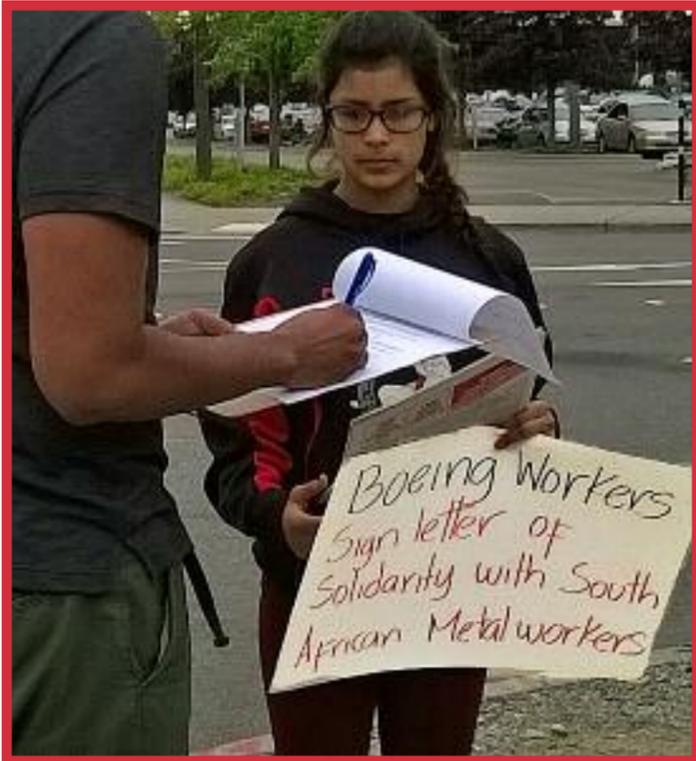




RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL PARTY:

Summer Project comrades building communist solidarity among Boeing workers in Seattle, USA, (left) for striking metalworkers in South Africa (right)

See pages 4, 7



From the Garment Factories to the Streets:

POLITICAL STRIKE AGAINST CAPITALISM AND FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD

LOS ANGELES—"We are going to have to walk, so what!"

"Why are they going to go on strike?"

"Of course we support the strike!"

These have been some of the comments of workers who are *Red Flag* readers in the garment industry about the possible strike of MTA drivers.

Thousands of men and women garment workers know about the possible strike. They know that this strike will stop transportation for tens of thousands of workers who are taken to centers of exploitation in the garment industry. Many will have to walk, or use bicycles. Others will get their co-workers, relatives, or friends who have a car to drive them to their workplaces. They have done this in previous strikes and will do it again.

It is more likely than before that garment workers will go into the streets with political strikes, with slogans against capitalism, its deportations, and wage slavery. Our base can make this leap in critical times, like these today.

An average of 1000 garment workers receive every edition of *Red Flag*. They are the basis for many to join study groups, helping to develop the class struggle in their work places and joining the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). If the strike takes place, these workers could take the lead in bringing many garment workers to the picket lines in support of the drivers and also see our potential to organize a communist revolution.

See **POLITICAL STRIKE** page 3

MARIKANA MINERS BUILD ICWP IN SOUTH AFRICA AND BEYOND

August 16 is the second anniversary of the infamous massacre of miners from the Marikana platinum mines in South Africa by troops of the ruling African National Congress. Today, comrades of these fallen are distributing *Red Flag* to all the mine shafts.

Communist internationalism cannot be contained. The bosses train us to think only of "our" industry in "our" nation, but workers' internationalism spreads like a subterranean fire. In South Africa, this is the case, literally!

Miners are sharing the copies. When one is finished, one passes the copy to the next comrade.

The comrade who got this started read the whole International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) industrial work pamphlet. He called it a "powerful document."

"Things are tough there," reports a comrade from another South African city. "The comrade says workers are very encouraged about the news on the *Red Flag* and are looking up to us. They feel rejuvenated and look forward to continued ties."

Comrades elsewhere also feel rejuvenated by the news we're receiving from South Africa. We are looking up to them, too!

As *Red Flag* goes to press, South African news media are reporting the end of a month-long strike of 220,000 metal-

workers and engineers that shut down auto production and halted construction of power plants. However, some employers are threatening to lock out strikers, so this struggle may well continue.

The union (Numsa) plans to organize a new electoral party for what it calls the "leaderless working class." But growing numbers of metalworkers and others are taking leadership into their own hands by joining and building the ICWP.

In Seattle, 60 workers and soldiers signed letters of communist solidarity to the South African strikers. We should have done more of this, in more places, sooner.

Our comrades in South Africa, emboldened by our Party's modest efforts to build communist internationalism a continent away, decided to write a Party leaflet for the strikers. They ran out of the first run. They printed more to distribute throughout adjoining working-class neighborhoods. They ran out again.

The growth of ICWP and *Red Flag* among these industrial workers in South Africa shows that when the most oppressed workers are offered communist ideas, they will take the lead in developing and spreading them to become a force more powerful than the weapons of all the oppressors.

Industrial workers like the Marikana miners are key to communist revolution.

GAZA MASSACRE SHOWS URGENT NEED FOR COMMUNISM PAGE 2

LA METRO WORKERS BETWEEN ROCK & HARD PLACE PAGE 3, 6

CENTRAL AMERICA: U.S. IMPERIALISM BEHIND REFUGEE CRISIS PAGE 5

UKRAINE & RUSSIA: THREAT OF WORLD WAR INTENSIFIES PAGE 6, 8

ANSWER ISRAELI FASCIST ONSLAUGHT IN GAZA WITH INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

July 30, 2014--The Israeli government's racist carnage in Gaza has murdered over 1200 Palestinians, including many women and children. Entire families have been wiped out. Thousands have been injured, many more have been left homeless.

