

RED FLAG



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

OCCUPY MOVEMENT SHOWS POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Sign Carried by ICWP as Occupy
Oakland Shut Down the Port

WORKERS, YOUTH FED UP WITH CAPITALISM

OAKLAND, CA, Nov. 2—It's an exciting time to fight for Communism through revolution against capitalism. As we were looking at a huge black banner with silver writing screaming "DEATH TO CAPITALISM" spanning the width of the street in Central Oakland, a comrade said to me, "I've never seen anything like this. Not even during the Vietnam War. I mean, they said things like, 'Stop Imperialist War,' not 'Death to Capitalism.'"

I was in awe the entire day. From 8 am on there was a festive mood. High energy. A flatbed truck drove up on the curb where the "Death to Capitalism" banner was to hang. One-by-one, people spoke about their experiences under capitalism. They said that they were fed up with the system. Some spoke of reforms. Many in the crowd held signs saying things like "Seize the Means of Production."

As I passed out *Red Flag* and International Communist Workers' Party leaflets, I had great conversations with people from high school into their sixties. One young woman high school student, who had her 2-year-old daughter with her, was standing with her friend. They said they knew capitalism had nothing to offer the working class, and they wanted to know more about communism.

See OCCUPY, page 4

FACTORY WORKERS EMBRACE COMMUNISM

EL SALVADOR— "We're thinking that it's better if we leave the union and work directly with the Party," stated a worker from the factories where clubs of the International Communist Workers' Party—ICWP are organized. Another worker responded, "Its true, plus the risk that we take for nothing in the union; some vigilantes even shot bullets at us last week."

These weeks have seen intense meetings with the comrades of ICWP in different zones of the country. This is due to the fact that the bosses have increased their attacks against the workers in the factories and it's necessary to forge communist leadership that orients our class in the effective, sharp and winning struggle against the bosses, their servants, and the international capitalist system.

Also, in these meetings we're preparing to give leadership to the masses. Youth will continue developing themselves to play their role as leaders of ICWP. We're discussing our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* and planning how to put it into practice. This is extremely important because these young leaders and all of us need to have enough capacity to mobilize our class to confront the capitalists' attacks and defeat them with communist ideas.

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MTA DRIVER STOOD UP FOR THE WHOLE WORKING CLASS: LET'S STAND UP AGAINST CAPITALISM

LOS ANGELES, CA, Nov. 16--We were informed that Dione's hearing is set for this week. Dione is the operator from Division 10 of the LA Metropolitan Transit Authority who gave manager Dan Frawley a lesson in working class ethics. He showed that racist to respect the working class! We are not robots that can be mistreated and insulted at will!

Dione stood up for workers everywhere – we must stand up for him! Where are UTU officials (Lisa Arredondo, James Williams and GC)? As usual our "fearless" leaders – who never tire of licking the bosses' boots – are mute on the subject. No news and definitely no organized campaign to try to defend Dione. They are also doing nothing against the new accident policy coming up soon.

If we sit and wait for our union "leaders" to act, we will die waiting. Let's join with the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) and use *Red Flag* to organize our political response to MTA's and the US bosses' racist attacks.

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Oakland Commune:

COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL BRING THE MASSES TO POWER

On Nov. 3rd, the day after 30,000 workers, students and veterans had joined the General Strike, Oakland's City Council meeting was jam-packed with Occupy Oakland activists. They were opposing and debating with a possible Council decision to evict the encampment outside City Hall.

The encampment is called the "Oakland Commune." The sight of this 30,000 plus movement of activists being focused so quickly on an Oakland City Council meeting highlighted both its strengths and weaknesses.

The strength lies in the political vision of calling itself the Oakland Commune. In so doing the possibility is opened of bringing to life in a mass way some of the great achievements of the communist revolutionary movement that capitalist culture continually buries or distorts. The Paris Commune of 1871 was the first time workers, armed by soldiers, defeated the capitalists and ran a major urban area in the interests of the working class. The other historical Communes, the People's Communes of China in the 1960s, saw tens of millions advance the knowledge and practice of workers running a share-and-share-alike world, with money only playing a secondary role.

However, for cities to become Communes, where a share-and-share-alike spirit of communism replaces the dog-eat-dog racist attitude of capitalism, we must organize a communist revolution. This revolution must be led by a massive International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) – composed of millions of workers, soldiers, students and other sectors of the working class. It must physically destroy the bosses, their banks and their state apparatus.

It must and will set up production based on commitment and will distribute it according to need. Our Party's strategy of mobilizing the masses for communism now will prepare the masses to decide and administer every aspect of society through a myriad of Party led committees

based in the work places, neighborhoods and the Red Army. Defending and expanding our communist revolution worldwide will be a crucial aspect of this process.

When the leaders of Occupy Oakland allowed the focus of movement's activity and the power of the masses to move in one day from the streets to the city council chambers and the laws of the capitalist state, they highlighted the greatest weakness in the movement: the lack of a communist perspective. This action legitimized the political institutions of capitalism and misleads the masses into the deadly trap of electoral politics.

At the same time it underscored the strategy some of us accept, often with a wavering commitment: we can get from the Commune of our imagination to the Commune of reality by building ICWP. In fact, it's only by building the ICWP that we can do this. No movement except communism – no matter how massive, militant or progressive – can escape the political and ideological clutches of capitalism.

While working in these movements, we shouldn't create any illusions that this could be otherwise. ICWP with its *Red Flag* newspaper is the only organization with the political clarity, commitment and determination to mobilize the masses to destroy capitalism. Building networks to massively distribute *Red Flag* and our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, will enable us to take this message loud and clear inside all mass movements.

In fact, as *Red Flag* warns, powerful capitalist forces see their strategic aim as channeling the activist energy into the deadly end of electoral politics. They have

no choice. All capitalists understand that the Occupy movement, where the masses are open to our communist ideas and could be recruited to our Party, represents a threat. The specter of communism still haunts them.

