

# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**



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

## MASS ANTI-RACIST, ANTI-SEXIST PROTESTS FOLLOW U.S. ELECTIONS SEE PAGES 2, 4, 6



Los Angeles



San Diego

## INDIA: DEFEAT FEAR BY ADVANCING COMMUNISM

SOUTHERN INDIA — We have a small group of ICWP (International Communist Workers' Party) members here. We receive *Red Flag* and discuss the ideas of the ICWP in our weekly meetings.

Most workers here do not speak or read English. We translate some of the articles in our local language. The workers who we are trying to reach out to are in tea plantation, garment and some work in cement factories.

After the elections in which Modi and his fascists came to power, things have changed very quickly here. Hindu fascists are building their paramilitary organization RSS, which was crucial in Modi coming to power. When Modi was the Chief Minister of the state of Gujarat, he organized RSS to mass-murder Muslims and then he won the state elections again.

In our area, RSS has been recruiting youth to their fascist ideas. But there is a fierce opposition to RSS because we live in an area where the old communist party used to have a mass base.

People from different religions live here very peacefully. The RSS strategy here is to attack Muslims and target them as belonging to a "terrorist group" that supports Pakistan. This way they can win Hindus to RSS. RSS is armed and does not hesitate to kill people who oppose them. Recently they brutally murdered a Hindu professor who was an atheist and opposed RSS.

Our group read and discussed the ICWP pamphlet on ending racism. We are trying to put forward communism as the only solution to fascism in the form of Hindu religion. Capitalist bosses want us to believe in idealism. They want us to believe that things don't change and they want us to be proud of a glorious past that never existed for the masses.

We are offering the masses our firm determination that we will oppose RSS and counter them with revolutionary violence for communism. In the face of intimidation and threat of death we are learning to advance our ideas.

When we explain to the masses that communism is the only solution, we defeat our internal fear. The working class is eager and willing to join us regardless of terror of RSS. We have a long way to go but we are determined and fearless.

—New ICWP Collective in India

## RECRUITING TRANSIT WORKERS TO ICWP

LOS ANGELES, USA—Because of the result of the Presidential election many workers were upset. They were not staunch supporters of the Democrats, but they saw Trump's election as a victory of fascism. Due to this, they are more willing to listen to our Party's proposals. Some of them have already joined the Party. We had a meeting and afterwards we talked with other workers to ask them to get active with us. The response was very positive.

In the meeting, we distributed the pamphlet *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* to discuss in the next meeting. It seems that our work is bearing fruit.

This is the result of ongoing communist political work. ICWP's political work at MTA has intensified in the last few months. The election has led to discussions about the bourgeois parties, the war, fascism, etc. This provides an opening to emphasize the need for ICWP as the only real solution to the current and future problems of the workers.

Lately we have been meeting as a

Party club. We have discussed, among other issues, the role of ICWP in the unions, how we should carry out this work and whether the unions under communist leadership could become revolutionary organizations. Some co-workers think that, yes, our participation at that level would give us more influence over many workers. We decided, however, that our task is not to be reformist leaders but instead organizers of the Party.

We have also made a plan to recruit new members to the Party. Since there is a broad base and by concentrating on some of the workers, we can bring them to study groups that we are starting next week. As part of this project, comrade X promised to pass 5 newspapers immediately to people in his base. We are certain that this comrade will play a very important role. He has a broad group of friends and is very serious about the need to build the Party. So far our group is all men, but there are women workers who read *Red Flag* who think favorably of the Party's politics. We

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**No More Trumps or Modis or LePens!****LET'S FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD WITHOUT  
RACISM, SEXISM OR BORDERS**

Nov. 12—Hundreds of thousands are rebelling in the streets of US cities from east to west, north to south, against the election of openly racist, sexist Donald Trump as US President. High school and college students are walking out massively. They are rejecting pleas to “let democracy work.” They see that Trump’s campaign has emboldened gutter racists. It is a step to more openly fascist attacks on all workers.

**These developments intensify the need to organize massively for communist revolution. They create huge opportunities to do that.** We need millions of workers, soldiers, students and youth LIKE YOU to join and build a mass International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP).

In communism as we plan it there will be no wages or money, no private property, no borders. Society will be based on mutual support rather than competition. We all contribute what we can and get what we need.

Everyone will be welcomed everywhere, like the class sisters and brothers that we are. There will be plenty of work for all. Collectively we will plan, produce, build, and distribute everything we workers need, without profits or exploitation. Lifelong education will be integrated with work. Everyone will do manual and mental work.

Voting won’t get us that. Both Trump and Clinton are capitalists. The US government is the chief executive of their class. Its main job is to make the US the #1 imperialist power through the blood and sweat of the workers.

The main job of the working class is to mobilize masses for revolution to overthrow the capitalists’ government and build a communist world.

**Communism will enable us to wipe out racism, sexism and xenophobia for good.** First, by eliminating wages and with them the whole issue of unequal pay for equal work. Competition for jobs, the material basis for racism and sexism, will be no more. Second, we’ll quickly desegre-



gate workplaces, schools and neighborhoods. No more racist “justice” system or cops. No cops or courts at all. We’ll suppress racist speech and action. No Trumps allowed under communism!

Immigrant and black workers, women and men, give key leadership in this struggle. But revolution cannot win without white workers and youth. They too are ground down by capitalism. They too have everything to gain by fighting for communism.

**The capitalist system is in crisis.** (see page16). This is the basis of fascism. It attacks all workers ever more fiercely, especially black and latino/a workers but also white workers, especially in the rust belt. Wages are stagnant or falling. Unemployment, drugs and racist police terror plague our communities.

Many white workers, fed up with the “Establishment,” voted for Trump. We must win them politically to join with black, latino/a and other workers as one class to fight for a communist world.

**Because capitalism attacks workers of all “races,” the capitalists need intensifying racism.** They need to divide us to maintain power and try to prevent the communist revolution that will end their rule.