The fascist Israeli government is pulling the trigger but the US bosses, "decrying" this senseless slaughter in their press, have their hands dripping with Palestinian blood. US money and weapons enable the genocidal Israeli war machine to carry out these atrocities.

All these genocidal wars raging from the Middle East to the Ukraine to Africa are direct results of capitalist-imperialist competition for raw materials, cheap labor and markets. This will lead inevitably to World War III to decide which imperialist will dominate the world and these resources.

Only communist revolution can put an end to this scourge. Communism will eliminate the capitalist-imperialists and their competition for maximum profits. With no money, nothing will be bought or sold. Production will be only to satisfy the needs of the international working class.

Millions long for such a world. The hundreds of thousands who are demonstrating against the Gaza massacre- from the West Bank to Tel Aviv and Egypt, from Paris to Morocco and the US -

can be

won to fight for communism. They are open to communist ideas. Many such marchers gladly took copies of *Red Flag* in Los Angeles.

The fighting spirit of the Palestinian masses is inspiring. These brave fighters and their supporters need to reject Hamas and its nationalist, fundamentalist, pro-capitalist ideology. They need to mobilize to fight for a communist world with no racism, nationalism, bosses or borders.

Racism in the Service of Capitalism- Imperialism

Israel was founded as a Jewish state to "protect" those who had suffered at the hands of the Nazis. But to create it, Palestinians were massively slaughtered and driven from their homes. From its very inception Israel was a racist, capitalist state.

Anti-Palestinian and anti-Jewish racism serve the Israel and Arab rulers well. They trick both groups of workers into supporting their oppressors in their dog fight over territories, resources and regional domination instead of organizing a communist revolution to destroy them all.

This enabled US imperialism to use Israel to viciously police the region, protecting US bosses' oil interests there, without fear of a revolutionary movement. Now, however, as US imperialism extricates itself from the region and pivots to Asia-Pacific, Israel is becoming a liability that some US rulers want to dump.

This could create a dangerous situation because Israel as a loose cannon could attack Syria or Iran and, depending on these regimes' response, plunge the world into WWII. The logic of capitalism-imperialism is to create more chaos, destruction and death.

Answer fascism with communist revolution

Workers can either be won to communism or lost to fascism. The Israeli bosses have won many Israeli workers to fascism. Since 2001, when air strikes were first launched against Gaza, some Israelis have sat watching and cheering the slaughter of Palestinians.

Even those who for centuries have been victims of the most vicious racism can be won to fascism. As US bosses prepare for wider wars and WWII, they will also intensify their efforts to win US workers to patriotism, racism and fascism. Not too long ago, lynchings in the US south were public spectacles where white racists came to watch and celebrate the murders of black workers and youth.

There is a rising international tide of racism-fascism from the Middle East to Ukraine to Europe to the US to Russia. It can only be confronted with a massive revolutionary communist movement that spreads *Red Flag* to combat the bosses' dangerous ideologies.

In danger, however, there is opportunity. Over 5000 Israelis demonstrated last Saturday in Tel

Aviv against the bombardment of Gaza, as did Arabs in the West Bank and throughout the Middle East. Many Israeli Reservists refused to serve in the Gaza war. Others refused to serve in the Palestinian territories of the West Bank.

These young soldiers, like soldiers everywhere, can be won to turn their hatred of capitalism's racist oppression into dedication to fight for communism. Opportunity demands urgency - urgency to distribute massively and join and build ICWP worldwide to mobilize masses of workers, soldiers and students to destroy capitalism-imperialism once and for all.



Read our new pamphlet:

**BIGGER INDUSTRIAL WORKING CLASS:
BIGGER
COMMUNIST
POTENTIAL
WORLDWIDE**

Available at:

www.icwpredflag.org



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Los Angeles Metro

ONLY THE WORKERS CAN BREAK THE CHAINS OF WAGE SLAVERY

LOS ANGELES--“Union reps here are telling us that we messed up when we rejected the MTA proposal. They say we can’t expect anything better, maybe something worse. They are demoralizing us. They are nothing but crooks,” said a Division 10 operator.

Another operator at Division 15 reported, “MTA is saying that that is their final offer. Take it or leave it. And the word is out that union leadership is instructing local union officials to avoid a strike at any cost.”

MTA workers are between a rock (MTA) and a hard place (the union).

Surrender, however, is not an option and many operators are ready to fight. The burning questions of the day are: What should we fight for and under whose leadership?

Our so-called union leaders are no option. We pay them over \$5 million a year to “work” for us but they do MTA’s bidding. Money corrupts and they are corrupted to the core. But, the problem is more than money and corruption.

The problem is their trade union ideology. As firm believers in capitalism, they try to accom-



July, 2014 – Hundreds march in NYC against the racist police murder of a black worker, Eric Garner, arrested for selling loose cigarettes. Garner was a well-known peacemaker in his Staten Island neighborhood. Racist cop Pantaleo placed him in a chokehold and he died minutes later as EMTs looked on. Attacks like these should be met by political strikes against the capitalist system that spawns deadly racism. Garner’s mother and sister are drivers for NYC Metro. Instead of following reformist leaders like former snitch Al Sharpton, transit and other industrial workers everywhere must give communist leadership to the angry masses.

plish the impossible: reform it to meet our needs. They preach anti-communism, abiding by the capitalists’ laws, and “fighting” for change through the bosses’ electoral charade. Their ideology justifies, legalizes, and perpetuates our wage slavery.

We need communist ideology, and we need to take things into our own hands. As Karl Marx the founder of scientific communism wrote, “The emancipation of the working class must be the act of the workers themselves.” We and only we can break the chains of our wage slavery!

For that we need to fight for communist state power

MTA and the capitalists can impose their wage slavery on us because they own the means of production (factories, fields, mines, etc.), and they have state power: they own and control the media, courts, politicians, police and military.

To break our chains we must destroy their repressive state apparatus and replace it with workers’ communist state power. We will then collectively own the means of production, and we will plan, produce, and distribute the fruits of our labor to satisfy the needs of the international working class.