One camper told us, "The encampment is the exact opposite of capitalist USA." He pointed out that black and white, employed and unemployed, young and old lived together, shared together and dealt collectively with their social problems. The Commune, having some aspects of communism, is a living advertisement that flies in the face of a Democrat or Republican run USA, which throws millions of its 'citizens' out of homes and jails more 'minorities' than any other country in the world while spending trillions invading and murdering millions of other citizens as collateral damage.

The police cleared the Oakland Commune early Monday morning. Thousands demonstrated Monday evening. Whatever the camp's fate, energizing the masses and strengthening the revolutionary optimism of all Party members in the Oakland area has been its first victory. Massively distributing *Red Flag* and joining ICWP should be our response to this attack and to consolidate that victory.



TRANSIT from page 1

Let's organize a political strike to protest Dione's firing

We must protest against a system where a handful of capitalists and their lackeys – those who hire and fire – have the power to decide who of us lives or dies and how we live or die.

Under capitalism, not having a job is a sentence to either a quick merciless death or the slow agony of "living" under the most inhumane conditions. Worldwide, tens of millions of our class die yearly of starvation, malnutrition or from curable or preventable diseases because they don't have a job. Three billion "live" with less than \$1.25 a day. Can anyone call this living? The bosses do.

Bosses' profits deadly for the working class

The capitalists make life and death decisions for us based on their profits. They only hire us if they can extract profits from our labor. But landing a job doesn't mean we are set for life. Many workers at MTA and all over the US and the world are finding that out. Capitalism is a murderous system that puts profits above everything else, especially above workers' lives. Workers'

lives and needs should be first and foremost.

Capitalism's worldwide crisis is forcing the bosses internationally to attack workers harder. To maintain or increase their rate of profits, they must squeeze more work from us for less pay and benefits. MTA's reign of terror is precisely that: operators with more seniority are being fired or forced to quit. They steal our pensions and sick time while replacing us with new-hires who get less pay and benefits.

All workers under communism will have a dignified life

Class society individualized survival, forcing individuals and individual families to fend for themselves. Capitalism took this to its most dehumanizing extreme. It created the working class: a class with nothing except its labor power – which it must sell to the capitalists in order to survive.

By destroying the capitalists, their wage slavery and money, communism will once again make survival a collective effort. We will all contribute our labor according to our commitment, and we will receive according to our needs. Everyone will be struggled with to contribute as

much as needed. But no one – no matter how little he or she contribute – will be forced to live under inhumane conditions or to humiliate themselves to satisfy their basic needs.

Defending Dione's actions is defending our class's need for a dignified life

If such action forces the MTA management to rethink their position and not fire Dione, that would be great. But, when we battle the bosses – losing or winning for our class is a political question. If we advance our class's political understanding of the need to destroy capitalism and, even more important, if we can inspire more workers to join the fight for communism, then we have won. At MTA this means getting more readers and distributors of *Red Flag* and recruiting more MTA workers to ICWP.

However, whatever the outcome of this skirmish, if more workers are left with a burning hatred of capitalism and a determination to mobilize the masses for communism to destroy it, the international working class will have scored a tremendous victory on its road to communism! Join the struggle!



JOIN THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY (ICWP)
WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG — (310) 487-7674
E-MAIL: ICWP@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.COM
WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362
3175 S. HOOVER ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90007, USA

In Memory of a Fallen Buddy

SOLDIERS KEY TO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

“I have some bad news,” my battle buddy called to say a month ago. We were deployed together in Iraq. Every single day of my deployment I spent with him. We got to know each other well. Whether we were black, white, hispanic or asian, it was clear to us that we came from hard working families and our military career reflected our hard work ethic. We were soldiers but also workers. Like workers, we experienced long working hours under dangerous and exploitative conditions.

These conditions led me to have multiple political conversations about communism being the alternative to this capitalist system. After our deployment, many of us came back home to no jobs. The only option for many was to continue being a soldier, even when many of us understood that the occupations of Iraq-Afghanistan were unjustified.

The call I received from my battle buddy was about a soldier who volunteered to go to Afghanistan because he couldn't find a job. My buddy asked me if I had heard about a convoy attacked by a vehicle IED. I knew that one soldier friend was part of that convoy. He didn't make it back alive.

At that moment, everything around me seemed to pause. I remembered that our fallen soldier had a wife and kids. I was devastated by the news. I couldn't fathom the pain his family is feeling. After the news settled, I got angry about my friend's death. Why have soldiers been sent to fight in Afghanistan and Iraq? If soldiers are in

these countries for democracy, what kind of democratic progress is occurring? How is it right that soldiers suffer abroad and also suffer at home?

When I hung up the phone, I made it a goal to give my battle buddy our communist newspaper, *Red Flag*. During the conversation, I told him that we should not even be in Afghanistan. The next step is to explain why I feel this way.

Another soldier friend, who reads *Red Flag*, went to our fallen soldier's memorial ceremony. He was glad to hear that I was writing about our friend. I explained that one of our party's key strategies is to have communist soldiers organize in the military in order to organize a successful revolutionary movement. He said that he definitely wants to attend a party study group.

Soon after the news of my friend's death, I saw pictures of Scott Olsen being attacked by Oakland police. It was disturbing to see his bloody skull, and I made a connection between my friend's death in Afghanistan and Scott's injury (or potential death).

Scott dodged enemy bullets in two tours in Iraq only to be injured in the US by the cops of the 1%. It's clear that soldiers and workers are all part of the 99%. Iraqi and Afghanistan workers, maimed and killed, are also part of the 99%. Of the 7,600 coalition forces' deaths (icasualty.com), 6,285 are from the U.S. Tens of thousands of Afghans and over a million Iraqis have been killed. We all have a common enemy: the capitalist system that oppresses all workers and soldiers.

The ruling class, the top 0.1%, owns all the means of production. They launch wars abroad to protect their capitalist interests. Their drive for profits and empire is directly responsible for my friends' deaths in Afghanistan. Scott Olsen was protesting this in Oakland. The conditions here, like the conditions in Afghanistan and Iraq, will never improve under capitalism. So-called democracy for the masses is not attainable here or anywhere.