The cynical rulers want white workers to believe their racist lie that immigrants, black work-

ers, and workers in other countries are “taking their jobs.” But it is the capitalists, including Trump, who have to move their factories to where wages are lowest. They have to use technology to eliminate millions of jobs. They pit worker against worker, using racism, sexism and imperialism to push all wages down.

We must organize all workers against racist attacks on our class brothers and sisters, whether they come from cops or from fascist elements among the masses. Workers as well as students must organize political strikes — for communism!

Trump has called for mass deportations and closing the borders and keeping Muslims

out. The Obama administration has already deported record numbers of children, men and women.

The US and Mexican bosses know that mass immigration and the money sent back by relatives in the US help prevent the tinderbox in Mexico from exploding. Mass deportations to Mexico would sharpen the class struggle there and could even lead to revolution.

ICWP comrades in Mexico as well as the US need to step up the work of mobilizing for communism at this critical moment.

**In communism, there won’t be elections.** Elections divide the working class. They hide the truth that all workers have the same interest: ending capitalism’s wage slavery and building a communist world. Communism will work more like consensus than majority rule.

Real communist leaders don’t give orders or get special privileges. Leaders are those who show in practice their commitment to mobilizing our class for communism. Their main task is to develop millions more communist leaders.

**Does a communist world sound good to you?** It’s not an impossible dream. We communists have a worthwhile goal and a practical means of achieving it. But we need you and millions more to join and make it happen.

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plan to recruit them.

We also plan to organize Party clubs on the afternoon shift and the night shift. We have talked to readers to find out if they were willing to help and they agreed to do so. This work will require a lot of commitment and patience, to give shape to these groups. However we are counting on workers who are willing to distribute the newspaper internally. But some of them are still reluc-

tant to come to activities outside of work.

The atmosphere in general is very political. There are many discussions about whether it is possible to win and maintain a communist society. Also we talked about the need to prepare for the revolution. Some emphasize the need for weapons but we concluded that weapons alone are useless if we don’t have a strong and massive Party. Communist soldiers will supply the

weapons.

In addition to organizing internal clubs, we are elaborating a bigger plan to work constantly with workers from other divisions and also from rail who are part of the Party’s political base and are readers of *Red Flag*. Many of them are personal friends of Party members.

These small achievements are the product of internal political work and also of work outside the divisions. Forward comrades! What you do counts!



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST  
WORKERS’ PARTY (ICWP)**  
**WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG — (310) 487-7674**  
**E-MAIL: ICWP@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.COM**  
**WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362**  
**3006 S. VERMONT AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA**  
**90007, USA**

## Boeing Workers Punished in the Name of Productivity:

# COMMUNISM WILL END BOTH PUNISHMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY OBSESSION

SEATTLE, USA, Nov. 12 —“So the company is going to cut the number of involuntary layoffs by firing thousands,” interrupted a machinist as the boss was explaining the new attendance policy to the crew meeting.

“Yeah,” admitted the manager. “This happens every time they layoff.” That’s capitalism for you!

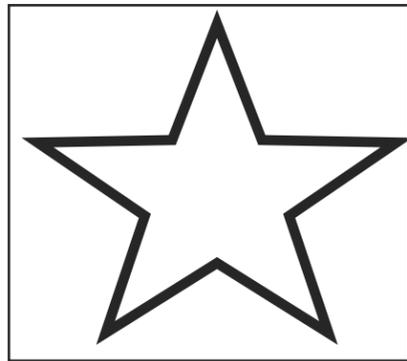
This attack started a month ago when the head of Human Relations (HR) sent out a company-wide email telling us to stop taking Mondays and Fridays off. We were hurting our team, he complained.

When that piece of arrogance didn’t work, out came the whip. Managers that let employees leave early on Friday (even if they had coverage according to the contract) got nasty emails from HR. The big bosses are demanding that we get permission way in advance.

Then they set up a central phone number for tens of thousands of employees that records the time you call in sick. “We need our team—our whole team—working together [to maintain productivity]

in this extremely competitive marketplace,” said the company.

As you could imagine this didn’t go over too well.



Everyone knew the company would try to catch some people slipping up to scare the rest of us.

In communism, we’ll have plenty of backup if someone gets sick or has a family emergency—or even if they just need a break. For starters, all those now in management, finance, public relations, HR will be available for real work.

How would we deal with attendance? The same way we get people to meetings and demonstrations, by convincing them politically. The opposite of bosses’ workplace punishment!

Soon the debates turned to the question, “Do we really need productivity?” (the bosses’ excuse for labor punishment) The bosses say everything depends on productivity. The *Wall Street Journal* says productivity is stalled so the U.S. economy will never roar again.

Each company strives to get more production out of each worker. Productivity is a code word for the increased degree of exploitation: producing more with fewer workers. Pretty soon they produce more than they can sell for a profit. A crisis of overproduction ensues. We get laid off.

“The only way capitalism can grow,” concluded one machinist, “is for the system to crash first.” Who needs that!

The *Seattle Times* predicts overproduction in aerospace could reach levels comparable to the dot-com crash or the mortgage crisis of 2008. Everyone is waiting for more massive layoffs to start. There is every reason to believe the crisis will widen and last longer when China starts producing jets in significant numbers over the next

decade.

And here’s the absurdity of capitalism: too many airplanes are being produced, so they cut production and lay off thousands. But then they turn to the workers that are left, and tell them they have to be more productive! On the one hand thousands are idle, on the other, thousands are working like mad. More productivity but less production!

The bosses need productivity; we need communism. Communism will separate productivity from necessary increases in production and the quality of life. Unless there is an emergency, we will increase production by bringing in more workers without asking people to work faster, to work unsafely, or to cut corners on quality.

Communists are not afraid of hard work. Capitalist ideology equates quality of life with freedom from work. Communism encourages useful work dedicated to the masses. Exploitation, profits and wage slavery will be abolished.