The fight for state power is primarily an ideological struggle

The bosses’ poisonous ideologies of anti-communism, racism, sexism, nationalism, patriotism, and individualism divide us and blind us to revolutionary communism.

To be victorious, we must wage a fierce ideological and practical struggle to defeat them and replace them with working class ideologies: anti-racism, anti-sexism, and communist internationalism and collectivity.

Red Flag is crucial to this struggle. We need to read, support, write for and distribute it massively to make communist ideology dominant among our co-workers, family and friends in other industrial jobs, in the armed forces and among the youth.

Political strikes against capitalism and for communism: crucial weapons in this ideological struggle

Trade union strikes – fighting for bread and



butter issues – are losers. They keep us prisoners on the unending treadmill of reformism.

We need political strikes against capitalism that put forward communist revolution as the only way to end wage slavery, and build a world without bosses, their money, exploitation, racism, sexism, borders, and imperialist wars.

For this we must defeat our own anti-communism and anti-working class ideas. It means having confidence that masses of workers can be won to communism.

We should start with MTA workers. About 750 read *Red Flag* regularly. We can increase this figure tremendously by taking one or more extra papers to struggle with co-workers to read.

Union hacks and bosses say no strike: we say wildcat against capitalism!

Let’s follow the inspiring example of 220,000 South African metallurgical workers who defied their union hacks and continued their month-long strike.

Our strike must be a wildcat strike with no support from the union. Thus, the support of the masses is crucial. This means organizing mass demonstrations where most of our passengers live and work: in downtown Los Angeles and South Central.

It means calling on our youth in high schools and colleges to organize walkouts to support and join our actions. It means calling on our friends and family in the military to refuse to be used against us.

“By organizing a strike against capitalism and for communism, you’ll inspire workers here and all over world,” said a *Red Flag* distributor to another Division 10 operator.

“That’s what I’m talking about,” answered the operator, taking two *Red Flags*.

POLITICAL STRIKE from page 1

“I’m sick of this job. Although I work even on the weekends, I can’t get out of debt,” said a worker. “We will demonstrate our hatred of the factories that are like jails and concentration camps, where the conditions are so bad that the workers have to bring their own water, get their own health insurance, and have to eat in the street.”

Let’s go into the streets calling on all the other workers to fight for a communist world without borders or the chains of wage slavery.

Thousands of garment workers in the streets demonstrating our repudiation of capitalism would be a great advance in the organization and development of the party of the working class, ICWP. The marches and political strikes would help thousands discuss communist ideas, how to build a world without borders or exploitation. Garment workers and drivers in political strikes would give the working class of the world a guide, a leadership for the goal to follow. This goal is the struggle to build a society based on producing to

meet the needs of the international working class, not for the bosses’ profits.

The drivers’ strike can be the spark so that other workers don’t only support the drivers morally but go beyond that to go out to protest and organize as the working class with a common dream, to get rid of the chains with which oppress us.

Our strength will not depend on politicians or unions but on the collective strength of the same workers with communist ideas.

The bosses and their press will try to divide us with a pack of lies about the drivers’ struggles. They will tell us that the drivers are greedy, that they make too much money, and that it’s their fault that the bus fare was raised, etc. But they will not say that it is capitalism in crisis which is exploiting us garment workers, just like it is exploiting the bus drivers.



We should walk, not to the centers of exploitation but into the streets with the red flags held high and with the slogan of a world without borders or exploitation, fighting for a communist world.

SEIZE THE TIME: DEVELOP YOUNG COMMUNIST LEADERS

SEATTLE, WA — “I think you will be a leader of the whole Party in two years,” predicted a local worker at the closing Seattle Summer Project barbecue. He was addressing the twenty-something year old leader of the visiting collective of comrades.

He paused, letting this sink in to all present. “Worldwide!” he added for emphasis.

The young leader described her experiences during her five years of International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) projects. She made sure other participants also spoke about their summer project impressions.

The comrades got our literature to Boeing workers, LA and Bay Area transit workers, garment workers, soldiers and students over the years. Most importantly, she declared, we have built a new collective of young comrades that can fight for our line.

Summer Project Builds International Consciousness

This summer, we made a special effort to build anti-racist international communist solidarity metalworkers. These strikers helped open the door a thousand miles away at Boeing. It was time to step through that doorway.

We distributed hundreds of *Red Flag* newspapers featuring two articles on the strike to Boeing workers and soldiers. In addition, everybody got a copy of the new ICWP pamphlet on the key revolutionary role of the expanding industrial working class.

Sixty Boeing workers and Joint Base Lewis-McChord soldiers signed our solidarity letter, giving their email addresses for further information. Some were long-time friends in the plants;

some were new *Red Flag* readers. A couple of dozen signers were first introduced to these politics by comrades outside the factories and fort.

Young Lions Roar

“In some ways I grew up like that,” said a youth at her first summer project, after we saw a video on the situation in South Africa, at one of our nightly study groups. The living conditions of our South African comrades are horrendous, even worse than she experienced.

“It touched my heart,” she said. “It shows the opportunities [to mobilize the masses for communism].”

As if on cue, a 16-year old who was here for the second time described her struggle with a Boeing worker outside an assembly plant. She explained what happened in her own words in the letter on page 7, entitled “Lesson: DON’T TAKE ‘NO’ PERSONALLY! It only means ‘I don’t understand what you are up to.’” We can learn from her how to take advantage of these opportunities.

After this worker finally signed the solidarity letter and took all our literature she expressed her hope that “you get a chance to read all this.”

“Don’t worry! I’m going to read all this and then I’m going to write you guys.”

The 16-year-old’s friend was another first-time participant. When she arrived our politics were new to her. By Friday, she was able to convince a soldier to sign the letter in support of our South African brothers and sisters.

The door was also opening to a new collective of revolutionary leaders.