The Occupy movement rallies thousands of people to protest against capitalist “greed.” It's really profit, the goal of capitalism. Our anger at all the deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan should be directed at our true enemy: capitalism.

A revolutionary communist movement is more and more foreseeable when we consolidate our anger as the 99%-- the working class--against capitalism. There is no other way to make our lives better. No reform movement, no Democratic or Republican Party, can meet workers' needs. Only a communist party can mobilize the international working class for communism to get rid of this murderous capitalist system, to put an end to wars for profit and to produce for our collective needs.

My friend's death, Scott Olsen, and the Occupy movement show that we need to intensify the struggle for communism among the international working class. Workers and soldiers should join ICWP, and become part of the communist revolutionary movement that will build a new world.

From the Bonus March to Occupy Oakland

VETERANS NEED TO REJECT THE FIGHT FOR REFORMS

The attack on Marine vet Scott Olsen at Occupy Oakland brought to mind scenes from the US Army's attack on the 1932 Bonus March on Washington, D.C. At the height of the Great Depression, unemployed World War I veterans had gathered from across the US to pressure Congress to pass the Patman Bill, granting them a long-promised bonus for their military service immediately, instead of waiting until 1945. Destitute and unemployed, they camped in Washington, D.C., vowing to stay until their demands were met. In July, they were attacked by the U.S. Army and driven from the capital, their encampment

burned, three protestors murdered, 54 wounded, and 135 arrested.

The lyrics of “Brother, Can You Spare a Dime,” popular in the US during the 1930s, “When there was earth to plow, or guns to bear, I was always there right on the job. Why should I be standing in line, just waiting for bread?” point out the contradiction of the soldiers who capitalism uses to fight their wars, and then discards like used shell casings. In the US, on any given night, 107,000 vets are homeless, about 56% of them black. While veterans compose about 9% of the US population, they make up about one third of homeless men. About half of these homeless vets are from the Vietnam War. The current crisis is hitting recent vets especially hard. The unemployment rate for veterans age 18-24 is 30%, and for black veterans age 18-24 it's 48%. Given that those are the government's own statistics, which say that unemployment overall is only 9%, you can pretty much double the figures.

The Communist Party (CP) was involved in and led this class struggle during the depres-

sion of the 1930s. In the US, the CP marched under the slogan “Fight or Starve!” In London it was “Work or Riot, One or the Other!” These militant slogans are actually demands for the right to sell our labor power, not to get rid of the wage system which always needs a reserve army of unemployed, and periodically creates capitalist crises of mass unemployment.

Communists organized hundreds of thousands of workers to fight for jobs and unemployment benefits, mobilized thousands to defy the law and take direct action against evictions, braved the armed forces of the state to fight for unions, but always subordinated and eventually abandoned the fight for a communist society to the militant fight for reforms. The fight for veterans' benefits was never linked to the potential for organized soldiers under communist leadership to turn their guns on the capitalists to make revolution.

We participate in the Occupy Movement, and in all of the movements of the working class against capitalism's attacks, but we are not building the movement of the 1930s. We are there to expose the roots of these attacks in the nature of the capitalist system itself, not for reform demands. We are there to mobilize for a communist society where we can use our labor for our own needs.



WWI Vets Fighting the US Army, 1932

FACTORY from page 1

“And is she reading *Red Flag*?” we asked when seeing a young woman who was enthusiastically reading the paper.

“It's my daughter,” answered a comrade.

“Every time that my mother brings the paper, I read it,” said the 20-year-old youth. We've made a plan with her so that she goes to work in another factory and thus increases the party clubs.

We're struggling with the most developed

youth in these factories to take more political leadership. It's difficult because some face obstacles with their partner or their parents for fear of fascist repression. Others have difficulties because of obligations to their children. The majority are single mothers.

However, the enthusiasm for ICWP doesn't decrease since now 20 *Red Flag* newspapers aren't enough and since communist ideology is deeply permeating the working class.

These men and women workers take home

\$6.25 a day. They're super exploited, but they have such class consciousness that the moment we start meeting, they're always enthusiastic and with the confidence that the Party will grow in spite of the capitalists' repression.

“We're conscious that Communism is the only solution for us workers,” says a youth who is one of the most developed leaders who is also a declared religious Christian, but who understands that what's primary is the struggle here on earth.

BUILDING HOUSES, BUILDING TIES, BUILDING FOR COMMUNISM

Recently I spent a few days in Mexico with a church group. We were working with families there who are building their own houses as part of a cooperative movement. All the labor – mostly cement and cinderblocks – is done by volunteers.

It's heavy, dirty work, and most of my church friends are students or white-collar workers. Many say they come year after year because they enjoy doing manual labor that immediately benefits other people.

"In my ideal world," I commented to several, "we would all do manual as well as mental labor on a regular basis. People wouldn't be divided or looked down on because of the work they do." This took a little explaining, but my friends liked the idea once they got it.

One evening, the conversation turned to the Occupy movement.

"I took my kids to spend a night at Occupy LA," reported a friend. "I wanted them to see what a protest movement is like." She was impressed by how friendly and helpful people were to her family.

"They need to formulate some demands," said an older guy. A high school student added, "I like that they are there, but they don't seem to know what they want."

"The big Occupy Oakland march had a huge 'Death to Capitalism' banner," I said. "That seems pretty clear."

"Yes, and I agree with that," the student responded.

"Well then, what do you want?" I asked her. "Socialism, communism, anarchism?"

I guess I shouldn't have been surprised when she said, "Definitely not communism! That hasn't worked anywhere." The schools, mass culture, and even many of the Occupy organizers push anti-communism really hard.

So I explained that communism means ending

the wage system and borders, abolishing money, and working on the principle "from each according to ability and commitment, to each according to need." And that all of the so-called "communist" countries had built socialism instead. It's socialism (at root a form of capitalism) that failed.

"But wouldn't it be unfair for some people to work harder than others and not get anything for it?" she asked.

