the train. The technology exists and was installed on this line but had not been made operational because of "the cost." As usual, under capitalism money trumps human lives.

Capitalism, however, always has money to slaughter workers. While the politicians fight about how much to fund the rail system, the US imperialists have no such problems when it

comes to funding and carrying out lethal drone attacks. In the last five years, Obama's favorite weapon, drones, have killed over 2400 people, mostly civilians, including hundreds of children from Pakistan to Yemen to Somalia.

#### **Capitalist infrastructure: always for profits and war**

The main purpose of infrastructure under capitalism is to move materiel and workers for production and to take their products to market as cheaply as possible. In times of war, it has the added importance of mobilizing the whole society for the war effort.

As US imperialism declines, the infrastructure of rail, roads and bridges is in a state of decay. In this crisis, the health and safety of workers and passengers are not important for the bosses, and never will be – saving their system is.

#### **Communist infrastructure: For workers' needs, not for profits**

In a communist society without money or profits – with nothing being bought or sold – masses of workers will mobilize to build safe transit, roads, bridges, cities, places to grow food, and everything else workers need. There won't be one driver for a train, but teams of workers sharing the responsibility to drive, repair and develop safe trains.

Guaranteeing the safety of passengers and workers will become a mass question. Workers will mobilize to guarantee everyone's wellbeing. Those who live near train tracks will keep them safe and secure. Workers will figure out collectively the technology to guarantee the safest trains, buses and planes. Every worker will be en-

couraged to contribute his or her knowledge, ideas, and labor.

#### **Competition and war drive imperialists' infrastructure modernization**

Today, the declining US bosses are preparing for war against their rising rival imperialists, the Chinese and Russians. The US bosses spend about 2.5 percent of GDP on infrastructure. Canada spends about 3.9%, Europe about 5% and China between 9 and 12%.

The rising imperialists spend a little more on infrastructure to better compete with rival capitalist-imperialists, and like China, to move soldiers and military equipment more rapidly. But they also constantly sacrifice workers' safety for their own profits and imperialist ambitions. That's the nature of capitalism.

Pressured by other imperialists' advances – especially China's – the US bosses desperately need a more updated infrastructure to be more economically competitive and to make the country ready for war. Whatever money they spend will come from cutting back services US workers need to survive. The funds will come either from more taxes and cuts in social services or by privatization and increasing fees. Either way, the workers will pay.

Only communism will guarantee that the health and safety of the working class are society's main concern. Capitalism cannot fix the mess that it has created. Only the working class organizing communist revolution and a communist world can do that. Help spread **Red Flag** and join us to mobilize for a communist world.

## **CAPITALISTS NEED RACIST MURDER & REFORMIST ILLUSIONS MASSES NEED COMMUNIST REVOLUTION**

LOS ANGELES, CA— Brendon Glenn, 29, a homeless black man. Shot and killed by Los Angeles cop Clifford Proctor (also black) on May 5 in Venice, California. Two officers responded to a 911 call claiming he had been arguing with a bouncer in front of a restaurant and pestering passersby. Police refuse to release a video of the murder.

Nephi Arriguin, 21, also black. Killed by a sheriff's deputy on May 7 in Cerritos, California.

Hector Morejon, 14, Latino. Murdered by a cop in a vacant residence. Dying in an ambulance, he cried out, "Mommy, Mommy, please come, please come." The cops refused to let her inside the ambulance.

"The police decide whose life they take," said an angry high school student.

"The cops are trained to see residents in the areas they patrol as enemy combatants. This is how the military refers to the enemy in combat zones," said a black worker from South Central Los Angeles. He added, "Every 24 hours a black worker dies at the hands of the police."

In Baltimore, the State Prosecutor, Marilyn Mosby, a black woman, charged six police officers involved in the murder last month of 25-year-old Freddie Gray. She said to Baltimore youth, "I will seek justice on your behalf. This is a moment. This is your moment. Let's insure that we have peaceful and productive rallies that will develop structural and systemic changes for generations to come. You are at the forefront of this cause. And as young people our time is now."