Putting Communist Ideas Into Practice

What explains this development of young comrades? For sure, it had an electric effect on Boeing



Boeing worker signing letter of solidarity with South African metalworkers

workers and others who attended our meetings and socials; circulated *Red Flag*, the industrial pamphlet and our communist solidarity letter.

Part of the answer lies in how we immediately put into practice the ideas we learned each night in our

Party study groups.

We spent the week explaining to industrial workers and soldiers why we fight for international communist solidarity, not trade union solidarity. Why we build for political strikes that help mobilize the masses for communism, not economic strikes limited to seeking reforms of capitalism. Why we fight directly for communism, not socialism.

One thirty-something Boeing worker attended our Thursday study group. After a two-hour discussion he proposed we concentrate on educating workers about what communism really is. Now that’s how to seize the time!

American Federation of Teachers Convention:

WORKERS NEED COMMUNISM, NOT “SOCIAL MOVEMENT UNIONISM”

LOS ANGELES, July 14—“What’s the main problem at your school?” an AFT workshop leader asked. “The crisis of global capitalism, which makes it impossible for our students to live in the old way,” responded a teacher, unexpectedly.

This same crisis makes it impossible for trade unions and capitalists to function in the old way.

“You are doing very good work,” said a teacher.

Convention delegates warmly welcomed *Red Flag*. Over 800 (nearly 25%) took our newspaper and “Communist Education” pamphlets and 1000 took leaflets.

On the second day, dozens said they’d read “Communist Education” and agreed with its main points. “Very impressive!” one remarked.

“I loved your paper. Read it cover to cover last night. I’m a communist at heart,” another said.

Several promised to use our literature in classrooms. Many asked serious questions about our Party’s line and practice.

This work strengthened our confidence that masses of workers, soldiers, students and teachers will make communist ideas their own.

This convention differed markedly from past ones. The theme “Reclaiming the Promise” wasn’t “empty words,” as some complained, nor even a call for “the good old days” that never existed. “Not as it is today or as it has been in the past, but as it can be,” the slogan continued. Instead of “fighting back,” the AFT calls for “fighting forward.”

Fighting for what?

“To move the country in a new direction,” said AFT president

Randi Weingarten. For an “enduring and unifying vision of America.” To fulfill “public education’s purpose as a propeller of our economy and an anchor of our democracy.”

But it’s not “our” economy – it’s the capitalists’ economy that enslaves us! We workers have no country – it’s the capitalists’ country. It’s not “our democracy” – capitalists’ democracy is their dictatorship over the masses.

AFT “mobilizes against extremism”

At a “Public Education: Not for Sale” seminar, AFT spokesman Leo Casey attacked the privatization of schools as an “onslaught against democracy.”

Casey argued that the Koch brothers, Walmart, etc. back school privatization at the expense of what he called “the public good.” By that he meant “enculturation” (into a capitalist worldview), “socialization” (training docile future workers), and “citizenship” (patriotism and voting instead of class-consciousness and rebellion).

Featured speaker Rev. William Barber emphasized that “we are one nation.” The AFT endorsed his call for a week of protests “against extremism” (August 21-28) to “mobilize AND VOTE”

for “the soul of the nation.”

Red Flag readers should bring to these actions a sharp attack on this patriotism/nationalism which will help US capitalists mobilize for imperialist war up to and including World War III.

Only a communist outlook points the

way forward for our class

Union activists from Chicago and San Francisco organized a panel on “Social Movement Unionism” based on reform struggles they had led. National AFT leadership added its own people to the panel, packed the house, and bragged about the event afterward.

Some think this proves that the AFT’s new strategy is mainly the leadership’s cynical attempt to maintain credibility with an increasingly activist base.

But, as comrades explained, AFT leaders are sincerely trying to mobilize masses — to help the main section of the imperialist ruling class defeat “Tea Party” Republicans who are impeding their preparations for World War III.

“They never mention class struggle”

On the convention’s eve, a million teachers and other public workers shook Britain with a one-day strike against “austerity” policies. As in the US, teachers demanded the Education Secretary’s resignation. Did AFT leaders mention this at the convention? Or organize solidarity of the 1.6 million public workers it represents? Hell, no!

Instead they promoted patriotic class collaboration via video messages from Michelle Obama, Bill Clinton, and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.

“They never mention class struggle,” remarked a new college-teacher friend.

Class struggle doesn’t mean forming alliances for reforms or negotiating with union officials to pass resolutions. It means fighting to the death against capitalism and capitalist ideas. It means educating ourselves and the masses now so we can win power through revolution and then organize all of society to meet our collective needs.

Join the class struggle! Join ICWP!



COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL END CAPITALIST CHESS GAME THAT USES CHILD REFUGEES AS PAWNS

LOS ANGELES, August 1—A few days ago the first airplane to Honduras left, deporting 18 mothers, 13 girls and 9 boys. The Obama administration is sending the message that no more immigrant children will be allowed to come to the US. Apart from that, the US government gave money to the Central American governments to put up military checkpoints and to keep mothers with children from leaving these countries.

But this does not end the need for family unification or emigration. The rulers will not resolve the problem. The capitalists' politicians like Obama and the Presidents of Central America, are the problem. They are responsible for the poverty and violence there. They exist to defend the profit system, the capitalist system, not to create decent living conditions for the workers and their families.

We workers do not migrate for an American dream; what moves us is the need to survive in this world of capitalist competition for markets. The dream ends up as a nightmare, when the years go by and we see that we were forced to abandon our families, to continue being wage slaves of other bosses. This is the border: the face of the boss is different, but dependence on a wage is the same in any part of the world.

Immigrant Children: Pawns in a Game Between Democrat and Republican Bosses

The Republican Governor of Texas, Rick Perry, gave the order to send 1,000 National Guard soldiers to patrol the border. The hysteria against the immigrant children is being used as a political campaign. Adam Kwasman, a member of the Tea Party who is running for political office, organized the harassment of a school bus full of children who were going to YMCA camp in Marana, Arizona, thinking that they were undocumented.