"Today we all worked together," I reminded her. "Some of us were able to do harder work than others. Some of us worked as hard as we could, and others didn't. But we all shared the same meal afterwards. The hungriest ones finished off the leftovers. What was unfair about that?"

"Nothing," she admitted.

"Human beings lived like that for tens of thousands of years, before class society arose," I added. "We can do it again."

"But that was in small groups," someone else volunteered.

"Yes," I agreed. "And that's important. The world is interconnected now. We shouldn't try to go back to living in isolated small groups, the way some anarchists seem to want. Instead, we need to be organized worldwide, without borders."

Most in this group want to get rid of borders. We all get angry at how hard the US government makes it for people to come into the US. We all value the chance to build relationships with people in Mexico through working side by side.

"This project makes me feel that another world is possible!" declared a college student. Later I gave him *Red Flag*, which he was very glad to get. Spreading *Red Flag*'s communist ideas massively and building the ICWP into a mass revolutionary Party will make this possibility a reality.

--LA Comrade



OAKLAND from page 1

They took *Red Flag* and vowed that they would read it and look at the website. They also left their email addresses for future discussions. I will email them after I finish this letter.

While other comrades talked to more participants, a college student from UC Berkeley almost just passed me by as I offered him *Red Flag*. He didn't take the paper at first, but we talked for 45 minutes. He said he was a capitalist and thought that capitalism could work in its purest form. But capitalism in its purest form would be worse than ever. He said that communism would never work because the products would be cheaply made and there would be no variety because there was no "incentive" to do better.

I countered by asking if money and profit were gone tomorrow, would you then have no "incentive" to live? Would we all die, or would we all contribute to each other's needs by working together to improve production so we could spend more time with our families and on personal growth instead of serving the needs of corporations, government conspirators, and banks? He didn't have an answer. It was apparent that he hadn't thought about a world without money and profit. Each of his arguments about why communism "wouldn't work" was based on a false assumption that all economic systems required a profit motive. While that was true for socialism, we know from experience that socialism was not a "stepping stone" from capitalism to communism. When we ended our conversation with a smile and a handshake, he took a *Red Flag* and was on his way.

A skateboarder was standing by the flatbed truck listening to the speakers and music. I approached him with a copy of *Red Flag* and asked, "So what do you think of all this?"

He answered, "I think it's great. Capitalism doesn't work, never has worked, and never will help us." Although he didn't take the paper, he took a leaflet and gave us his email address. I asked him what he thought of communism. He said, "It's the only way all of our needs will be met."

Another man in his twenties glanced at the *Red Flag* hanging off my arm. I asked him what he thought of the differences between capitalism and communism. He said communism was the way to go, but the word had a negative connotation because of the way it's taught in the capitalist school system. A friend standing next to him agreed. They both suggested that we should come up with another new word that would get to the essence of communism without turning people off.

That's an idea, but communism is the dictatorship of the working class. It's the equality of the masses. It's self-criticism and change from within. Changing the name doesn't change the content or the message. Communism is the yin to the capitalist yang. Capitalism has had control of the world through fear, fascism, racism, patriotism, nationalism, and sexism for a long time, but communism is on the rise. The Revolution is coming. We are preparing. The world will be transformed through Communist Revolution!

--Enthusiastic Red

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

The Working Class Can Build a New Future

The International Communist Workers' Party



ICWP has published our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. It's available in English or Spanish. Order your copy or copies today! Please send a donation for mailing costs and printing with this form. We also ask for your suggestions and criticisms:

Name _____

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Please send me _____ copies in English and _____ copies in Spanish

Enclosed is a contribution of _____.

Honduran Farmworkers Confront Death Squads:

LET'S SAY "ENOUGH!" TO CAPITALISM

Valley of Bajo Aguán, Honduras—With force and organization, hundreds of farm workers have confronted the big landowners who have extended their properties and are trying to kick the farm workers off the land where they've lived their whole lives. This last June, 150 families from settlements bordering the Aguán River were brutally evicted and their houses burned. Many were beaten, arrested and tortured. At least 44 have been murdered, 16 of them this summer alone. The nutritious crops and other sources of food were destroyed to force them to leave the area. This brutal aggression was committed once again by the bosses' army, the police and the private guards of the big land owners like Miguel Facusse and his Dinant Corporation.

Militant Honduran Workers Need Communism.

Farmworkers have fought these big landowners and their imperialist backers for decades.



If there's no peace for the poor, there will be no peace for the rich

Workers have resisted day in and day out. In the Bajo Aguán valley, Facusse's main stronghold, the farm workers again joined together, got help from other farm workers and retook the area. But the presence of the police and the army puts them under constant harassment and selective assassinations.

The bosses see the lands of Bajo Aguán as a source of great wealth and power, since here they grow palm trees, from which they get oil that is sought after all over the world. These land owners are the same owners of banks and factories, who, aided by Honduran President Porfirio Lobo, sent them the army to guarantee "the peace and security of the population."

Under capitalism, this is the daily life of the working class, in the fields and the cities: uncertainty, hunger, unemployment, poverty, and murders. We have to say, "Enough!" We can't continue living like this. We have to look to the alternative of communism, organizing ICWP massively to organize a communist revolution that will build a new society where there's no exploitation or murderous bosses. We've seen over and over that trying to reform the capitalist system doesn't work, that depending on the bosses' laws doesn't help us and that elections don't work for us. What will work is to destroy capitalism and its lackeys.

In a communist society, we'll produce and distribute according to need. There won't be big land

owners or private property (banks, factories, mines, land), or bosses' armies to defend them. All that exists and is produced will be for the benefit of all free workers.

But to achieve this we need to organize as one class with one goal: the fight for communism. One important step is for farmworkers, city workers and teachers to win their children and students to join the army to organize other soldiers to ally with workers and turn their guns on the bosses and their officers. All the soldiers are sons and daughters of workers. Let's win them politically to communism and to fight on the side of the workers and not the bosses. (See article on communist soldiers, page 3)

An attack on our class sisters and brothers in Bajo Aguán is an attack on the whole international working class. Let's take the serious step of spreading our newspaper *Red Flag* and its communist ideas to all parts of the world possible. Let's dedicate our lives and time to speed up the process of building a new, communist world.