Here's the contradiction: On one hand the capitalist bosses absolutely need a police force that is trained to kill and intimidate the "enemy combatants." On the other hand, the same bosses absolutely need to convince the masses of workers

that the system works, that "justice" can be obtained.

As the crisis of capitalism intensifies, the capitalist owners squeeze the masses ever more so they can keep their profits up. So they must keep us (unemployed and employed workers and youth) in check and under control so we won't rebel against the system—or, even worse, organize to destroy it. This is why workers are treated as "enemy combatants." This is class war, the capitalist class against the working class.

But to try to divert us from our absolute necessity of communist revolution, the capitalist bosses need servants who tell us that the capitalist system of wage slavery is just fine. That the problem is just "a few rotten apples." They want us to be loyal to this capitalist system so that we will have no problem fighting for it against other world capitalists like the rulers of China, Russia or Iran.

We, workers, soldiers and students, must reject both the racist cops and the liberal reformists. All serve the capitalist bosses and their system of exploitation. We have to build the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) to mobilize the masses for communism.

In a communist world, there will be no exploitation and no

wage slavery, no more cops and no more racist murders. Everybody will contribute as they can and will receive what they need. These are communist principles that will guide the new society.

Our response to the continuing wave of racist police murders in Los Angeles will sharpen in this year's ICWP Summer Project. Students, workers and soldiers, new and more experienced members and friends alike, will take these ideas to the factories, barracks, neighborhoods and schools. We'll take them to the mass protests against racist police murders that will surely continue to erupt. Study groups and social events will be part of the plan, as will be learning to write and produce **Red Flag**.

If you want to participate, ask the person who gave you this paper or call (310) 487-7674.





## LETTERS

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## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS



### Los Angeles High School Students Talk About May Day

★ My experience marching was unforgettable; I am glad that I was in this year's march. I have been learning so much about communism and would actually like to learn more. I felt good marching for a cause that benefits the world. I also would like a world without racism, sexism, and borders but we need to fight and stand strong to make it possible. For these reasons I have decided to join the International Communist Workers' Party.

★ When I was informed of the march I was skeptical because I was unfamiliar with the event. Communism is something that in the past I thought was a bad thing because that's what I had been taught. But over time I have learned so much. I'm not going to say that I am a communist but I will say that I share some of its ideals and agree with them. But on the other hand I have my doubts. Overall I feel I should support communism because the small doubts I may have do not compare to the great change communism can bring to our world. During the march I saw many people who were fighting for something that they believe in and that inspired me.

★ When I was told about the May Day march I thought it was going to be boring. I thought to myself, "Let me give it a try." When I got to the march I saw that there were so many people. While I was marching, I found it pretty fun. I used to think communism was bad. But now with the experience I had, I think that we should support the working class and make a difference in the world. I think some ideas communism offers are great and others may not work out. I believe we should all get together and make a world without any borders.

★ I enjoyed going to the march and seeing all those people supporting the workers. It was pretty cool seeing young and old people having fun and doing what they feel is right. This march has helped me change my mind about communism and made me realize how it can be a good thing for the world. Although I think it's a good idea I feel that there are going to be some problems like what will happen when people don't want to work or contribute. Although I have these doubts I still think

that communism should happen and that more people should be involved and become aware of what communism really is and not what they have made us believe since we were little.

★ This May Day march was my first march for the working class. I went to support communism. It was great chanting the communist chants and representing was fun. I really enjoyed myself. I have decided to join the party. But at the same time I want to be on the down low, because I am joining the military. I will be with you all the way on your side fighting with you.

### May Day in El Salvador: A Day of Struggle

Today was a day when our outrage was energized by the warmth of the masses. That made us aware of the work that remains to be done, that now capitalism also feeds itself with the leftist electoral parties. In my opinion, they do great harm to class consciousness and the class struggle.

We met on our way to the march, organized, united, with the workers' convictions illuminating our steps. It was the largest printing of *Red Flag* that I had seen. To this, we added a considerable number of leaflets. Shirts, banners that identified our presence through those streets and squares, to which one day we shall return inflamed. ICWP had taken those streets and squares. We were all there, yeah, you too.