Primarily we will rely on vast increases in the number of people who will perform useful work. Estimates run as high as 50% of those employed now administer capitalism. Furthermore, even those with useful jobs spend huge amounts of time handling money, doing paper work, traveling to and from work, maintaining personal automobiles, etc. All this wasted labor time will be freed to help us collectively provide for the needs of our class. Capitalism and its insane obsession with productivity will be no more.

## GARMENT WORKERS MUST ORGANIZE FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD WITHOUT MONEY

LOS ANGELES, CA, November 2016—“Now that the holidays are coming, when we most need money, they lay us off,” said a garment worker from the Koos factory. The same thing is happening in many other garment factories, like American Apparel. The workers have already produced what the bosses will sell in the stores during the holidays and now they are thrown into the street, without the bosses caring that they have families to maintain.

“They also lowered our wages, and they threatened us saying, ‘Accept it or leave,’” commented another Koos worker. The workers’ anger at these attacks is tremendous. But they lack organization and a plan of mass, organized struggle to confront the attacks.

These two workers, a woman and a man, together with 200 more in this factory, regularly take *Red Flag*. Potentially there are a great number of leaders who can put communist ideas in front and carry out communist class struggle in this factory. These struggles should point to the destruction of racist exploitative capitalism and the building of a communist world without borders, racism, sexism, bosses or money.

Money has no use value. It only represents the value that we and only we produce with our labor power. Money for us represents our hours of work that we have sold to the boss. Money only serves us to exchange these hours of work for the things that we workers ourselves produce: food, shelter, clothing, shoes, health care, etc.

Money is at the same time the chain that ties us to the bosses. If we haven’t sold these hours to them we can’t eat or have a roof over our heads. If we don’t sell our labor, if we don’t submit to wage slavery, we cannot survive.

In a communist society there will be no money. Nothing will be sold and nothing will be bought.

Everything will be available to meet the workers’ needs. We workers in power will build decent housing for all. The electricity, water and all services will be free. Each person will contribute according to their capacity and commitment and receive according to their needs.

It will be a new way of organizing all of society, without banks, or bosses, or exploitation. Centers for fun or celebrations will be planned for the benefit of the workers, not for selling for the bosses’ profits.

We will combine manual and mental work. No one will be tied to a sewing machine for 8 or more hours a day. Education will be free and for life. We will all learn to perform different work. We will be farmworkers, garment workers, engineers, doctors, scientists, machinists, and anything else we want. Everyone, especially the leaders, will do manual work. No one will be the boss of anyone, much less anyone’s servant.

This way of living is not entirely new. Our ancestors lived collectively and without money for thousands of years during classless societies, until private property arose and a few began to take over everything while the great majority was left with nothing. Millions of workers before us have also fought, wanting to destroy wage slavery and build a communist life and society.

Learning from their mistakes and successes—



Workers at American Apparel taking *Red Flag*

especially those of the Russian and Chinese Revolutions—today we have a better plan to organize a revolution and build a communist society. But we need millions of men and women workers like those at Koos. Here we must begin with organizing a club of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) that organizes study groups to spread *Red Flag* and to recruit more workers to ICWP. Together we will make a plan of struggle inside the factory to organize political strikes for communism.

Everyone interested in participating should contact us by phone (310) 487-7674 or when we distribute *Red Flag*. Living conditions for all of us are getting worse. Racism, deportations, and the prospect of current and coming wars put our lives in constant danger. We must take our future in our hands and organize the struggle for a communist society. Join ICWP!

## U.S. ELECTION PUTS COMMUNISM ON THE FRONT BURNER

SEATTLE, USA, Nov. 13 — “There’s a pattern here,” I observed. “First your brother tried lobbying in Washington, DC.”

“That didn’t work!” said our friend who has distributed lots of ICWP literature at Boeing and at various demonstrations. We were discussing the election of Trump.

“Then you worked hard and traveled all around the country for the union.”

“That didn’t work!” our friend repeated, shaking his head in disgust.

“Now it’s all the work and travel you did for the elections.”

“That didn’t work either! I don’t think that will ever work!”

“All these helped capitalism survive. It’s time to join the party, to mobilize for communism,” I concluded.

There was a pause.

“When is your next meeting? I have a lot to say,” my friend asked.

So far so good. Then I made a mistake.

I immediately invited him to our next potluck on December 3rd. But party members were meeting the next day to plan the discussion on the 3rd (and other actions to respond to the election). I didn’t invite him.

We have said over and over again that communism relies on the people who do the work to make the best decisions. Here we have a guy who has defended the party for years. Despite the money the politicians and union throw his way to

build their reform organizations, he is more active than ever mobilizing for communism. He should be at all the collective discussions on how to advance the fight for communist revolution.

This is in contrast to how capitalism makes decisions. They train their leaders at expensive capitalist universities cut off from workers. They provide billions (the Clintons alone have spent \$3 billion in their electoral campaigns) to run elections. The bosses tell us to vote. then trust in democracy. We are capable of so much more than that.

The debates at work have become more animated as the demonstrations around the US (and Vancouver, Canada) have intensified. The president of Boeing Commercial Aerospace noticed. He sent an email to tens of thousands of employees. Essentially he said: trust in democracy, shut up and go back to work so we can be competitive and productive. (See p. 3)

People are genuinely worried about the racism, sexism and xenophobia released by this election. On the other hand, many could not bring themselves to vote for Clinton.

Of those that voted in this majority-white workforce, the overwhelming number went against Trump. But many, including white, black, Latino/a and immigrant

workers, just refused to vote.

My friend’s daughter was given two 18-passenger vans to get people in a black neighborhood to the polls. Nobody would come. Clinton’s racist history is well known.

Meanwhile, graffiti saying “F. this stupid speedup” and “It’s not over until we say it’s over!” have sprung up around the plant. Workers are circulating our party’s leaflet entitled “Communism Means No More Trumps.” If the election’s over, the fight for power isn’t!

Communism will end racism, sexism and xenophobia. We will never allow any more Trumps (or Clintons for that matter). All this will be possible when many workers like my friend take the reins of communist leadership.