Human Rights: Bosses' Scam to Justify Imperialism & Exploitation

WORKERS MUST FIGHT FOR POWER

"US military officers wanting to know where they will next go to war should probably just read HRW (Human Rights Watch) policy papers." This was Andrew Exum's tweet greeting Obama's announcement that he was sending military advisors to Uganda. Exum, who works for Obama's favorite think-tank, the Center for a New American Security, inadvertently reveals HRW for what it is: a propaganda machine for imperialism.

While Exum seems to think that the Obama administration was "successfully lobbied" by HRW to intervene in Libya and Uganda, it's the other way around. A weakened US must retrench globally. HRW and other organizations which advocate the "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P) exist to justify US military intervention.

US Ambassador to the UN Susan Rice called Libya a test case for R2P, the doctrine, first publicized in *Foreign Affairs* magazine in 2002 and endorsed by the UN in 2005, which calls on member states to use military force to protect innocent civilians, unless, of course, these innocent civilians are being attacked by the US and its al-

lies in Iraq, for example.

A new HRW report on Syria lobbies for intervention in Syria. Like King Leopold of Belgium justifying his genocidal take-over of the rubber-rich Congo by saying that he was protecting Africans from the Arab slave-traders, HRW advocates taking over Libya, Uganda, Sudan and Syria to protect them from the US's competitors, while putting their resources in the hands of the US and its allies.

"Human Rights" is a Fig-Leaf to Conceal the Naked Reality of State Power

HRW's progenitor, the Helsinki Rights Watch, was born in 1978 to advance the bosses' anti-communist agenda. Liberalism is the bosses' chief ideological defense. It asserts, in part, that communism destroys individual rights. Individual rights are often defined as universal human rights by the bosses' propaganda machine.

The proliferation of what the *Economist* calls international "anti-capitalist protests" has shaken the ruling class. The bosses are once again forced to protect their system by smearing the only viable alternative--communism. Anti-communism has always lurked just below the surface, but its revitalization has become a necessity as the capitalist economic system spirals down the drain. Make no mistake about it: when the bosses' cry for human rights, they mean to short circuit the inevitable development of a mass communist movement.

Mobilize The Masses For Communism

Mobilizing the masses for communism means putting the interests of the international working class above all else.

Socialist countries opportunistically advocated the right of national self-determination as the answer to the capi-

talist "right to protect basic human rights." It never was an effective answer because it never put the interests of the international working class above all else.

Capitalism puts profit above all else, but how can the few who accumulate all this wealth sell it to the rest of us? They do this, in part, by separating the idea of rights from the realities of the material world.

You have the right to sell your labor or starve if you can't. But our class has no right to power.

Rights become an abstraction, divorced from the need to sell our labor power to the bosses. You can say what you want (until the bosses decide you can't) as long as you remain a wage slave.

Communism, on the other hand, is organized so we share in our collective labor. Nothing is for sale and profit; everything is for the advancement of our class.

To maintain this material base we have to eliminate money, banks, privilege and divisions in our class--like racism and sexism. The division between mental and manual labor will disappear as we realize the full potential of every worker.

Each must give according to their commitment and ability. Everyone will get according to his or her needs. Capitalism hides wage slavery behind individual rights, while communism will mobilize the masses to unleash their power and creativity.

"Think of yourself and your individual rights," say the pied pipers of capitalism. The bosses have already led us to the brink of economic destruction. Their "humanitarian" wars are their plan to push us over the economic cliff.

Let the bosses spend fortunes pushing their human rights scam. We have a better plan: join us in mobilizing the masses for communism.

See box on page 14 for more information about the ruling class ties of Human Rights Watch



“REBOOT” OR “REPROGRAM”

The California community college system is crashing and the “Student Success Task Force” wants to “reboot” it. The Task Force’s draft report claims its proposals will “serve students’ needs.” But it’s really about helping the capitalist rulers cope with their systemic crisis and prepare for wider wars.

This report responds to President Obama’s 2010 White House Summit and his “Call for Action” that “resonated with employers, economists, and educators here in California.” It cites the “highly competitive global economy,” moaning that “California is at risk of failing to meet global workforce needs.” What it doesn’t say is that this “global competition” is rapidly leading to a third World War.

There’s plenty wrong with community colleges. Like all schools under capitalism, their benefits to the working class are more illusory than real. We can’t get the education we need as long as “the 1%” (the capitalist class) rules. We don’t need to “reform” the colleges. We need communist revolution.

How Community College Reform Helps Capitalism

The report wants all students assessed for “career readiness” where “skill competencies are validated against incumbent industry employees in those career pathways.” Will this “assess-

ment” include the personality scales companies use to screen out potential “troublemakers?”

The report demands that “California community college campuses must [schedule courses] to meet the needs of students who are seeking degree or certification completion as well as specific job training programs required by local industries.” Course offerings will be scheduled to meet “labor market demand.”

We’re for learning job skills. But capitalist production is for profit – out of the workers’ hides! — not to meet human needs. Capitalist exploitation demands a separation between the planners and the doers, “management” and “labor.”

Therefore, capitalist job training is narrow. It stunts young workers’ ability to plan, analyze, criticize – to think. It uses classes like Economics, Political “Science” and History to convince them that this crappy system is the best there is.

When workers take power through revolution and use it to build communism, we will all learn the ins and outs of production, practical and theoretical. Much of this will be tied to actual productive work, but we’ll also encourage each other to participate in study groups on history, philosophy, science, the arts, and everything else, throughout our lives.

Tighter centralized control – hallmark of growing fascism

The Chancellor’s Office will get stronger. Large technology investments will replace student service providers and allow the Chancellor’s office to standardize and control assessment and steer students into programs where capitalism needs them. All available money will go to further the “reform” program.

The Task Force considered “outcomes-based funding” (like the K-12 “Race to the Top”) and decided “not yet.” The worst is yet to come.

