



# RED FLAG

## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

Paris, France: Mass protests against racist police, see page 5 →



← Los Angeles, US: Fighting for a world without borders, see page 4

### Masses in Motion Worldwide:

## URGENT NEED FOR MORE COMMUNIST LEADERS

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### Barcelona, Spain: Communism will defeat racism and nationalism

SPAIN, February 18—More than a hundred and fifty thousand people marched through Barcelona, loudly shouting in Catalan, “Volem Acollir, No més morts. Obrim fronteres!, Catalunya, terra d’acollida, Prou excuses. Acolim ara”! In English, this means “We want to welcome refugees; No more deaths, Open the borders! Catalonia, land of welcome. No more excuses. Welcome them now!”

The demonstration was organized by associations and trade unions in the province of Barcelona, with the goal of pressuring the Spanish government and the government of Catalonia to host the refugees.

These refugees were created by the oil wars in the Middle East and Syria, where the US, Chinese and Russian imperialists have created a climate disaster, poverty and death that forces these workers to leave their places of origin.

These refugees, desperate to save their lives, try to cross the Mediterranean Sea or to cross borders on European territory. The number of workers killed or disappeared in the year 2016 exceeded the estimated 3,800, a record that increases every day.

Thousands of workers took to the streets de-

manding that the government carry out rapid measures that help these workers in search of “a better future.”

However, during the demonstration they encountered other groups and people who did not agree with these intentions. “Before demonstrating for immigrants you should demonstrate for Spaniards” were some of the comments we heard on the march.

“Spain for the Spaniards,” said others, in clear support for the fascist movements of the moment or because they see their economic situation affected. Others repeated these slogans because they have lost their homes and jobs and live in poverty.

As the International Communist Workers’ Party, we talk about how to support the workers in the protests, but we also focus the conversation on telling workers that capitalism will never solve these problems. On the contrary, it uses its wars and poverty to strengthen racism and nationalism in the working class and to gain more profits for the European bosses, using immigrants for cheap labor in their labor markets.

“Fight for communism” is our slogan; and to

See BARCELONA, page 2

### COMRADE WRITES FROM SYRIA

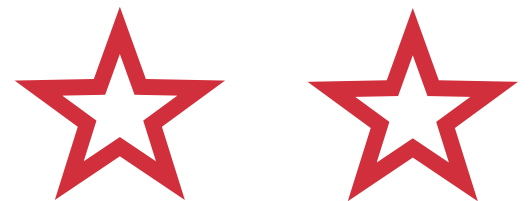
Not far from where I am, there is a constant barrage of gun fire. I am from Syria. I received your newspaper online. I cannot sleep tonight not because of the gunfire but the fire of the communist world that is our future.

One hundred years ago, our class demolished the power of the capitalists in Russia. Today we have to finish the work of our class that was smashed.

I shared the *Red Flag* and many articles with the comrades in Syria.

Long live communism! Communism and nothing but communism!

I talked to the comrade from your organization that can never be fallen because you, we, all of us must smash capitalism. My English is not so good, but we are in the struggle.



**EL SALVADOR  
MAQUILA  
WORKERS  
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**MTA WORKERS:  
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**Masses in Motion Worldwide:****UNLEASH THE COMMUNIST POTENTIAL OF THE MASSES  
BY DEVELOPING MORE COMMUNIST LEADERS NOW!**

Millions are marching in the streets. Millions more will follow in the months and years ahead.

\*Over four million in the US and hundreds of thousands worldwide turned out for the January 21st Women's Marches.

\*Masses stormed US airports, demanding that immigrants be welcomed. Hundreds of thousands marched in Barcelona, Spain with the same message.

\*Thousands marched and rebelled against the viciously racist Paris cops, recalling the mass anti-racist protests that swept France in 2005. Their slogans echoed similar protests against US killer cops.

These millions need communist revolution — and communist revolution needs them. Can that happen? Yes!