—Industrial worker



Post election protest in Seattle

### Conversations after the U.S. Elections

#### “WE NEED MORE RED FLAG”

LOS ANGELES, USA, Nov. 15 — “We need more **Red Flag**, more communism,” said a young comrade in a discussion in a high school classroom the day after the US elections.

Others around him said, “We need to get Trump out as soon as possible!” and “We have to push harder now!”

The comrades went on to explain that it was not just about Donald Trump but about the fascist ideology that had been built. The way to combat fascist ideology is with communist ideology.

“Donald Trump made me come back to **Red Flag**,” said a young woman comrade in a post-election meeting. She will be part of our new young worker’s collective.

*Several of us went to the protest in downtown Los Angeles the night after the election. There were three or four thousand people there, mostly young. We didn’t need to tell them that Trump or racism are bad. They already knew that. They had already burned an effigy of Trump.*

One comrade started conversations by telling people, “The two parties are broken and we need a new party. What would we be doing if we weren’t all stressing over a paycheck? Our whole mindset might relax. We could explore our talents and pursue many different endeavors. The way we treat each other would change. We would all

do for each other and develop deeper relationships. This is the society we need.” Then she gave them **Red Flag** and told them about the website. She got a lot of good reactions.

“You’re really an international party?” asked a young black man in front of City Hall. “I’m from South Africa.”

“Yes,” we responded. “We started organizing in South Africa after the massacre at Marikana exposed the class nature of the post-apartheid regime. We’ve got clubs of workers and students in Port Elizabeth. We have an article in this **Red Flag** about our participation in #fees must fall.”

“Let me see that. The tragedy at Marikana definitely showed the bankruptcy of post-apartheid South Africa. What do you say about #fees must fall?”

“That free capitalist public education is still education for capitalism—which only works for the capitalists. We need to fight for a communist society, where education and all social institutions serve the needs of the workers.”

“Sounds right to me,” he smiled. “I’m here with my girlfriend, who’s Mexican-American, but I’ll be going back to South Africa soon. I’ll look up your comrades.”

*We distributed 350 Red Flags that evening—*

*all we could carry. In the car on the way home, two of us saw the march coming our way. We pulled to the side. As the marchers went by chanting “F\*\*\* Donald Trump!” and “Not my president!” we pumped our fists and honked the horn. Then we took a red flag out of the trunk and jumped on top of the roof of the car. As we waved the flag, we were greeted with cheers and pumped fists. People asked us who we were.*

“This is the red flag of com-

munist!” “We are the International Communist Workers’ Party!” we answered.

“Yay!” answered a young woman, raising her clenched fists.

*We wrote a leaflet and distributed hundreds of copies along with hundreds of Red Flags at the mass protest on Saturday and had more great conversations.*

*In the metro station, two young black men were commenting on the masses of mostly young people on their way to the protest.*

“I hope I don’t get caught in a riot,” said one.

“It’s just a protest,” answered his friend, “There’s been a lot of those since Trump got elected.”

An older white comrade joined the conversation. “It’s a good thing. People are angry about Trump, and taking to the streets. Capitalist elections build racism, and these people are repudiating that. But what we need is revolution, to end racism and build a communist society. Here’s **Red Flag**, a communist paper, and our leaflet.”

“I just want to get home safe,” said the first guy.

“Let me see that paper,” said his friend. “I work with some ex-cops. When I tell them the problem is the whole system, they say I sound like a communist. I’d like to see what some actual communists have to say.

“We say we can build a communist society without money and the wage system, and that will let us end racism once and for all,” responded the comrade.

“I don’t think we can ever end racism. You can’t tell people what to think,” said the young man, as we got on the train.

“When we get rid of competing for jobs and having to pay the bills, we’ll be able to work together,” explained the comrade. “There won’t be any bosses to pit us against each other, or politicians pushing racism to get elected. Communism will finally be able to defeat racism.”



# COMMUNISM WILL TRANSFORM HOUSING—AND ALL SOCIAL RELATIONS

*Red Flag*, as a communist newspaper, represents the interests and demands of the proletariat and the oppressed people throughout the world. The majority of workers are renters and do not own homes. Communism abolishes private property. Workers will not have to pay for housing.

September 24, 2016 saw protests across the USA against the dictatorship of developers, landlords and the rental housing industry. The protests were called by a variety of organizations, many centered around the hash tag, #RenterStateOfEmergency. The demonstrations focused on tenant evictions, property gentrification, the rising cost of rental housing and the lack of affordable housing in the United States.

**Communism brings about free and quality housing for all.** Homelessness will be eliminated. All housing will be owned by the people and be used to provide shelter and homes. Instead of producing commodities for sale, everything we produce—food, clothing, shelter, tools and toys—will be produced for need. We will eliminate market relationships, and that includes the housing and rental market. Led by their party, the working masses will produce and allocate housing based on need. No more will some people live in mansions while others sleep under the freeway.

**We will most probably be taking power in the aftermath of war.** What housing is still standing, including the mansions of the wealthy, will be the property of the working masses. The ruling class and their families will be eliminated as a class. Their property, which is built by the working class, will be seized by the working class and turned over to the masses for housing, education,

sport, science, museum, art galleries, musical performance venues, or other needs of society and life.

**Decisions about housing will be part of the collective decisions about the communist society we will be building.** Housing under capitalism reflects and reinforces the racist divisions that the wage system needs. When we seize power, we will be fighting to do away with the last vestiges of racism. We will struggle for racially integrated housing as a positive good to build the solidarity we need.

Capitalist housing isolates families and places the burden of housework and childcare on working women. Our predecessors in the Soviet Union and in China knew this, and fought sexism and individualism in several important ways. Communal apartments in Russia (see box) and communal cafeterias in China are some examples. When we seize power, we can make similar choices.

Housing under capitalism reflects the class divisions. We have learned from the history of socialism that keeping money and the wage system created the material basis for the reemergence of privilege, and that included differences in housing. Communist distribution based on need will mean that no one lives better or worse than anyone else.