The workers' reception was better than ever, *Red Flag* and flyers were vanishing, just like the days of capitalism will be vanishing, if we continue at this pace toward communism. There were times that I didn't have to give out the paper, the workers surrounded me asking me for a copy. It wasn't even necessary to extend my arm, they took it as if they knew it was of them and for them, and yes, it is, it is for them and for us.

And I return to the beginning. It was a different May Day, passive, perhaps. The Leftist Party focused its forces on the administrative transfer of the municipal and legislative governments. They did not mobilize, they didn't make noise. They even dared to say that these acts in some municipalities, were more important and historic than May Day. They said that the marchers were called by right wing unions to wear down the leftist government, so they claim.

Their aim is to kill the hunger for revolution. They propose resignation. That the struggle of the workers be limited to electoral politics. Well, what can you expect when they say that "ideologies harm us," that these "are different times." I mention this so that we prepare to do battle in that field. They have the media to spread this toxic message.

But, after this day of observing the

development of our work, the progress of ICWP raising the *Red Flag*, I know it will be possible, without stopping, advancing with intractable steps toward communism, and that happens in order to destroy capitalism. To destroy fears, for us to join this struggle of all. Forever in struggle.

--Red Poet

### Labor is a Commodity

I almost all the time read in *Red Flag* a phrase that says that capitalism doesn't meet the needs of the workers. Of course not. When you buy a car you have to change the oil, fill up the gas tank, in order to use it—not to meet the needs of the car.

In the same way, when the capitalist buys labor power, he has to use that labor power for eight hours to extract as much surplus as possible. In the process, the capitalist will surrender a fraction of his surplus to the worker as a wage. Is he trying to meet the need of the worker? Not at all. He wants the worker to sustain his life and propagate the next generation of workers. He also wants the worker to come the next day and make more surplus value for him. Then the surplus value will be converted to capital and used to buy more labor to continue its exploitation.

This vicious cycle will keep the worker as worker and the capitalist as capitalist. This is the antagonistic relationship of labor and capital which can be resolved by communist revolution when the proletariat wrests power from the capitalists.

It is true that only communism meets the needs of the masses of workers, because we will socialize the means of production and produce whatever we want to meet our needs. We will change the mode of production and production relations. We will produce collectively and use collectively. Society will have the responsibility to the individual and the individual will have responsibility to the society. That is called communism.

--Internationalist Comrade



May Day, 2015, El Salvador



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## BUILDING ICWP AMONG INDUSTRIAL WORKERS IN TEXAS

"Long live May Day! Long live the workers!" said a group of my fellow workers the week before May Day.

In a factory where we make windows, I have developed friendships with my fellow workers based on constant political discussions, distribution of *Red Flag*, and struggle against the bosses' pressure to speed up production.

"May Day is our day and we should celebrate it," I told a group of three fellow workers. At least we can organize a luncheon where we talk about our brothers and sisters that fought for the eight hour day.

"Yes, we can each bring a dish," said one of the women.

The idea was to do it in the factory and invite all twenty plus workers on the line.

"It would be better to do it outside the factory," I said. "The bosses won't be happy with our celebration."

"There's nothing wrong with it. May Day is celebrated all over the world," said another woman. We decided, for our own job security, not to do it inside the factory this time.

Then I talked individually with four more workers, two of whom read *Red Flag* and with whom I have talked about communist ideas. One of them is from the Middle East and I talked to him about the May Day celebration and the idea of an activity outside the factory.

Our relationship is strong and serious since he started to read *Red Flag*. He always greets me with revolutionary gestures and calls me his brother.

The day of the activity, only two people came from the factory, but other friends from outside the factory joined us. We talked about May Day and we had delicious food. Afterwards, we made plans for some of the fellow workers to write to *Red Flag* and to get more involved with ICWP. This action gave me more confidence in the communist struggle. The potential to mobilize the masses for communism exists wherever there is one worker.