Communism will rely on masses of workers taking leadership in every aspect of society. In every situation, those with more experience will both teach and learn from those with less experience. We won't look to "experts" (not even "red experts") to solve problems. Instead we will unleash the creativity and enthusiasm of the masses.

Already today, as we build the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP), we begin to see this process develop. Newer members and even close friends can quickly become communist organizers.

\*At a recent pro-immigrant march in Los Angeles, a woman comrade led a Party contingent (all immigrant workers) that carried communist signs and distributed 400 copies of *Red Flag* (see page 4). Three high school students couldn't find the contingent, but they independently got out another 200 copies.

\*In Seattle (USA) a Boeing worker friend brought eight students to the Women's March from the high school women's basketball team he

coaches. They organized fifty more students to discuss racist cop killings. The coach grabbed a bunch of our literature to give to the student leaders. The next week he wanted more for the students' friends at another high school.

The Boeing comrade who is closest to the coach says he (like many comrades) needs to change his style of work. He was ready to cut back the number of *Red Flags* he gives to our friend to the few he had been giving him before. Luckily, the comrade's club wouldn't allow this retreat!

\*ICWP in El Salvador made its first contacts with garment workers in 2011. Today there are 20 members and hundreds more *Red Flag* readers in several factories.

\*Our Party club at a Los Angeles transit division included mostly latino males. Now a new member, who is black, leads a Party study group on the job. He's made it his responsibility to recruit a well-respected black female worker. Things are looking good for May Day!

\*A South African metal worker gave ICWP t-shirts to fifteen *Red Flag* readers. They all wore the shirts to work the next day. Now 400 workers want the shirts. Six months ago, there were six active party clubs in South Africa. Today there are nine—and dozens more workers want to join.

Progress like this can happen worldwide. And it shows that communism is possible.

**Learning to Be Communist Organizers by  
Doing It**

The masses are in motion because today's crisis of capitalism does not allow them to live in the old way. Fascism and the spreading flames of imperialist war are exposing the true nature of the bosses' murderous dictatorship.

More and more workers see communism as the solution. "There is a constant barrage of gun

fire," reports a reader from Syria. "I shared the *Red Flag* with the comrades in Syria."

People around us are changing. These new opportunities demand more from us. Our communist political work, now more than ever, requires an understanding that every small advance helps to make larger advances possible.

We must identify the people we know who are closest to becoming communist organizers. We must investigate what's holding them back from joining the party and taking more leadership. Let's ask them to join and listen to what they have to say.

And if you are one of those people, don't wait for someone to ask!

**May Day Plans: Recruit New Communist  
Organizers**

Everyone thinks May Day this year can be much bigger. This creates even more opportunities. The most important is the opportunity to develop new communist members and leaders, especially young ones. The times allow this to happen and demand that it does.

A high school student who attended a recent Party leadership meeting plans to bring her friends to our communist contingent this May Day. We must have confidence in students, workers and soldiers like her. Our plans must focus on how to build on their strengths.

Comrades in South Africa are already doing this. They are relying on new Party members to help organize a communist march of hundreds under the red flags of the International Communist Workers' Party.

As our Syrian comrade declared: "Long live communism! Communism and nothing but communism!"

**BARCELONA from page 1**

win that we must build a mass ICWP organized for and by the working class. ICWP is being built on the basis of the working class following a political line in which capitalism has no place in any of its phases. We must fight to break down the borders, to destroy wage slavery and to unite as one single international working class.

"I believe in communism. But I think we must carry out activities that help the workers in their daily lives, not just read the newspaper," said a comrade who is reading *Red Flag*.

"It is correct to study Dialectical Materialism, but putting it into practice is better," said a restaurant worker who is also a *Red Flag* reader.

We are working to continue bringing communist ideas to the largest number of workers possible and also to continue learning about how to defeat capitalism in the workers' struggle. Only Communism can defeat this system and ICWP is leading this struggle.

We also talk about how we can help the workers as ICWP. One of the ways is by meeting frequently to carry out activities in which we can

talk about communism but at the same time finding ways to help low-income workers.