Others, like Democrat Eric Garcetti, the Mayor of Los Angeles, are posing as the good guys. Garcetti announced that he will accept children detained by the border patrol and sent to detention centers. This is propaganda to win followers, another side of the political game. These Democrats, like Obama, are more dangerous since they pass as our friends, when they are really enemies of all workers and are defenders of the bosses' system of exploitation.

According to those close to the Obama administration, the President plans to act before November to give work permits, possibly to 9 million workers. The dominant liberal wing of the ruling class is getting their ducks in line for

their big game based on their need to pass Immigration Reform. They plan to do this even if they will have to confront a group of conservative Republicans who are threatening to impeach President Obama.

Through Immigration Reform, the bosses' group that defends Obama plans to build patriotism and nationalism to win the workers to serve as slave labor in the factories and the youth to join the army and die for the bosses' profits.

To Win a World Without Borders, We Need a Communist Revolution

As long as capitalism exists, the working class will continue to be oppressed by the existence of borders and those who defend them in the interests of a few rich oppressors. Only the workers organized in a communist party, ICWP, will have the hope of realizing the dream of the whole working class: organizing a communist revolution, where we can live in a world where no human being takes personal advantage of another human and the fruits of our labor will be for us all.

We workers will have red areas where communism is working and preparing to advance the world over, where all will be welcome. Let's fight for a communist world without borders and bosses. Join ICWP.



LOS ANGELES
July 24--
Protestors
denouncing
Obama's
deportations and
support for Israeli
genocide in Gaza
eagerly took *Red*
Flag.



U.S. IMPERIALISM CREATED GANGS AND EXPLOITATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA

"Central America is the most important region for the United States," Jeane Kirkpatrick, US ambassador to the UN, said in 1981. Even though this reality has changed, the legacy of US domination in Central America is suffered day after day. The end of this suffering will be the beginning of a communist revolution.

Three of the top four countries with the highest homicide rate are in Central America. In Guatemala, the condition in the rural areas has led thousands of farm workers to mobilize protests in the capital. El Salvador is living through a crisis of violence, the development of the organized crime. Honduras is considered the most violent country in Latin America today. It is not by chance that those are the countries with the highest numbers of children migrating to the United States in recent months.

Gangs, murders, drug traffic, poverty, exploitation, and hence, migration, are common problems in Central America now, but this has its roots in past decades.

As part of the fight for territory and in the context of the Cold War, the US bosses carried out political, military, and economic actions in Central America. In Guatemala, on June 27, 1954, the CIA, responding to United Fruit Company interests, overthrew Jacobo Arbenz Guzman. In Panama, from 1860 though 1989 there were thirteen military interventions by the U.S. Army.

After the overthrow of Somoza in Nicaragua, the US supported the "contras" and all types of sabotage against the new capitalist Sandinista government. In El Salvador, the US financed the Salvadoran government's fight against the FMLN with \$2 million a day.

When the imperialists see their interests at risk, they sharpen their attacks, a practice that occurred in past centuries in Central America, leaving hunger, poverty and violence. The industrial workers, soldiers and farm workers are the ones who have the power to convert this imperialist struggle into a class struggle for communism, led by the International Communist Workers' Party and *Red Flag*.

During the period of conflicts in the region and after the Cold War came the dismantling of the productive apparatus (agriculture, textile manufacturing among others) in Central America. These are important factors that caused hunger and poverty, because of which thousands migrated to the US.

This is where the birth of the gangs starts. Gangs operating in Central America today were created in the U.S. to defend Central American youth from the attacks by other street gangs. In spite of the fact that the US intervention was a fundamental cause of the massive immigration, of creating poverty conditions and violent societies in those countries, the US deported the gang

members and avoided the results of their actions, that years later, would bring death to thousands of Central Americans. The ones who pay for the results of the capitalists' agenda are us workers, with exploitation, hunger and death. We must put an end to the horror without end, we must mobilize for communism.

Right now, children are trying to cross the border looking for the false "American Dream." Meanwhile, Obama and his government again avoid their responsibility by deporting those ones who are fleeing the problems that capitalism has created.

We must realize that no government or reform can truly solve the problems of crime in Central America. It's part of the same structural problems of the capitalist system: money, hunger and poverty. The way to end all these problems is the mobilization of millions of men and women organized in the International Communist Workers' Party to fight for the Communist Revolution that marks the end of the capitalist system. Backed by a new educational system based on inclusion, equity, technological development, environmental protection and respect for human life that generates a new morality and true human values, we will put an end to years of exploitation and violence engendered by bosses.

THE IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE FOR THE CONTROL OF MARKETS AND OIL PROFITS ONLY CLAIMS MORE WORKERS' LIVES

A recent report of international agencies said that the conflict in Eastern Ukraine caused "at least" 478 deaths, before the deaths from flight M17, the majority civilians, as a result of the fight against the pro-Russian Independents by the Ukrainian army, led by the new fascist government of Piotr Poroshenko in the eastern Ukraine. He declares as national heroes known Nazi collaborators in the Nazi army in WWII who called for "helping the German army smash Moscow and Bolshevism."

The present conflict goes beyond the fight for independence or national identity, ideas that the capitalist system inculcates in us from kindergarten, to mold us to be good patriots. Their goal is to divide workers and use them as cannon fodder in their fierce battles for global markets. The real problem in Ukraine and the rest of Europe is the fight between the giant corporations of Gazprom (Russia) and their allies and Naftogaz (Ukraine) and their allies over the transport and sale of much needed gas for major European cities. The bosses' global press wants us to believe that there's a bad imperialist and a good imperialist, depending on which television network (CNN, RT, Reuters) that you watch. This just covers up this imperialist fight that is sharpening

along with the capitalist contradictions of their free-market economy.