--Comrade in Texas



### Teacher fired after students write to Mumia Abu-Jamal

Dear *Red Flag*,

A New Jersey teacher has been fired after having her students write "get well" cards to a man convicted of killing a Philadelphia police officer in 1981. Marilyn Zuñiga, a third-grade teacher in Orange, New Jersey was first suspended and then fired after her students wrote letters to Mumia Abu Jamal. Mumia, a former Black Panther, is serving a life sentence for the 1981 murder of a Philadelphia cop and was in the hospital for complications of diabetes.

Also, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett signed a bill Tuesday designed to prevent people convicted of crimes from causing victims "mental anguish." The bill was written in response to Mumia's taped speech at the Goddard College commencement last October. He had attended the college and the graduating students decided they wanted Mumia to give the speech. He did, as cops demonstrated outside the commencement.

These are clear indications that the war against the Black Panther Party and its supporters continues.

While ICWP does not project the BPP as a vanguard group that would lead to communist revolution, the organization did develop strong ties with the Black masses, promote revolution, internationalism, and self defense. Many African-Americans in their 40's and 50's today developed their radical ideas and engaged in activism as a result of the work of the BPP.

Additionally, there are dozens of BPP members still incarcerated in US prisons and jails, and many living abroad openly or in secret. This is a direct result of the dirty-war against the BPP that was and is waged by the police agencies, secret police networks, and federal agencies.

The firing of Marylin Zuñiga is an abomina-

tion. This also indicates that, if the article is true, monitoring of Twitter accounts of supporters of Abu Jamal occurs (or the reporting of activity that appears on social media related to his case occurs from spies or from metadata collection).

The reason given in the press statement by the school district for the firing indicates that Zuñiga's allegedly having students in her Grade 3 class write letters wishing Mumia good health was not aligned to the curriculum of the class. Let's say that was true. Does this mean the teacher should be fired? No, it does not. The real reason for the firing is for the teacher's eliciting support for Mumia among the youth of her classroom and for putting the history of Black Liberation in their eyes and in their hands. For this, she is to be commended and held up as a role model for teachers anywhere and everywhere!

The teacher needs all the support she can gain to not only regain her position as an educator, but because she is now a marked woman, someone that the secret police, federal agencies, and law enforcement will watch, harass, and demonize in the coming months and years. This is a certainty! Perhaps it would be best for her to be recruited to join the ICWP as she is certainly a teacher with the insight to reach the youth with the ideas and the ideals of struggle!

Thank you.

--A *Red Flag* Reader

Thank you for your letter. While we condemn Zuñiga's firing, ICWP fights for the liberation of the whole working class through communist revolution. Nationalism and internationalism are opposites. The liberation of black workers and youth can only be achieved with the liberation of the whole working class by destroying capitalism and building communism.

MAY 19 – Thousands of Seattle teachers staged a one-day strike demanding more funding for schools and less standardized testing of students. After rallies outside several high schools, students, teachers and other school workers converged downtown. At one school, teacher friends gladly took copies of *Red Flag*.

Teachers' pay is set by the State Legislature and they haven't received a cost-of-living increase in 15 years. "It's like the police shootings," said a Seattle comrade. "Everyone knows it's wrong, everyone knows it's against the law, and they still get away with it. The question is what to do about it."

The answer is communist revolution to end this capitalist dictatorship. Schools in capitalist society, whether fully funded or not, prepare young people for a future of wage-slavery and imperialist war. Communist education, in contrast, prepares us to build a future of collective production for our collective needs. Read our pamphlet "Communist Education for Classless Society," available at [icwpredflag.org/EDU/EdPamE.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/EDU/EdPamE.pdf)

Black workers and youth can and should give key leadership to all workers to mobilize for communism. We invite any one who wants to fight for communism to join ICWP

--*Red Flag* Editorial Collectice

### I am reading the latest *Red Flag* now.

The articles on May Day are excellent, as it demonstrates you have workers internationally on the front lines. I thought the headline, "Beware of Imperialists Bearing Gifts," told the entire story well. I also liked the article on Baltimore and the comments throughout the paper.