**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**



**BUS OPERATORS' LAYOVER IS A VANISHING "RIGHT"****COMMUNISM IS BASED ON NEEDS, NOT "RIGHTS"**

LOS ANGELES (USA) – MTA transit workers welcomed an ICWP leaflet about their disappearing layovers. Many are angry about this and other capitalist attacks. Many agree that we need a system that lets us rest, that meets our needs.

It's clear that this is a collective problem. It needs a collective solution. We need to mobilize for a communist revolution and build a communist system that meets our needs.

An MTA operator told us while taking his customary two *Red Flags*, "Runs are so tight now many operators have no layover."

Another explained: "Wage Order Number 9 is supposed to guarantee employees' meal and rest periods. MTA workers are exempted because they have a union contract which specifies these breaks, called recovery time.

"Operators, however, are not told that the recovery time on work assignment sheets are excuses MTA uses to meet the law's requirements. Yes, our break times are written there but the times allocated are not enough to do our jobs."

No layover means no time to rest, eat, use the restroom or make important phone calls. No layover hurts workers' health. Job-related stress and the general stress from living under capitalism mean that retired operators die sooner than other workers, by as much as ten years.

When Republicans and Democrats debate health care, they don't talk about this stress and lack of control over our lives. Yet this reflects the reality of workers' health in capitalism.

It is becoming clearer to MTA workers, especially the many *Red Flag* readers, that we need a different system. We need to build a society where we will all make all decisions based on satisfying our human needs, not on saving or making money.

Communism will end the killer stress that comes with exploitation. Work will be collective and fun. There won't be bosses or supervisors. Workers will decide together what and how to



produce and the best ways to transport our comrade workers. There will be plenty of people to do the driving, repairs, and everything else. No one will have to work without going to the rest room, eating or resting.

The erosion of layovers has been happening for at least ten years. "That is why I retired," explained a recently-retired MTA operator.

"It is becoming unbearable," he continued. "The union has made no effort to enforce this issue because most of us do not make our complaints in writing. If the operators would pressure the Union, the company eventually would have to comply with the law. MTA would have to pay operators an additional hour for the ten-minute breaks not taken and another hour for the 30-minute break not taken. The rail operators have it worse."

"Why don't workers file complaints?" we asked.

"The supervisors intimidate them, saying that we get paid for that time. Operators also think, rightfully, that MTA will put them on a special list to harass them until they quit or are fired. That happened with Labor Code 233 in 2000.

"LC233 allowed an employee to take half of their annual sick time to tend to their family's medical needs. An operator found out and brought the issue to the Union. The Union told him that the Union and Company agreed not to disclose LC233 to the operators. He disclosed it himself. Management went after that operator

until they fired him."

"This is capitalism," said our comrade. "Workers have the 'right' to file complaints but can't use this 'right'. We have all kinds of 'rights' until we try to use them. 'Rights' are a concept developed by class society. They are given and taken away at the rulers' whim."

"I see," said the operator. "We need to eat and yet a law had to be written stating that employers must allow employees to eat. Either way, we are not eating properly because of all the stress. Is this how life is supposed to be?"

"No," said our comrade. "That is why we are organizing to destroy capitalism, its wage slavery and its 'rights' with a communist revolution."

Human beings have needs. Communist society will collectively satisfy everyone's needs without money. Capitalism is the opposite: our needs for food, shelter, medical care, etc., are denied if we can't pay for them. Many millions worldwide go hungry, homeless or die prematurely from stress caused by racist exploitation.

We ask MTA workers who have read *Red Flag* for years, and all other workers, to join ICWP, distribute the paper to their families, friends, and coworkers, and recruit them to ICWP.

We call on MTA workers to organize a political strike against capitalism and for communism. Such a strike will be a beacon for millions who are in motion against Trump's racism and fascism and against capitalism itself.