There's no benefit for the workers in siding with either the European Union-USA or Russia and their ally, China. No imperialist represents the interests of the working class. There's only death and poverty because both sides represent the same capitalist system and its bosses.

The only solution for men and women workers as the capitalists take us to another global conflict that seems to be far off, but is actually close, is to organize to defeat the real enemies of the working class worldwide, the bosses and the capitalist system. Through the daily collective struggle in the communist clubs of ICWP we bring our communist literature (*Red Flag, Mobilize the Masses for Communism*) to more workers to motivate them to join this struggle.

We can't wait for this to happen. The bosses see how hundreds of people died in Ukraine and Crimea. For them, these deaths are only statistics, or something that had to happen to improve the economy. We workers must fight against them, because the bosses are the ones who generate these problems while the workers and our families always suffer the consequences. We must fight for communism, organizing in the ICWP to

build the red army that will fight for the revolutionary transformation of society worldwide.

How do we achieve this? Is it possible?

Communist theory is the result of the historic development of humanity, the product of science. One of its fundamental bases is historical materialism. History shows us that a different world is possible, without capitalism, where the central axis of global society will be the well-being of the human being and harmony with the environment. From the Paris Commune to the Bolshevik revolution, the desire for a communist world became real. It ceased to be a utopia and became totally possible. It will come as the collective effort of millions of men and women, some of whom are now organizing in ICWP clubs worldwide to fight for communism, for human dignity and the emancipation of the working class from the oppressor, with our mass newspaper *Red Flag*.

The struggle is on all fronts: in schools, factories, parks, in the family, in our daily lives, in the ICWP clubs organizing, reading, and discussing *Red Flag*. This is how we are collectively building an effort for and of the working class for the elimination of the capitalism. We invite you to be an active part of this fight. Join the ICWP in the historic process.

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

"We don't need the bosses! They need us!"

I had a great experience distributing *Red Flag* at a transit division one early morning! Through the darkness, a man approached on a bicycle. I offered him our paper and he stopped to talk. I was describing how we need to smash capitalism and build a world where we decide things collectively. He said, "But we need bosses to tell us what to do and to figure out ways for us to do our jobs better. They go to school to learn about all that. That's why they make the big bucks." I started to respond, but seized a better opportunity to emphasize my point.

As I started to talk, a driver walked by. I stopped her and asked, "Do you need a boss to tell you how to drive your bus? Who would know better about planning transportation routes: you, who are on the streets all day, or your boss, who sits behind a desk all day?" She took a paper, turned to the man, and said, "I would! We don't need them, they need us!" Then she walked off.

The man understood that our ideas are not abstract, that workers understand capitalist social relations, and that they are prepared to accept their role as leaders in the fight for communist workers' power. It is crucial to con-

tinue to grow our party into a fighting force of millions that is ready to lead the masses in communist revolution and a party of billions who will build a communist world.

We don't need bosses now, and certainly won't need them under communism, to tell us how to do our jobs better. Workers will meet regularly, at the job site, to discuss how to make their work safer and more efficient and to organize everything. We won't need big bucks because we will abolish money and produce directly for society's needs.

--LA comrade

The Working Class in History

Although the soccer article (*RF*, "Who's Winning the Class War?" vol. 5, No. 11) is otherwise excellent, I believe one of its statements is anti-working class. Instead of saying, "nothing happens without some participation, willing or not, of the working class." I believe we should say "nothing happens without some participation, mostly unwilling, of the working class."

Since the advent of class society, the class not in control historically has either overthrown, rebelled against, resisted, or, not seeing an alternative, tried to stay under the radar of its ruling class.

"If you're not part of the solution, you're part

of the problem" was a statement often quoted during the 1960s. Who publicly quoted this were leaders of anti-working class groups like the Weathermen. Some other people in the movement liked this statement because they didn't understand that it was used as an attack on the working class. The fact is that this statement is profoundly anti-working class as is the statement in the soccer article.

Workers cannot be blamed for the lack of anti-fascist, anti-capitalist leadership in today's world. The ICWP is trying to fill this need by becoming a massive, worldwide organization, and more and more workers worldwide are seeing that their participation in this effort can lead to victory for our class. Communists can never control the capitalists' schools or their media, but we can eventually reach enough workers with our media (the *Red Flag*) to smash this system and put communism in its place. Part of our being able to do this is to understand that most of the world's workers are not pro-capitalist but instead can be won to communism.

—Comrade in the growing ICWP

Red Flag would like to know whether other readers agree or disagree with this letter. We welcome comments.

This is the paper of the working class.

We get no funding from the capitalists, their foundation or NGOs. This newspaper is not a commodity produced for sale. We fighting to abolish commodity production. However, we have to pay for the costs of producing and distributing the paper, as well as for other expenses of building an international party. The box below includes a suggested donation of \$20/year which is about the current cost of mailing a single copy to a U.S. address. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

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Letters from the ICWP Seattle Summer Project

Lesson:

**DON'T TAKE "NO" PERSONALLY!
It only means "I don't understand
what you are up to."**

At a distribution of *Red Flag* at a Boeing Aerospace plant, a worker stood out to me. My comrade offered him the paper. However, he did not take it.

I approached him with the letter we were planning to send to striking metal workers in South Africa. I asked him, "Would you like to help the South African metal workers? There are 220,000 striking."

Then he said, "How will I be helping them?"

I responded, "Well, by signing this and giving your email, the people who live in South Africa will see that here in the U.S.

people know what is happening over there."

He seemed convinced and signed the letter. Then afterwards I again offered him *Red Flag*. I said, "There is an article on South Africa and the conditions there."

He looked down and read the front of the article. He then looked at me and said, "I thought communism was bad and is a system of strict laws and no rights."

I shook my head saying, "No, no, no, under communism there is no money and no government. Everyone works collectively and works so that everyone's needs are met.