While the protests in September in the USA were historic and very important, the leadership of this movement is misleading the masses because it fails to identify capitalism as the source of the problem. It advocates that reforming various laws or policies of city planning boards, rent control boards, or state or national government

After the Russian Revolution in 1917, the Bolsheviks expropriated the apartments of the upper classes, and assigned families to them, one family per room. All of the tenants shared the kitchen and bathroom. The housing authorities deliberately mixed people from different social classes. The aim was to create a truly collective society. But it was also the Bolsheviks' solution to the urban housing shortage. Communal apartments remained the most common form of housing in Soviet cities for several generations.

will solve the problem of homelessness and a lack of housing justice.

The United States is an imperialist system that privatizes all home ownership, be it houses, apartments, or condominiums. Because of private ownership of property, the property owning and renting class and the finance banks have total control over the workers, the poor, and the masses - all of whom must have a place to live. The housing and rental crisis in the US is a result of capitalism.

**The capitalist system can only be overturned and a communist system created in its place if millions of people organize and fight.** The struggles for rights for renters, the working class and the poor are very important and communists must participate in these fights and struggle for the elimination of capitalism and the creation of communist life. *Red Flag* Newspaper fights for communism and the building of the International Communist Workers Party. Join us in this important battle..

## Boyle Heights: Improvement or Occupation?

### HOUSING CRISIS SHOWS NEED FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

*"We need to step back in time to the Tom Bradley administration, when LA first acknowledged that it had an affordable housing crisis. Like the Depression, in the 1980s, only one family in five could afford to buy a home, 200,000 families were doubled or tripled up, 40,000 families lived in garages, and 150,000 families were homeless at some point in a year.*

*... Since the days of LA Mayor Tom Bradley in the 1980s to date, from Washington, DC, to LA's City Hall, the Democratic Party's approach has been a three-legged stool: jettison zoning and environmental laws, abolish government housing programs, and bend over backwards for glad-handing real estate speculators."* —From the blog of a former city planner.

LOS ANGELES, USA — There have been changes in the Boyle Heights neighborhood. This old barrio, once home to mainly Latino and Asian families, is now seeing the rapid construction of new apartment buildings. Along major traffic corridors there are shiny new Metro rail lines. Old buildings are being renovated and rented out to new small businesses.

You might think, "Progress has come at last!" But this change displaces the working-class families that have lived here for generations. Groups of residents are fighting to simply have a place to live and to raise their children. A 2014 article gave the median income for this area as being almost half of the median income for Los Angeles County. The owners or bosses have shown no compassion or consideration to the people who have been their tenants, sometimes for generations.

When MetroLA was in the planning stage for the rail system, they had to "overbuy" land and homes to allow for possible locations of subway stations and rail lines. This made them landlords.

The result is a housing market in which the residents are being squeezed out. Families seeking apartments to occupy while their old homes are renovated, are finding few empty units. Those that are available are more costly.

Additionally, there is the market for "overnight accommodation" (such as Airbnb) near Downtown Los Angeles. An online search for overnight rentals in the area led to Beverly Hills phone numbers.

Outside investors have the best chance at the properties available. "Open house" listings reveal that homes now sell for almost one million dollars, if they are large and attractive. Where are working people to live, to educate their children, to work and play?

If there had been human interaction and real communication with the people most affected by the transit system, then city planners might have done things differently. They might have anticipated the rapid decrease in single-family homes and tried to prevent the increasing sales of property to non-residents. Instead, the city government has done the opposite. Using "double-speak", language that conceals their real intent, rules and regulations are bent and broken to allow for more rapid sales and building projects.

As things are, the city government is part of the capitalist state. Time and money are most important to them and to their new bosses!

It is plain common sense that workers and their families need housing and transportation. Under a new system, one that makes decisions based on the needs and will of the people themselves, such problems will no longer exist! This system will



Fighting evictions in El Salvador, June 2015

be communism. Money, investors and landlords will be gone for good.

Ironically, the whole system of public transport in Los Angeles was built out of the pockets of the poorest sectors of the population. These grievances are spreading across the whole area. There have been recent protests in Santa Ana, a city that is also home to working-class families, mainly non-white.

Wherever land is selling more cheaply, those with more money than feelings seem to be more than willing to deal with heartless landowners and with "glad-handing" city and county officials. Working-class people will not stand for this indefinitely!

If we picture a world without money, these things would not take place. The land will be used as the needs of the masses dictate. Everyone will have comfortable housing and a supportive community. We will plan new cities and new forms of mass transportation for a more collective way of life. Join the International Communist Workers' Party in the struggle to create a better world!

**Learning to fight as communists**

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ORGANIZE MARCH AGAINST POLICE MURDER**

LOS ANGELES, USA—ICWP high school students organized a march to a nearby police station in response to a rash of police killings nationwide. What sparked the protest was that in one weekend alone the cops killed a young black man a few blocks away from the school and a Latino man, also in Los Angeles.

We know that the police defend capitalist society, they protect business and property. In a communist world, we wouldn't have that problem. There won't be any money so there won't be any business to protect, therefore no cops and no jails. In this capitalist society, not everyone gets fed. You have poor people and homeless people. The rich get richer while the poor get poorer.

**In communism, all that will be eliminated.** There will be no borders, no classes and no hierarchy. The distinction between rich and poor will be eliminated because there won't be money to define people. In communism, everyone will get fed because we will work for our own needs. No one will starve. Everyone will have a home. People will be treated the same. No one will be on top of no one and there will be no bosses.

**Self critically** we could have pushed more for communist ideas before and during the protest. Although we distribute *Red Flag* in factories and demonstrations away from school, we didn't do that in this walkout. In future actions, we are going to struggle with each other to make sure this happens.

Students assembled in the morning in front of their school. They marched fearlessly and with

determination for several blocks to the local police station.

We chanted, "What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now! 1, 2, 3, 4, We don't want your racist war! 5, 6, 7, 8, Smash the system and the hate!"