**MAQUILA WORKERS UNDER ATTACK NEED COMMUNISM, NOT REFORMISM**

EL SALVADOR—In the first weeks of the year, between the increase in the minimum wage from \$0.89 to \$1.23 an hour, and the reaction of the bosses, the situation in the factories in the central zone of the country was unstable. Layoffs, stricter schedules, suspension of overtime, and pressure from the supervisors were the ways the bosses responded to this reform. This environment clearly shows the urgency of mobilizing the workers for communism.

We responded to this situation by distributing our newspaper *Red Flag* and a leaflet about wage slavery and in support of the ICWP club of women and men workers inside the factories. This is part of the work of organizing more workers in struggle for a communist system. Hundreds of workers enthusiastically received our communist leaflet and *Red Flag* newspaper.

The club inside the factory was awaiting the reactions and comments of the workers about this

activity. Members were glad that more men and women workers would receive *Red Flag*.

"How do the people from *Red Flag* know so much about our problems?" a woman worker asked a Party comrade.

"They are the communists, the only ones who can help us," he answered.

The reformist struggle does not defend the working class. It prolongs the agony of living under capitalism. Maquila workers, in the face of all these attacks by the bosses, have shown great interest in our communist line because they can see the difference between fighting for reforms and fighting for communist revolution.

We don't fight for reforms. We understand that there is no easy way out of the problems that confront the workers and we act accordingly. This is the main difference that the International Communist Workers' Party has with the reformist movements.

The ICWP organizes the working class worldwide for a society without money, where we will work to produce based on the needs of the people. Our effort must be directed at politically training these workers to organize and share communist ideas in the factories.

We are self-critical that the leaflet that was distributed should have been more specific and made a call for communist organization. It needed to raise the abolition of the wage system, since money is the material base of wage slavery.

This May Day 2017, thousands of men and women workers will march worldwide waving red flags and shouting slogans in favor of the communist system. We invite you to organize in clubs of ICWP and participate in the struggle to establish a system based on the needs of all humanity.

**SUBSCRIBE TO RED FLAG - \$20/YEAR**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ I want \_\_\_\_\_ copies per issue

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send to P.M.B 362, 3006 S. Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90007



## COMRADES STEP UP AND TAKE LEADERSHIP

LOS ANGELES, USA, February 18—A group of comrades, the majority women, participated in distributing 600 *Red Flags* in the march carried out in downtown Los Angeles in which thousands of workers came to protest against the immigration policies of the US President. The immigrant comrades who joined together for this activity of distributing our literature are from several different countries, showing the internationalism of ICWP.

I have been a member of ICWP for several years and have participated in these types of actions, but this was the first time that I was responsible to lead such an activity. I did so with the conviction that it is necessary to struggle for a communist society free of discrimination because of place of origin, gender, color, or any other reason.

A friend of the party accompanied us for the first time. Her attitude at the beginning of the activity was uncertain, but when we got to the march she was one of the most active, taking pictures for the *Red Flag* newspaper.

We coordinated in advance all the details to carry out this activity. There were some obstacles due to the rainy weather, so one of the comrades assumed that few would attend this event. But talking with this worker, we convinced him that the workers would respond to the call to march and that this was a great opportunity to distribute *Red Flag* and make our communist line known to more people. We said we will have to be prepared to face much more difficult situations than this.

We arrived at the march with communist signs and newspapers that were very well received. Some came over to ask for the paper.

One worker to whom we gave the paper asked, “What is this newspaper about?”

I answered, “It’s our international communist newspaper.”