There are no bosses telling you to work faster or harder."

He smiled and took the paper and also the Industrial Workers Pamphlet.

I am a high school student. This is my first summer project.

What do you think when you hear the word communism? I was taught in high school that communism was a bad word. When I first got

Red Flag and participated in ICWP meetings I was scared. I wasn't sure exactly what we were going to talk about. However, these meetings are solely meant to figure out ways to improve the lives of people who are mistreated by capitalism. We read an article about South Africa and about their living conditions. How they work and struggle to survive. They live in a capitalist country and are desperate for change and need our help because they can't do it alone.

What is capitalism...REALLY?

Well, this I don't know exactly, but what I was taught is that capitalism is what we have today and how the government works to make a better world for the citizens of America.

What is communism? I'm trying to figure out how I will explain the last few days to my family...

Communism is a world with no money. Communism is a way to stop people and families from struggling with money. Communism is a better way. It is a way to help the people that struggle with capitalist ways (taxes, jobs, paychecks).

I was with a group of young comrades distributing Red Flag and the Industrial Workers pamphlet.

It was a pleasant early morning in Seattle when a Boeing worker on his way home after night shift approached me. "New *Red Flag*?" he said.

As I handed the paper to him he said, "Is there any more news about South Africa?" Sure, it was on the front page of the *Red Flag*. It was time for a coffee break so he offered to take me to a cafe nearby.

I spent nearly 45 minutes with the worker who has read the *Red Flag* he receives from

somebody in the plant. He said he was very moved by the letter from Qatar and news from South Africa. He also said he agrees with the ideas of ICWP but he felt that the Boeing workers are relatively better off compared to the super exploited workers in Qatar and South Africa.

"Why don't you put more efforts in organizing in those countries? The party will grow there very fast."

With a smile I said that Boeing workers like him can help advance our work by joining ICWP here and also by contributing money, as our efforts to organize in faraway places like South Africa require financial support from workers like him. As he paid for the coffee for both of us he promised to keep in touch with the Party.

South Africa deserves our support from Los Angeles to the other side of the world.

In the summer project, a young comrade saw the video filmed by our ICWP comrades in South Africa. She was surprised to see the living conditions of these people. The comrade's anger grew as she saw how furious the South African comrades are and how seriously they spoke about their situation.

She realized that it's important to let our comrades in South Africa know that they're not alone in the struggle and that indeed capitalism has to go because it's not doing any good except for the bosses. These problems come along with capitalism: the rich are richer and the poor are getting more poor. The only solution for this is communism, a world that will benefit every individual. We will no longer have to see our neighbors struggle with the bosses' exploitation of the working class.

Piketty's Capital Part of the Ruler's Counter-Offensive

I want to thank the comrade/s who gave us that readable critique of Piketty's book, *Capital*. Writing a short critique of such a detailed book shows a tremendous commitment. My only criticism comes from a sentence they use near the beginning: "This misunderstanding of capitalism produces some weird results."

For me this phrasing is far too gentle. Whether or not Piketty genuinely "misunderstands" capitalism is not the point. Promoted by liberal pro-capitalist economists like Paul Krugman (*New York Review of Books*) and Martin Wolf (*Financial Times*) Piketty's book and scholarship is championed precisely because of its "distortion of capitalism."

When the 2008 crisis broke out, every academic trend of anti-Marxist economic analysis was compromised. The damage to their credibility was so great that a leading business newspaper, *The Financial Times*, ran a series questioning the Future of Capitalism. That series was peppered with grudging acknowledgments of Marx. On top of that, sales of Marx's "Capital" have been at an all time high ever since, especially among young buyers.

Piketty's book and its promotion is the beginning of the counter-offensive. It is an attempt to restore the credibility of anti-Marxist economic analysis. It's especially urgent in light of the current weaknesses in world capitalism. Our comrades' article is right on target.

--a comrade

Young Worker Comrades: Key Revolutionary Force!

This is a shout-out to our young comrades who work long hours at hard and poorly-paid jobs, who sometimes also take care of children or older relatives, and who still do your best to spread communist ideas and build the Party.

You are immersed among the masses. You work in garment factories and mines, aerospace factories and military bases, fast-food restaurants and retail. Some of you are struggling to get jobs in Party industrial concentrations.

You talk about capitalism and communism with co-workers and share *Red Flag* with them – in some cases, on military bases far from home. Some of you lead communist class struggle at your workplace. Others rise early to

take our paper to factories and transit workers before going to work.

You make time, as you can, to read and study the Party's line. You are tired, but you organize and lead study groups. Some of you – but not enough – help write letters and articles based on your work.

Maybe you feel that your limited political work doesn't make a difference or isn't recognized. Comrades, that's not true! We can all strive to do more and better, but you are on the front lines of learning to mobilize the masses for communism.

I hope to read more about your experiences soon!

--LA Comrade



MH17 Massacre:**US-RUSSIAN BOSSES' CONFLICT SHARPENS,
THREATENS WORLD WAR**

Once more, the world has been treated to act of capitalist barbarity: The mass murder of the 298 passengers of the Malaysian Airlines MH 17 shot down July 17 in Eastern Ukraine.

It is another horrendous chapter in capitalism-imperialism's unending dehumanization, brutalization and destruction of the working class from Gaza to Iraq to Sudan to the Congo; from the shanty towns of South Africa to the Brazilian favelas to the billions worldwide "living" on less than \$2 a day.

It is a horror that only communist revolution can end. No reform can ever change the laws of capitalist development that maximizes profits at the expense of millions of workers' lives, and that must fight for these profits in local, regional and world wars.

World War II crowned US imperialism as the world-dominant imperialist power. Rising imperialist China and resurgent imperialist Russia - lead a bloc of emerging regional powers: (India, Brazil, South Africa, Iran) - are clamoring for a new world order.

They are challenging US imperialism's hegemony on every continent. Every war and every major conflict in the world is related to this rivalry. Eventually, but inexorably, it will lead to World War III.