Before the march a couple of student leaders visited classrooms to invite students. They brought leaflets with information showing the number of police killings across the USA based on racial demographics.

They also made a huge banner with bold red letters that read "STUDENT PROTEST AGAINST POLICE TERROR, STOP THE POLICE WAR ON US, NO MORE KILLING." They also made sprayed-stenciled posters that said "STUDENTS UNITED AGAINST RACIST POLICE KILLINGS"

**The following are comments from some of the organizers and participants:**

\*My comrades and I didn't expect people to show up but in the end, there was a lot of people. As we started, school officials were telling us to go back inside and go to class. We didn't let that happen. The school principal and school security were forced to follow us to the police station and back. We kept shouting chants on the way there and back.

\*The killings that happen in our working-class community aren't only caused by gang violence but by the police too! There's a lot of racism in our community. If you are Latino or



black, chances are higher that you would get stopped by the cops, harassed, brutalized or even shot dead.

\*Cars kept pulling up to us and cheering us on, taking pictures and videos. This inspired us to shout the chants with more motivation. When we finished the protest, many students that didn't get the chance to participate in the march asked us when they could join the next one.

\*I come from Mexico City where the police sell themselves and they don't protect the people any better. I have lived through the injustices that are made by these uniformed people. They are a bunch of people with capitalist weapons and ideas, ideas that are only for the interests of the country. These people do not care about us. The best solution is to get rid of capitalism and establish communism where workers will run things for our own welfare.

**LETTERS                      LETTERS                      LETTERS                      CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS**

**"Anywhere we go, we must go as communists"**

Recently I started to volunteer at a charity that provides low-cost medical equipment to people in need. The workers and other volunteers there are friendly and helpful.

They often have the news radio station on, and last week everyone was talking about the upcoming election. I said a few things, but mostly I listened to others. Just before I left, one young man told me he agreed with a lot of things I said.

The day after the election we were able to have hour-long conversation about it. He told me that he was very worried because his family were immigrants. Plus, he really didn't like the

increase in open racism.

I spoke about how the ruling class uses racism and nationalism to bolster their profits. He said that made sense. He also agreed that it was wrong for workers to blame each other for unemployment and homelessness.

I had a feeling that he was interested beyond reformism. So, when he asked, "What can we do?" I didn't hesitate to tell him that I believed that communism was the only system that would eliminate exploitation for the working class.

Of course, he had a lot of questions (which is good!) but he was genuinely interested in my answers. When I mentioned some famous struggles in working class history he was upset

that he had never heard of them...even though he was a recent college graduate!

Because he is going into the same field of work as I did, we talked about the outrageous cost of healthcare and education. I assured him that in communism people will not have to pay money to get health care or an education. They will be trained by more experienced workers. Additional training will be done on the job. He especially liked this communist idea.

Next week I will bring him the *Red Flag* and the pamphlet on fighting racism. And invite him to all upcoming events. This is encouraging. It proves that anywhere we go, we must go as communists.

—Retired Red in Washington State, US

**DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE:  
CAPITALIST PROFITS VS. CLEAN WATER**

- \*Communism will organize masses to decide everything
- \*Communism will develop mass consciousness of our mutual interdependence.
- \*Communism will free us from capitalism's drive to maximize profits by finding the cheapest solutions.
- \*Communism will also free us from the chains of tradition.

Read full article in the next edition and at [icwpredflag.org](http://icwpredflag.org).



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## LETTERS

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## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

**COMMUNIST PRACTICE IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST SEXISM**

Recently, in a study group, we discussed the *Red Flag* editorial on sexism and briefly analyzed how the international situation affects us locally. The group, especially a student couple, talked about life in their communities and how people organize to deal with crime.

The young student couple is beginning a relationship. The topic of sexism was pertinent because it helped to clarify that the commitment of both the man and woman is necessary to make a relationship possible.

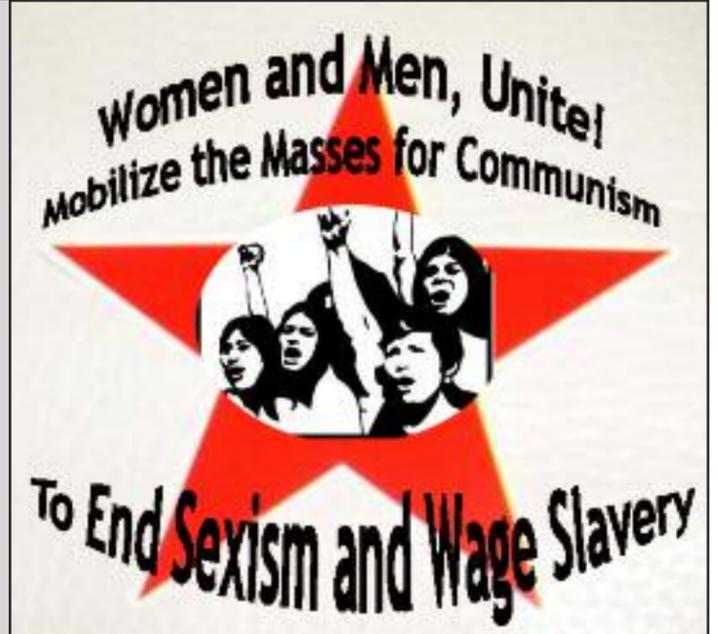
Another comrade couple mentioned contradictions in their relationship, but indicated that these should not lead to a separation. They commented that it has not been easy, but the party collective has helped them understand certain processes. They said that in the case of other friends, some women have not been able to establish stable relationships and have been influenced by feminist ideas that a woman can succeed on her own and does not require a companion, more so if it is a man. They affirm that in these times, women no longer have to put up with anything or any one, especially a man. However, in reality, there are women who live alone and have even more conflicts.