--Red Reader



Distributing *Red Flag*, Mexico City, May Day 2015



## **Mediterranean: Militarized Response to Refugees Demands That SOLDIERS, SAILORS, WORKERS TURN THE COMING WORLD WAR INTO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION**

May 18—The European Union agreed in Brussels to use naval ships to intercept and ultimately destroy ships used to smuggle migrants from North Africa. This racist move, aimed at stopping immigrants from coming to Europe, shows the increasing trend of all capitalists-imperialists to deal with world events by military means.

Not surprisingly, the Secretary General of NATO said, “The alliance can offer assistance, if called on.”

It was the EU-US invasion of Libya, which toppled Gaddafi, that created the current chaos and refugee crisis in Libya. These same imperialists have unleashed horrifying destructive wars in the Middle East and Africa, forcing millions to flee. Libya is where thousands go, hoping to get to Europe.

These butchers’ plan to deal with the humanitarian crisis they created will be to create more misery, suffering and death for these immigrants and their families.

Capitalism-imperialism has no humanitarian solution for workers in distress. Their solution is as horrifying as their wars that created these disasters in the first place. This, however, is not the end of the story.

Fighting for maximum profits and world domination, these capitalists-imperialists are actually using the militarization of this crisis as an excuse to further their preparations for war. It will create a humanitarian crisis on a scale never seen before.

Far from the limelight of their media is the real reason: it is their military response to China’s and Russia’s assertiveness on the world stage. It is European imperialism’s move to counter the China-Russia maneuvers in the Mediterranean,

which they consider their own.

Seven days before the decision of the EU leaders was announced, Russia and China kicked off “Joint Sea 2015,” 10 days of joint naval war games in the strategic Mediterranean Sea, which connects Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

The US bosses’ *Los Angeles Times* saw it this way: “Neither Russia nor China has one inch of coastline on the Mediterranean Sea, making it an unlikely and provocative venue for their first joint naval war games. The point is lost on no one: A powerful new alliance of eastern giants is flexing its muscles in the very backyard of Western Europe — much as China has done on its own in the Pacific.”

The Chinese bosses’ *Global Times* wrote: “Military exchanges are the most sensitive aspects in any bilateral relations. The Mediterranean drills have shown that China and Russia trust each other in the military aspect that will also extend to other areas.”

The *LA Times* also quoted Gilbert Rozman, a contributor to the Council on Foreign Affairs, who said, “People who call this an axis of convenience ... are missing the bigger picture. This is a relationship about national identity and the big efforts in both countries to establish a different kind of international order.”

Thus these exercises are a direct challenge to EU and US imperialism. But China’s and Russia’s “efforts to establish a different kind of international order” mean challenging primarily US hegemony in the Mediterranean and in the world. It means displacing the US as the world’s dominant imperial power, a position held since 1945. It means World War III.

Some analysts believe the China-Russia axis

won’t be consolidated. But, facts are stubborn. For the first time ever, on Victory Day, the anniversary celebrating Russian victory in WWII, Chinese soldiers proudly marched in Red Square alongside the Russian military. Further proof of this emerging axis is that Russian soldiers will march for the first time in Beijing on September 3, to celebrate the end of WWII and China’s victory over Japan.

As the competing imperialists prepare to confront each other in a deadly WWIII, and as the workers of the world face attack after attack, we workers must prepare for revolution. This means distributing *Red Flag* to workers, soldiers, sailors and students around the world to mobilize for communism. It means building study groups and clubs of ICWP.

In addition, it means calling on sailors and soldiers to refuse to destroy the ships and boats carrying immigrants, but instead to ally with them. It means building ICWP among sailors on all the different ships carrying the flags of different imperialists. Workers of the world have the same interest: getting rid of deadly capitalism and building a collective communist world without bosses, borders or wars for profit.

Immigrants and native born, workers, sailors and soldiers of the world need to mobilize to turn the bosses’ WWIII into revolution for communism, to put an end to capitalism and its deadly competition and wars. Together we will build a world where all workers we’ll be welcome everywhere to collectively meet the needs of the international working class.

**MIGRANTS CAN BECOME  
COMMUNIST LEADERS, see page 2**

## **2015 Communist Summer Projects in Los Angeles, Oakland & Seattle**



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