Not surprisingly, this “Student

Success Task Force” is funded by corporate heavyweights: the Hewlett, Irvine, Walter S. Johnson, Lumina, and Packard, and Gates Foundations. Their class – not students – will benefit.

Capitalist discipline in education: training for wage slavery

Students in private colleges get to explore — within limits. But community college reform will force working-class students to “get with the program.”

They’ll lose their fee waivers and their priority registration if they don’t quickly declare an educational plan, if they don’t stick to the plan, if their GPA falls below 2.0 for two terms, if they don’t successfully complete 50% of their classes, or if they do complete more than 100 units.

Students taking a course not in their education plans would pay “the full cost of instruction” — hundreds of dollars. Woe to the industrial technology student who wants to study sociology!

The “Student Success Task Force” pretends concern for struggling black and latino/a students. But every reform attack will hit the most oppressed sections of the working class the hardest. It is a racist plan, dovetailing with the racist segmentation of the labor force that allows the capitalist rulers to keep exploiting us all.

Some teachers say, “We can’t stop the train, so let’s get on board.” Objectively, they are making their peace with an increasingly fascist system. We must all fight this tooth and nail.

Other groups, like the State Academic Senate, oppose key elements of the bosses’ plan. They have stopped — at least temporarily — one attack on disabled students’ services. But their outlook is to save the existing pro-boss, anti-worker system.

Neither the community colleges nor capitalism itself can be “rebooted” to meet the masses’ needs. The hard-drive needs to be wiped clean. We must reprogram it for communism! We invite readers to contribute to our ongoing discussion of communist education.



LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

MoveOn.org Wants to Move Occupiers Into the Democratic Party

A teacher friend of mine signed a MoveOn.org contact sheet at the October Occupy Oakland and was later asked to host a house party teach-in using a MoveOn.org PowerPoint. She was also given a list of 15 names to contact. My friend asked me if she could have the party at my house since I have a large living room. Five people did show up for the party.

The format and content of the PowerPoint were interesting. It consisted of simple black and white drawings, graphs and lots of the usual statistics about the income inequities between the 99% and the 1% and how this developed over time. The teacher (my friend) was also given a script to read to supplement the PowerPoint.

Although the 99% - 1% wealth disparity was

given in factual detail, it was presented in a moral context of greed. One of the invitees (a self-identified independent socialist) and I said that this wasn’t morality, but capitalism. One of the graphs presented the social conditions from the 20’s through the 80’s and noted “policy changes” during the 30’s and 60’s-70’s that resulted in social and economic reforms for workers. I pointed out that these were not some vague “policy changes” but the results of class struggles of strikes, encampments, labor battles and occupations, and the civil rights movement. In other words, militant struggles of workers that challenged the system: its politicians and rulers: workers’ power.

The most interesting part of the PowerPoint was the section on what we can do. According to MoveOn, first we must start with ourselves and change our thinking. Second, we must elect our officials,

presumably progressives. Third, we must become active.

This confirmed for me that the intent of MoveOn is to direct the Occupy movement toward electoral politics, particularly the Democratic Party.

What about MoveOn.org? It was established in 1998 and has raised millions for many Democratic Party candidates. It has been financed by millions from financier George Soros and Linda Pritzker of the Hyatt Hotel family. It is not a grassroots group.

What is to be done? The Occupy movement presents us with openings. My friend has said that she wants to do the PowerPoint with teachers in our district and asked me to raise the points about class struggle and capitalism. I must take Communism to the masses--my friends and increase the distribution of **Red Flag**.

--A Comrade

Beware Of Bosses Bringing Human Rights (See Article Page 13)

Human Rights Watch (HRW) bills itself as a “leading independent organization” that fights to bring “greater justice and security to people around the world.” It is not independent, and the only security it brings is to the U.S. bosses and their allies.

HRW works de facto for the U.S. State Department and is led by the U.S. foreign policy elite. James F. Hoge, Jr. is chairman of the board. He is the former editor of *Foreign Af-*

fairs--the official publication of the bosses’ premier foreign policy think-tank, the Council of Foreign Relations (CFR).

Sarah Leah Whitson is HRW’s Mideast and Northern Africa executive director. This former Obama classmate came to the HRW straight from Goldman Sachs. Like Hoge, she is a member of the CFR.

HRW gets huge sums from the Ford Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation. The billionaire George Soros announced in 2010 that he plans to donate \$100

million over ten years. Reads like the *Who’s Who* of the U.S. ruling class!

The HRW gave its seal of approval to CIA “extraordinary renditions:” code words for torture at secret foreign locations. One of its most notorious reports tried to justify this fascism as necessary for the promotion of human rights. The State Department could not have dissembled any better!

All this information is a matter of public record. Much of it can be found on HRW’s own website.

WHY ARE THERE WARS AND FOR WHAT?

War is a political action initiated by a government with the support of at least part of the population.

Someone said, “War is politics by other means. The objective principal is political. Armed struggle is the means to a political goal, without which wars wouldn’t make any sense.”

The term politics has a meaning. The politics of a government includes its economic model. More clearly, the social class that has power in a country or area is that which establishes the politics of that country or area.

Governments don’t make wars for “humanitarian” reasons. These are only justifications to win support among the population. They also use the subject of security. They tell us that, “Someone is threatening us. We run the risk of being attacked. We should attack before they attack us. We should defend ourselves.”

So they emphasize the “external enemy,” blaming him for the internal problems in a country and of “threatening our security.” That’s how the bosses foment patriotic fervor and try to make the society accept their policies.

Fear, patriotism, and the external enemy—these are the magic formula that the capitalists-imperialists use to justify their wars for profits. They apply this formula thanks to institutions like the schools, churches, mass movements, and the media, all of which are supposedly ideologically neutral.

Nazi Germany applied this formula to begin World War II (1939-1945) which, like all imperialist wars, was a foolhardy attempt to take military control of the world market.

The US also carries out many wars using this

same formula. For example, in 1983, they invaded the small Caribbean island of Granada with the pretext that a handful of US students, who no one had threatened, were at risk of being attacked. After the invasion, the government imposed by the US immediately asked for a loan from the International Monetary Fund. That’s how the supposedly socialist project ended in Granada.