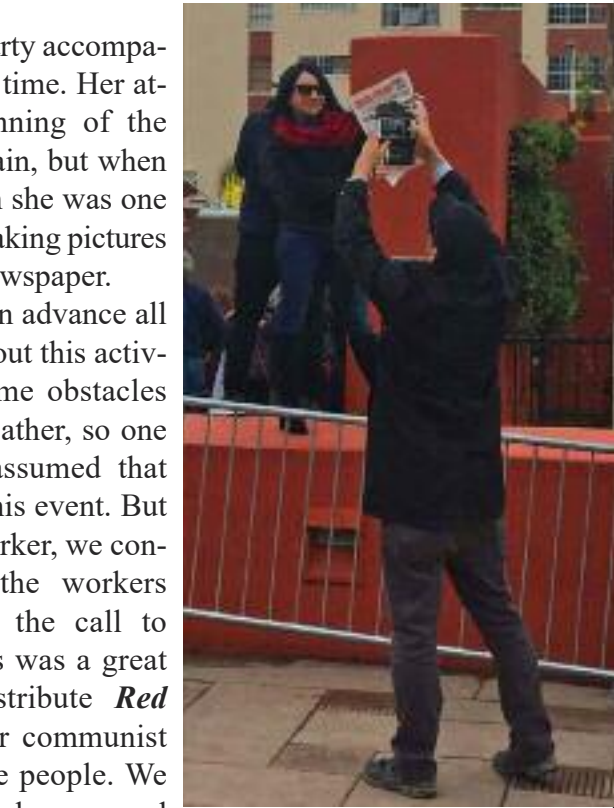
“Ah, that’s what we need,” he responded.

We saw that a contingent of students with their respective teachers joined the march. They were lined up as in a class. We approached them with *Red Flag* and they all took it.

Another comrade was able to make a contact with a worker. When we gave him *Red Flag* he started reading it. Then he came to look for us so that we could keep giving him the paper in the future.

Also, a group of ICWP high school students mobilized in the march. They distributed 200 of the 600 newspapers so that more workers would have the opportunity to know communist ideas and organize in the International Communist Workers’ Party. The need to join the fight for a system without borders where no one will be considered illegal and where the workers can go to any place in the world, according to the need.

Participating in this action has allowed me to have more confidence in the comrades to be able to carry out this mission. The participation of more women in the communist struggle is very important. At the same time as this event, another group of comrades from several countries where the party has a presence was meeting to discuss important aspects in the building, organization, and ideology of our International Communist Workers’ Party.



## IMMIGRANT WORKERS LEAD FIGHT AGAINST RACIST ATTACKS AND TO SMASH THE BOSSES’ BORDERS

LOS ANGELES, USA, February 22—The US Government has just released its latest guidelines for attacks on immigrants. Deportation officers will conduct more raids in immigrant communities, detain people without criminal convictions, and deport people for minor infractions like driving without a license. Anyone who has been in the US for less than two years can be deported without a hearing. Parents can be arrested for paying a smuggler to bring their children across the border.

Even with 10,000 new federal agents, they can’t deport 11 million people immediately. But they can create mass terror and uncertainty. This is a return to the days that many of us lived in Los Angeles in the 1970s and 80s—a period where immigrant worker comrades led the way in fighting the resurgent Ku Klux Klan, immigration raids, apartheid, and racist police terror. (See *Fighting “Migra” Terror* Vol. 7, No 20)

This order follows mass deportation raids which swept up hundreds of unauthorized immigrants over a three-day period earlier in February. One person deported that week was Guadalupe Garcia de Rayos, an unauthorized immigrant who had lived and worked in the US for more than twenty years. Garcia de Rayos, like millions of our class brothers and sisters, was forced by imperialist exploitation to migrate from Mexico to the US where she used a social security number that was not hers. For this “crime”—considered by the US rulers to be a felony—she has been deported to Mexico and separated from her US-born children.

Millions of immigrant workers were deported under Obama. Millions more will be deported under the new rules. This is the capitalist rule of law, enforced by Democrats and Republicans alike.

Yet this is the same rule of law celebrated by lawyers and liberals when the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals temporarily stopped Trump’s racist ban on refugees and travel to the US from seven Muslim countries. It is the same rule of law that will provide the guidelines for a new, more carefully written,

“Muslim ban” in coming weeks.

Capitalist laws establish, regulate and patrol the borders between capitalist nation-states. Different groups of bosses may disagree about immigration policy, but they all agree that borders should serve the interests of the capitalist class. Sometimes they need cheap labor; sometimes (often at the same time) they need workers terrorized; sometimes they want to improve their international reputation.