We analyzed how capitalist sexist and nationalist ideologies destroy social relations and the bonds of solidarity between people. We also discussed that reformist feminist struggles are illusions that never solve the root of the problem. It is all right to have good feelings or want to change things. However, we must not opt for alternatives that lengthen the process of our liberation. As communists, we must fight for a communist society where both men and women can develop their capacities for the benefit of our class.

We encouraged the young students to make contributions. Every word, every action or the fact that they are listening to us opens the possibility that our revolutionary struggle is strengthened.

Comrades around the world, *Red Flag* readers, every day the contradictions of capitalism are sharpening. Now more than ever we must open discussions about our political line with friends and relatives. We invite the students to continue participating in building our political line, our Communist society. Join ICWP.

—Comrades in Mexico

**Red Flag Responds:**

Because of capitalist wage slavery and sexist ideology and behavior, too many women are forced to stay in abusive and oppressive relationships. Women who manage to leave those relationships often face dire poverty.

Compared to that, the number of relationships that are broken up by feminist ideology is relatively small. The main ideology and behavior that disrupts relationships is male chauvinism.

**Getting Communist Ideas to Workers**

Recently at the workplace, as we always do, we had a chat with a group of workers. These are my target group, workers that I had identified and been giving all our reading material as a package, together with the DVD video on dialectical materialism.

It has been almost a month or two since I distributed the *Red Flags*. I specifically wanted to know if any reading has taken place or a video had been watched. After probing these workers intently, I found out that very little or no reading at all has taken place. Also, the video has not been watched due to a broken TV set and a faulty DVD player.

At least this group was honest about themselves. I encouraged them to make a conscious effort to start reading the *Red Flags*. I would easily see a positive noticeable change if they tried. As a group, we will have to come up with ways and means of overcoming this challenge.

I was motivated and inspired by the articles on Haiti and Bangladesh. I watched the documentary about the plight of the Haitians after the devastating hurricane. After reading the article in the *Red Flag*, I was pleased to note the accuracy and correctness of the article and above all else the clarity of our political line

which puts the blame squarely on racist capitalism not on the natural disaster. Urging the collectivity of workers in overcoming what is perceived as insurmountable.

As a person who likes to read every article I come across, I just read a depressing, confusing, badly written article, but these few articles in the RF changed that mood. I was at home again, brightened up.

Again, the determination of ICWP members in Bangladesh inspires us all.

—A South African Comrade

**Getting Communist Ideas to Students**

I'm the son of Mexican and Central American immigrants, and like many of my peers, I work full time and go to college at night. I joined ICWP right from the beginning when I was in high school and although my participation has had its ups and downs, I'm a communist for life. I want to share an experience I had this semester (before the elections).

I was in a Pan African Studies class, and the professor asked, "How can we get rid of racism?"

Students gave typical answers, such as getting more people of color in the government and making racism illegal and not protected by freedom of speech.

I raised my hand, and said that capitalism is a system that lives off of and thrives from racism. The professor interrupted me and added, "and sexism." I continued to say that without racism and sexism there is not capitalism, so to get rid of racism and sexism we need to get rid of the whole system.

I saw a couple of students agreeing and nodding their heads as I spoke. The professor was really excited and said, "Wow! That was a very sharp analysis."

The next class I brought our *End Racism* pamphlet to class and gave copies to five students I felt comfortable with and one to the professor. Her jaw dropped. She said, "Oh! Communism?! This is great. I am going to use this in my 'Imperialism in Modern Day Society' class. Thank you! Please bring me more if you can!"

I have given her two issues of *Red Flag* so far but haven't had a chance to sit down and really talk to her. It's also been hard to have longer conversations with students. We haven't had class since the elections, but I know there will be more conversations about how communism can and will end racism the next time we get together.

—Los Angeles comrade

**GLOBAL CAPITALIST CRISIS from page 8**

widespread overcapacity.

In 2012, trying to recover its lost ground, the US launched its "Pivot to Asia," a military initiative against China. It was meant to dovetail with the Trans-Pacific Partnership (now dead-in-the-water), a trade agreement that excluded China. In 2013, the Chinese replied with their "One Road, One Belt" (OROB) initiative, a massive infrastructure project over land and sea. It aims to link Eurasia and Africa together by building ports, railways, highways, airports, IT and more with over 60 countries.

The battle for world domination is plain to see. It is either "OROB" or the "Pivot to Asia." Already, the Chinese have negotiated some 9,000

deals (and US firms will neither mix nor pour any of the concrete in them). Already, the US has answered. Civil wars have erupted (or are simmering) in key areas along the "OROB." These wars are preludes to World War. (See box)

Capitalism can only offer us war, pestilence and famine. Millions of our youth already fight in inter-imperialist wars raging in Europe, Asia and Africa. As the current crisis deepens, millions more will be recruited. Those are our sons and daughters, sisters and brothers: the youth of the international working class. The imperialists will give them guns but we can give them the vision of what to use them for.

Don't fight imperialist wars! Fight for communism, now!

**How the US Answers China's Growth**

\*The financial assault on Greece, undercutting the Chinese purchase of the port of Piraeus.

\*The civil war in Ukraine aimed at scuttling the "Ukrainian Land Bridge."

\*The war in Syria (where Aleppo is the crossroad of two competing pipelines, one US-backed, the other China-backed).

\*The unrest in Kashmir, threatening the Pakistani corridor to OROB.

\*The war in Yemen and unrest in Ethiopia - all key players in the sea route to Europe.

## Soldiers Must Fight For:

### **COMMUNIST COOPERATION NOT CAPITALIST GREED**

USA—"They'll get their money, but I want those years back," said a former National Guard soldier when asked to pay back bonus money given to her improperly, according to the Guard.

When the bosses need soldiers to go fight their wars and these soldiers have not been won to go die for the bosses' profits, the bosses must resort to tricks, lies, bribery, and cheating to entice them to go sacrifice their lives in the name of imperialist hegemony.

Most of the time soldiers are offered incentives in the form of monetary compensation either to join the armed forces or to reenlist to stay in longer. Such was the case during the Iraq-Afghanistan wars that started in 2001 and dragged on for more than 10 years.