When George Bush’s father was President (1988-1992), he invaded Panama at the end of 1990 to arrest General Manuel Noriega. Over 1,000 innocent inhabitants, men, women and children, were killed. Bush explained that the invasion was to “protect the lives of US citizens, reestablish democracy, and stop Noriega from poisoning our children by selling illegal drugs.” But neither the sale nor the consumption of drugs were reduced in the US.

In the decade of the 1920’s, the US invaded Nicaragua putting its puppet Anastasio Somoza in power, one of the most cruel, corrupt and bloody rulers on the continent. “I was the executor for the big Wall Street companies and the banks,” admitted Smedley Butler, who commanded the Marines during this invasion.

When Somoza was assassinated in 1956, his son, Anatasio Somoza Debayle, succeeded him. He continued the corruption, assassinations, and tortures of his opponents, with the support of Washington and the US businesses.

But in 1979, when Somoza was deposed by the Sandinista insurrection, President Ronald Reagan (1980-1988) economically blockaded Nicaragua and formed the “Contras,” an army of mercenaries who for years attacked the workers

of Nicaragua. Reagan called them “freedom fighters,” and talked about the “external danger” that Nicaragua represented for the US.

No one can seriously consider Granada, Panama, or Nicaragua to be dangers for the US. However, through the constant manipulation of feelings of insecurity, together with promoting patriotism, the bosses try to get the working class to approve and justify wars that only benefit the bosses.

During the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the US rulers bombarded the population incessantly with patriotism to win it to the idea that in the face of the possibility of an external attack, the country must arm itself to attack and destroy those who were responsible. The bosses want the working class to accept fascism, in addition to sacrificing “blood and treasure” to defend the US empire.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, initiated by Bush Jr., but continued by Obama, are the result of this bosses’ policy. Without the attack of September 11, it would have been harder, but still Bush and Obama would have found the excuse to launch their oil wars. They’ll do the same to launch wars against Iran or China.

With all these invasions, wars and massacres, the working class pays in blood and treasure. All this genocide, caused by capitalism-imperialism for control of the world market, is the opposite of communism. That’s because in communism, when money disappears, the ambition to get rich will disappear also. Without profits or competition, workers will cooperate to meet our class’ needs.

LA OCCUPIERS DEBATE COMMUNISM

Recently a lively discussion took place at Occupy LA. “What’s wrong with the free market? The free market works fine,” said a participant.

“Yeah, you’re right. It does work fine for some people, but let’s look at the consequences, like unemployment, poverty, toxic air and water, and war,” we responded.

Then he added, “Also, if I set up a business and I hire workers and pay them a fair wage, that’s actually a good thing.”

“No, actually that’s not a good thing. No matter how much you pay them, whether eight dollars, ten dollars or how ever much an hour, you are still exploiting them,” we said.

“But we have mutually agreed on how much I’m going to pay. We have made an agreement, haven’t we?” he asked.

“Whatever wages you pay them, you are setting the terms of my exploitation and you are stealing the products and surplus value that they created,” we answered.

Then another participant interjected, “I have a business. Are you calling me a thief?”

“Yes, if you employ workers, you are a thief. You are participating in robbery,” we answered him.

Then another said, “Wait a minute. Surplus value is not created when I pay them. That only happens when I sell the product, when the product is exchanged, when it’s bought and sold. The product might just sit there, I might go bankrupt.”

“Yeah, you are right and that is what is happening right now. There is overproduction and a falling rate of profit. That’s the nature of the time period we are in. We have to eliminate capitalism, the banks, and all forms of money.” We

should have added that we have to mobilize the masses for communism to eliminate capitalism, the banks, and all forms of money.

At the end of the conversation, three young students and a worker who had heard the discussion approached us. “We totally agree with you,” said the worker, “Money creates all forms of inequality.”

We concluded, “We have to do away with the banks completely. You know there are people who are calling for the banks to be in the hands of workers and even Lenin (leader of the Russian Revolution) defended the existence of banks. We reject all of that.” The worker gladly took *Red Flag* and ICWP’s document *Mobilize the Masses for Communism (MMC)*.

“What you got there?” asked one of the young students.

We explained that we were from the International Communist Workers’ Party and *Red Flag*.

We spoke to them about the ideas contained in *MMC*, and then asked, “What do you think of all this?”

“I find what you are saying very interesting,” said one of them as the other two nodded in agreement. They walked away with both *MMC* and *Red Flag* in hand, promising that they’d be in contact.

As we left Occupy LA, we ran into three college students. We presented ourselves as ICWP, offered them *Red Flag* and *MMC*, and said, “You’re actually talking to a communist. We reject traditional Marxist conceptions like socialism and a party of professionals or a party of cadre. We reject socialism because it is state capitalism. We have to mobilize the masses for communism and communist principles right now. What do you guys think about that?”

“I’m not sure. It’s difficult because, as you well know, during the French Revolution many turned on revolutionaries like Robespierre, among others,” responded one of the young men.

We said, “Yes, that’s why it’s important to build a mass communist party, and we should start now.”

Another young man asked, “But don’t you need an actual plan, an actual strategy?”

This is when we spoke of ICWP’s actual plan and strategy of organizing for communist revolution in two key concentrations; the military and industry. We emphasized that if we do not carry out this plan and strategy, we can occupy LA and many other major cities around the world indefinitely and never create a new society. They agreed to take our literature.



Students at Cal State University Long Beach Confront Trustees and Cops in Protest Against Latest 9% Fee Hike

COMMUNIST COLLECTIVITY WILL DESTROY DEADLY CAPITALIST COMPETITION

Today, the world financial system is in deep disarray. Capitalism's competition for maximum profit has created a crisis of overproduction in which the world's capitalists-imperialists are viciously competing for markets, raw materials and cheap labor.