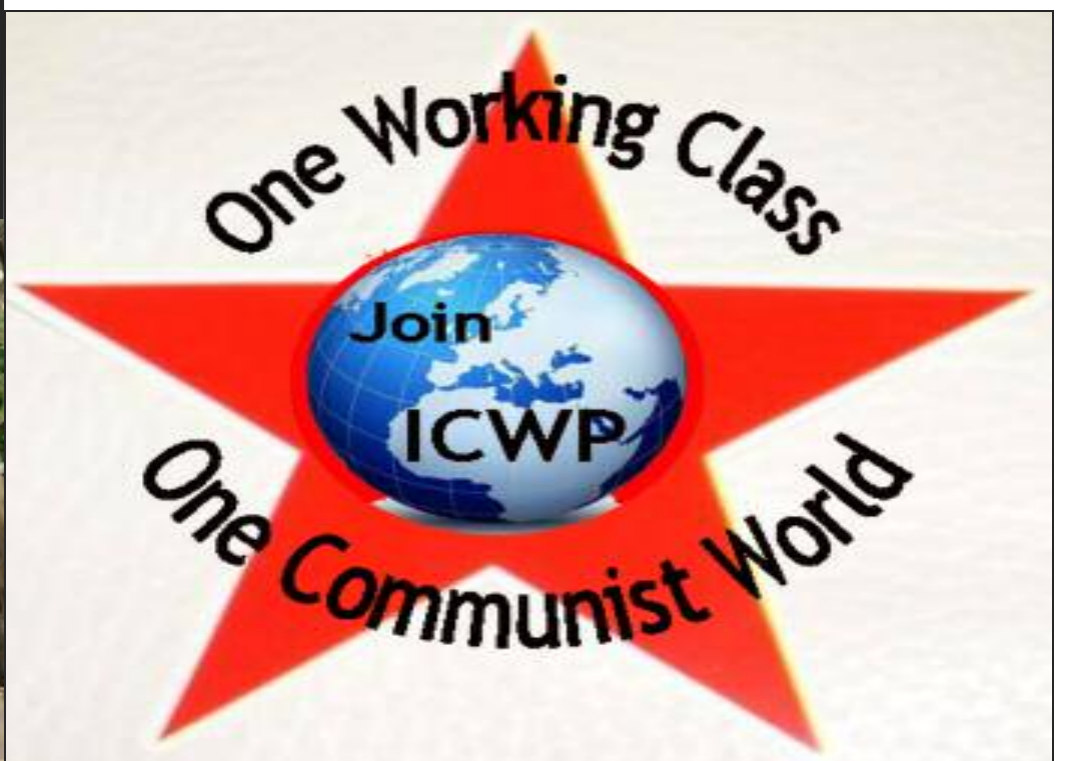
The current rulers are demonizing immigrant workers, building racism among American workers so they blame immigrants for the job losses in US basic industry caused by the capitalist crisis of overproduction. Workers must reject this racist division and unite against our real class enemy—the capitalists and their system.

**We don’t call on the bosses to open the borders. We are organizing a revolutionary communist movement to smash the bosses and their borders.** This movement owes much to the commitment of immigrant workers who provide leadership to our party. Their experience of revolutionary class struggle on both sides of national borders is an example to our entire party.

We are building one international communist party. We don’t have “national parties” in an international organization—just one party. We are fighting for a world with no nations and no borders. We’ll welcome workers from anywhere and encourage people to travel to build solidarity with people from different regions—just like we do now.

We won’t have laws, a President, courts or cops enforcing the laws. We’ll engage in collective work and struggle around our basic principles of from each according to commitment, to each according to need.

The rule of law is the rule of the whole capitalist system, Democrats or Republicans, liberals or fascists. We don’t try to take the fascists to court or elect lesser-evil politicians. Our task is to mobilize the masses to smash the capitalists and their state and build a communist society in its place.