The working class needs an objective understanding of world events

The bosses and their system create these horrific scenes of suffering, destruction and death. Then they play on our humanitarian sensitivities to try to manipulate us into supporting one gang of them or another.

But we workers have no dog in this fight. Our

fight is to organize a mass movement worldwide to destroy capitalism-imperialism. Our task is to mobilize the masses of workers, soldiers and students to turn all the bosses' wars into a class war for communism.

MH 17 incident scripted by inter-imperialist rivalry

In the final analysis, whether the US-Kiev gang or a Russia-Eastern Ukrainian rebel gang shot down the Malaysian plane is irrelevant to workers. What's important to us is to know that this is being used by US bosses to attack their Russian rivals.

Some US imperialists see Russia as a more imminent threat than China. They fear that the European Union's dependence on Russian energy will force these imperialists - especially the Germans, French and Italians - into a tacit alliance with Russia.

This would bring Eurasia under Russian control, further threatening the US imperialists' position. Thus, US bosses must at all costs break up this potential alliance. On Monday, Obama succeeded in convincing his counterparts in Germany, France and Italy to impose new sanctions on Russia.

Besides driving a wedge between Russia and the EU, these sanctions aim to bring the Russian economy to its knees, which would give the pro-Western Russian oligarchs an opportunity to overthrow Putin.

Dmitri Trenin, director of the US think tank Carnegie Moscow Center, said it starkly: "It is no longer the struggle for Ukraine, but a battle for Russia. If Vladimir Putin manages to keep the Russian people on his side, he will win it.[but]..."

Even if no pro-Western leader replaces a Putin in the Kremlin... Russia will succumb to another period of turmoil, making it focus on itself rather than creating problems for Washington."

This might be wishful thinking, and US bosses know it. They therefore are aggressively continuing their military encirclement of Russia. The Russian imperialist elites that are pivoting to China-dominated Asia-Pacific have taken notice.

Putin is circling the wagons

Speaking last Tuesday, July 22, before Russia's Security Council, the highest policymaking body on foreign-policy and security, Putin said:

"Our Armed Forces remain the most important guarantor of our sovereignty and Russia's territorial integrity. We will react appropriately, and proportionately to the approach of NATO's military infrastructure toward our borders... we can clearly see what is actually happening: groups of NATO troops are clearly being reinforced in Eastern European states... And the scale and intensity of operational and combat training is growing. It is imperative to... strengthen our nation's defence capacity fully and on schedule." (Kremlin website)

A communist world or imperialism's unending wars

We can't predict when these butchers will start WWII, but those drums are beating louder and closer. It's their profits or our lives. With patience but urgency we must build a massive international ICWP to lead our class' fight for a communist world that will put an end to capitalism-imperialism's horrors forever. Join us!

**THE INTERNATIONALE:
SONG OF WORKING-CLASS STRUGGLE**

The history of The Internationale is the history of the struggle of the working masses to liberate themselves from capitalist oppression.

The French worker Eugène Pottier (1816-1887) wrote the Internationale after witnessing the bloody suppression of the insurrection of 1830 and participating in the establishment of the Second Republic in 1848. After the bourgeoisie made Louis Bonaparte emperor in 1851, Pottier wrote a poem, "Who Will Revenge This?"

Pottier was deeply affected by the first workers' government, the great Paris Commune of 1871.

In March 1871, the French government sent soldiers to take back cannons it had given Parisian citizens in the face of a Prussian attack. Masses of women protested, and the soldiers mutinied. They executed the general who insisted that his troops fire on the masses.

The Parisian masses rose up and took power as the Commune. Pottier became a leader, joining comrades from many countries.

After 72 days the French government at Versailles, aided by their Prussian rivals who released prisoners of war to help, massacred the communards. Thirty thousand were slaughtered in cold blood and fifty thousand were tried, among them Pottier, who was condemned to death.

Pottier fled to England, and then to America. He wrote the verses of the Internationale in June, 1871, to impart the significance of the Paris Commune to workers worldwide.

Ten thousand, including many surviving com-

munards, attended his funeral. His remains were carried to the Père Lachaise cemetery, where the executed Communards are buried. The police savagely attacked the crowd, trying to seize the mourners' red flag.

The Internationale became the anthem of the Soviet Union and of workers everywhere. On May Day 1943, with the Nazis poised to liquidate the resistance of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, the Internationale was sung. A survivor wrote:

"The words and the song echoed from the charred ruins and were, at that particular time, an indication that Socialist youth was still fighting in the Ghetto, and that even in the face of death they were not abandoning their ideals."

Singing The Internationale connects us to a long, proud tradition of struggle for the emancipation of the world's workers.

Now more than ever, amid heightened inter-imperialist rivalry and as bosses prepare for World War, (see article above) we need to mobilize the masses for communism. The Internationale can help to inspire this movement.

The original French lyrics declared that "the International shall be the human race." This referred to the International Working Men's Association, founded in 1864, which had adherents from many lands, mainly Germany, Britain and France.

For Pottier and his comrades this First International was the seed of a new and different society. Nevertheless, the nationalist outlook of the socialist parties undermined internationalism. Neither the First International nor its successors were

an international Party. In Britain and Germany, workers became part of the organization through national party committees or unions. In France, workers joined directly.

The lyrics of The Internationale have been altered in translation to reflect different political perspectives among revolutionaries. Eleanor Marx's first English version changed "The Internationale...will be the human race" to "The Internationale...unites the human race." A liberal German version was "The International fights for human rights."

Today, some sing in Spanish "the people arise" while others sing "the [working] class arises." This reflects the difference between democratic populist politics versus communist politics.

Pottier and his comrades hoped every worker everywhere would join the International. However, they didn't understand the need for one mass international communist party organizing strategically in the bosses' industrial centers and military to mobilize the masses for communism.