Instead of trying to "rescue" each other, as they claim, like a pack of hungry jackals, the imperialist powers wage predatory wars against weaker capitalists seeking geopolitical advantages to better survive the current crisis and prepare for their eventual and inevitable global confrontation.

At present, Europe is in the eye of capitalism's economic storm; and the French and German banks are at the heart of it. When the Euro was formed in 1999, these banks funded huge infrastructure and government bonds in Greece, Spain, Italy, etc. because it was more profitable than investing in manufacturing.

Besides, the German capitalists' industries needed markets. Today, 74% of their exports are within the Euro Zone. However, this was a double-edged sword. Now the deepening economic crisis spells a major disaster for Germany.

The Chinese and US economies - the EU's largest and second-largest trading partners respectively - will be impacted. This will intensify these imperialists' competition for market share, accelerating their drive to war.

No amount of money or austerity programs can end capitalism's current economic crisis

In his speech before the European Parliament on 9-28-11, the European Commission president revealed, "In the last three years, [European Union] member states have granted aid and provided guarantees of 4.6 trillion Euros (\$7 trillion US) to the financial sector."

A July 2011 audit of the US Federal Reserve

Board showed that from December, 2007, through July, 2010, the Fed provided secret loans and guarantees of \$16.1 trillion to US and foreign banks, principally European.

These monumental sums of money and all the austerity programs that are bleeding the international working class dry have been unable to stop the economic crisis from spreading and deepening.

If the Italian economy collapses now, two to three trillion Euros (\$2.7 to \$4 trillions) will be required to "save" the European banks. If followed by those of Spain, Greece, Portugal and Ireland the bailout money would be even more astronomical.

More money and austerity programs may temporarily contain the crisis but they can never end it, because its causes are systemic. Most countries' production is either stagnant or in decline and their markets are saturated and shrinking. A handful - like Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa - are experiencing a temporary bonanza. But they could easily be dragged down by a major EU and US meltdown.

The falling rate of profit and crisis of overproduction haunts world capitalism

The economies of Italy, Greece, Portugal, Spain and the US have very little or no growth. This could only be changed by investing in the manufacturing of goods. But they face two problems: one, investing is expensive and the rate of profits is low; and two, even if they did, they couldn't sell their goods because the markets are saturated (see box below on the falling rate of profit and overproduction).

The imperialists' temporary solution: protect and expand their markets

When in crisis, the capitalists erect tariffs to protect their domestic markets. They also subsidize their failing industries. The US, for instance, subsidizes its agribusiness and bailed out the auto in-

dustry. Tariffs lead inevitably to trade wars which turn into shooting ones.

Also, all major imperialists try to expand into whatever markets are still growing. The US and Chinese bosses are contending over the booming Asian market, hoping it will help them double their exports. This is crucial to China's rise and to the US bosses' attempts to stem their decline. Again, this can only mean war.

World war: inevitable cycle of capitalism's recurring crises

Worldwide depressions led to WWI and WWII. This depression is leading to WWIII. It is capitalism's recurring cycle that only communism can stop.

The wheeling and dealing behind the EU's crisis is for war. The US bosses want to use the European bosses' problems to get them to strike an alliance against the China-Russia axis. China is using a potential "bail out" to get the European bosses to open more of their markets to Chinese exports, anchoring them economically on their side. Russia is using its vast energy resources to forge a Paris-Berlin-Moscow alliance.

Only communism can end capitalism's competition with its recurring cycles of massive destruction and death

Communism will create a world without competition by eliminating money and the market. A communist world won't worry - much less go to war - about producing too much. The more we produce the better to satisfy the needs of the international working class. And if we produce more than is needed, it can always be stored for a later day. Collectively we will produce for our material and cultural needs. Collectivity made us humans, competition dehumanizes us. Communist collectivity is our future.



Falling Rate of Profit and Overproduction

Capitalism is based on the drive for maximum profits. Each capitalist has to strive for maximum profit or be beaten out by another capitalist. The only source of profits, or surplus value, is through exploiting workers' labor. It's workers and only workers who produce all value. The bosses rob us of the value we produce by paying us only enough to return to work and keeping most the rest of the value we produce for their own profits.

In their competition for maximum profit, each boss buys more and more expensive machinery to produce more products cheaper. To make a profit, he has to sell even more products, since his investment has grown and he has fewer workers working for him producing more goods. The boss has to pay the full price for the machine and its upkeep, but he never pays work-

ers the full value of what they produce. Since workers' labor is the boss' only source of profit, his rate of profit declines as he lays off workers and buys more expensive machines. Investors today are reluctant to invest in production because of the low return on their investment due to the declining rate of profit.

Now the capitalists, using more advanced and expensive machines than in the past, are producing more goods with fewer workers. Since fewer workers have jobs, fewer people can buy these products. So the world fills with goods, like cars, planes, food, houses, that people need but can't afford to buy. Most markets are saturated or shrinking. All the capitalists-imperialists fight to produce for the whole market, especially the few growing markets, and fight for market share. This is a crisis of overproduction. Today, while there are 1.4 billion active workers, there are 2.4 billion unemployed or underemployed.

US AND CHINESE BOSSES TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EUROPEAN CRISIS

** A crisis of German/French banks possibly opens the door for the Wall Street bankers to try to control Europe. "This is the band of criminals who brought us this financial disaster. It is like asking arsonists to put out the fire," commented Alessandro Sallusti, editor of *Il Giornale*, a Milan daily owned by the Berlusconi family.

** The European crisis also gives the Chinese bosses the opportunity to expand their control over Europe. Jin Liqun, who has served as China's deputy minister of finance and vice president of the Asian Development Bank, manages \$400bn worth of the nation's money through the sovereign wealth fund. He says that unless Europe changes its labor laws and adjusts its welfare system, he does not consider it to be a profitable investment.

"If you look at the troubles which happened in European countries, this is purely because of the... worn out welfare society. I think the labor laws are outdated. [They] induce sloth, indolence, rather than hardworking. The incentive system is totally out of whack."

What Liqun says really summarizes what all the bosses want. The European crisis has exposed and intensified contradictions among the capitalists and between them and workers.