## FRANCE: MASS PROTESTS AGAINST RACIST POLICE TERROR

February 17--Tens of thousands demonstrated in France in support of Theo L, the young black man brutalized by cops in Aulnay sous Bois, a Paris suburb. Marches and vigils took place in Paris, Dijon, Marseilles, Poitiers, Rennes, Nice, and many other cities.

On February 2, Theo, a community organizer with no police record, came across four cops harassing some youth of immigrant origin. When one of the cops struck one of the youth, Theo tried to intervene and the cops piled on Theo instead. They beat him, pulled down his pants and sodomized him with a night stick, severely injuring him. Youth took to the streets that same night and the protests have spread through France and other European countries.

The protestors are demanding "justice" for Theo but they won't get it through the courts. Already the French internal affairs have declared that the injury was an "accident." Some protestors have taken matters into their own hands and attacked the police en masse.

People wonder how or why the police are so brutal and pick on people who have done nothing. The answer is that their job is to sow terror, and arbitrary, brutal attacks on innocent people are very intimidating.

Of course, Theo is just the latest in a long series of victims of racist attacks, as the sign above makes clear. Under communism workers won't need protection from the police because there will be no police. Workers



**"Justice for Theo, Adama, Remi, Abdouye, Zyed & Bouna and all the others"**  
**"The police protect us...But who protects us from the police??"**

will manage our own affairs and will handle disputes mainly through discussion and compromise. The only people who will be afraid of us will be the bosses and their servants, and they won't be around for long.

### Down with all the capitalist parties!

## **WORKERS NEED ONE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY**

MEXICO — The working class here is fed up with lying politicians and disillusioned with electoral politics. Half the eligible voters do not vote because they know it is all a fraud. More workers must understand that they don't need parties that only take care of the interests of the bourgeoisie. We need to organize in an International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). We, the masses, can mobilize to destroy capitalism and build communism, where we will mobilize to meet our needs and resolve our problems. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to join ICWP.

Fascist capitalism is advancing. Trump threatened to use the National Guard against immigrants, but the lackey government of Mexico has done this for ten years.

They are militarizing the whole country and hounding immigrants from Latin America. They stop, terrorize, and deport them. Hundreds have been disappeared and found in clandestine graves.

Trump is not "outside the system." He corresponds to the needs of capitalism that put him in office to resolve relative overproduction (see comment, page 6) by confronting the US's competitors: China and Russia.

In Communism, these atrocities will not exist because there will be no borders or barriers that prevent people from traveling around the planet. Above all, there will be no need to go to another country, risking your life, looking for work so you don't die of hunger. Everyone will be able to work and live well since all production will be to meet our needs and not to make money.

Masses have shown a lot of anger against the Peña government since the "gasolinazo" (raising the price of gasoline by 20%). Looting has stopped but the marches have continued. Therefore, the government decided to postpone the price increases planned for February.

However, the leaders of this movement have channeled this anger toward nationalism. They are proposing changes that would only continue the exploitation of the workers' labor power by other means. They propose that oil and electricity return to belonging to "the nation." They want refineries to be built to stop importing refined



**Comrade distributes Red Flag, May Day, Mexico City, 2014**

gasoline, and they want to "reverse the process of privatization."

Trump added fuel to this wave of protests with his threats of deportations and a border wall. Thousands returned to the streets, this time summoned by intellectuals and television announcers. These promote "UNITY" against Trump's politics but only seek unity around the failed capitalist government. They use Mexican flags and national anthems for this purpose.

In communism, oil and electricity will not be in private hands. Nor will they be a so-called "national resource" (as it was called in Mexico) to enrich a few. They will be resources that we administer to meet the needs of the people, not for the purpose of a few to get tremendous profits while most of the population dies of hunger. And we will not have "nationalisms" or nations that divide the working class.

Many in the march against Trump openly protested against the Mexican government with signs like "Peña Out" as they had done before. In previous marches, they chanted against all the electoral Parties. This time the organizers invited these not to come as Parties and therefore none of them came at all.

Members of ICWP have been present in these marches. They distributed Red Flag and leaflets and talked with workers about the need to fight for communist revolution. Many marchers have responded very well.