At the height of the conflict and unable to fulfill demand for bodies needed to go fight these two wars, due to the dangerous and unpopular situations, some National Guard soldiers all over the country were offered large sums of monetary incentives to re-enlist, some for up to six more years.

Despite the great danger that this re-enlistment implied, many soldiers jumped in and took the money that could be used to feed their families, pay for college tuition or pay off some debt. They didn't know that later on they would have to pay the money back. They would be betrayed by the very same government that they had risked their lives for.

Military branches like the National Guard, that at one point accounted for almost half the fighting force during these wars, were forced to offer bonuses for up to 20 thousand dollars up front for re-enlistment to specific service members to fulfill their quotas.

Around 10,000 National Guard soldiers mainly in California that did not meet criteria were given these bonuses by "error." Some soldiers were just given improper bonuses because they relied on people they thought knew what they were doing. They were told they qualified for these

bonuses. Now these soldiers are getting letters to repay back the money with interest.

Recently, news about the pay backs came to light. It ignited outrage and anger of soldiers from all branches of the military and the public, forcing Secretary of Defense Ash Carter to come out and issue an order to suspend the collections process. But these suspensions are only a temporary step to review the process more carefully. At the end of the day most of these soldiers will be collected upon.

These collections have been going on for a few years now and will continue in the future. Soldiers know that this is a war against the government they cannot win. They have paid or are struggling trying to pay back the money, sometimes taking personal loans or refinancing their mortgages just to get off the harassment of collection agencies.

As always capitalism tries to put the blame on someone else, like army Sgt. Toni Jaffe, the California Guard's incentive manager. Sgt. Jaffe was sentenced to 30 months in prison after pleading guilty to filing false claims. Whether willingly or unwillingly Sgt. Jaffe did what capitalism forces workers to do with their vicious selfish competi-

tion and its ever-increasing demand of increased production to maximize profits.

It's like the Wells Fargo bank workers that were creating phony accounts to boost their sales figures to make more money. Cheating, competition and selfishness are some of the teachings of the capitalist system.

Under capitalism the only thing that matters is money. Even when these soldiers could have made the ultimate sacrifice in battle, it was not enough for the government for them to be allowed to keep the pocket change, compared to the billions of dollars wasted in the wars they fought.

Soldiers and workers need a communist society, where they can learn unity, cooperation, sharing and a dignifying way of life that will free them from the horrors of capitalism. Such a society must be built by soldiers, worker and students by joining the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP).

Read, write and distribute our newspaper *Red Flag*, the greatest weapon the working class can use to end capitalist society.



**ICWP is building a new Red Army. There are comrades who are military veterans, on active duty, and youth ready to enlist in the bosses' armed forces. We have learned from the advances and errors of the Red Armies during the Russian and Chinese Revolutions. Building an army and a society which operate on political rather than material incentives will guarantee the final victory of communism. Read our pamphlet:**

**SOLDIERS, SAILORS, MARINES,  
CRUCIAL TO A COMMUNIST  
WORKERS' REVOLUTION**

available at  
[icwpredflag.org/MIL/mpe.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/MIL/mpe.pdf)

## **GLOBAL CAPITALIST CRISIS AND SHARPENING INTER-IMPERIALIST CONFLICT LEAD TO WORLD WAR**

**Between 2011 and 2013 China poured more concrete than the US did in the entire 20th century!**

In communism that would be a great contribution to world health. Replacing mud floors with concrete in the world's poorest homes would cut out 80% of parasitic diseases. For workers in Haiti and worldwide, it would be a life saver.

If you think that's what we should do, then you think like a communist. You should join us to help mobilize the masses for communism to build a world where production is for human needs — unlike capitalism that uses this cement to build nuclear missile launchers and silos.

Everything in China, the US or anywhere is produced to make profits. Nothing is just for human need. Capitalist China's drive to world leadership is as big a threat to world peace as is the US's drive to contain it. Day by day, the choice gets clearer: support their dirty cluster-and suicide-bombing wars, or organize the communist revolution we need.

Of course, it's not just concrete that makes China such a deadly rival to the US. Their steel-making capacity is bigger than that of the US, Japan and Germany combined. The story is similar in dozens of other industries.

**The US, however, is still dominant in two key areas: finance and military power.** By controlling the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and having its Dollar as the world's main reserve currency, it still controls and supplies capital around the world. Its control is underwritten by military dominance, on which it spends almost as much capital as the entire world combined. Just to save its banking and industrialist elite's wealth and power, the US has already wasted between \$4-6 trillion in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Four challenges, however, upset this standoff.  
\*The huge inequalities in wealth and income, gaps not seen on this scale for 150 years. Layers and layers of working-class anger are buried in these statistics.

\*The growth of the working class itself, now close to 2 billion strong. Never in history has it been such a dominant factor.

\*The crisis of overproduction and falling rates of profit. When capitalist production fails to turn a profit, the need for wars to eliminate rivals becomes more intense.

\*As inter-imperialist rivalry sharpens so does class war. As capitalist production and distribution fail even to sustain the masses, production

solely for the masses - communism - becomes more urgent.

**We are entering a period of revolutionary upheaval.** The contradiction between the forces of production and the relations of production is coming to a head. Capitalist relations are holding us back where communist relations, production for need, will take us forward. In spite of the advances in science, machinery and skills, the forces of production, are being strangled by the relations of production, which only employ the 2 billion wage earners if the 1% (the capitalists) can make a profit.

And profit-making is getting harder and harder. The capitalist crisis of 2008 was its worst since World War II. It was a blow to the influence of US imperialism, weakening but not dislodging them in relation to their main rival, Chinese imperialism. Now the global economy managed by the "mighty US dollar" is once more facing crisis.

This new crisis' trends are undeniable: declining world trade, lower economic growth, mounting debt and slumps in investment in manufacturing caused by falling profits and

See GLOBAL CAPITALIST CRISIS, page 7