The wing of the bourgeoisie who call themselves the "left" is moving toward state capitalism, like the leaders who have led the protests, even though they reject the electoral Parties. They are all equally wrapped in the Mexican flag. They do not distinguish between workers and bosses in their call for UNITY.

Many see MoReNa as the "left" alternative. Even some of the bosses who previously denounced it have joined it. So have some owners of construction companies, agricultural bosses, and owners of masa and tortilla businesses, as well as some academics from Chiapas. In contrast, the traditional parties (PAN, PRI, PRD) are uniting to nominate a candidate for governor of the State of Mexico. Their goal is to prevent MoReNa from displacing the PRI, which has governed there for 78 years.

The bourgeois liberals are trying to put themselves at the head of the spontaneous and popular movement that has generated dissent, unleashed by the gasolinazo. These opportunists must be stopped by the workers organized with communist ideas.

Comrade workers, let's unite in the struggle to build a better world. Let's reject all the bourgeois parties including MoReNa and fight for communism by joining the International Communist Workers' Party.





South Africa, 2017

### Build a Base among Industrial Workers

I can now drill steel pins perfectly, mill them as well using the lathe machine to make Grooves on the steel. It will take me four years to qualify and be paid, but what I do now gets straight into the production process. It doesn't wait for four years. I had better concentrate on what I do best: drilling holes in the bosses' system.

--A metal worker in South Africa

### Bourgeois Democracy Breeds Fascism

Our thoughts and hopes are with you. We can't help but think of the dialectical materialism video in relation to the goings-on in America and elsewhere.

Fascism and racism are on the rise once again. It is important that we derive our thinking from the working-class point of view. If we waver we will render ourselves useless like all other outfits who throw around a lot of rhetoric.

Bourgeois democracy breeds fascism and is only a cover for the capitalist dictatorship. Within its forms, the advance of fascism is steadily pushed forward. Fascism grows organically out of bourgeois democracy.

Preaching confidence in the law, in the constitution, in the capitalist state, means to invite and guarantee the victory of fascism.

The inauguration of Donald Trump as the Commander-in-Chief of US imperialism rightly scares the daylights out of millions of people in America and worldwide. It makes hundreds of millions angry. Thousands are pouring out in protests.

But their justified fear and anger are being cynically manipulated by the Democratic Party and its leftist servants to tamp down militancy and entrap protest in an electoral framework that offers nothing for the workers and the poor but the right to be exploited.

It is necessary to reject the lie that "democracy" can be reformed in the interest of the oppressed. It is nothing but a ruthless dictatorship of the capitalist ruling class. It is high time that as ICWP we intensify our "mobi-

lizing the masses for Communism" campaign everywhere. It is the only solution to end our miseries under capitalist rule.

Phantsi nongxiwa phants!!! Abash capitaliste abashe!! Away with capitalism, away! Viva ICWP Viva!!  
--Comrades in South Africa

### Fascism and Trump

Capitalist bosses around the world are in a crisis of growing nationalism and populism. This comes from a number of reasons, like immigration, as if immigration was the cause of the economic crisis that they themselves are in. They forget that the regional wars in the Middle East and wars in Syria were caused by themselves in the pursuit of profits.

In 2008, the capitalists reacted with Globalization after the economic collapse. They advocated free trade, free markets. All of this was to say that this was the solution for the world's problems. This was mostly driven by capitalists from the US and England and their allies.

Now they realize that this was not the solution. They are backing off from their globalization. Hence the Brexit and the rise of Donald Trump (a fascist and a true CAPITALIST—not to say the other capitalists are not also true capitalists).

Donald Trump now realizes that the USA is a declining power in the world that can't dictate its terms freely in global affairs. Trump must go to more bilateral relations/engagements where the US will hold power because of their military.

What drives Trump is not that he wants to create better lives for the US working class. He is driven by the economy, by profit, like any other capitalist. He is planning to use the Authoritarian style to keep American businesses in America.

None of this will solve anything. We need to keep fighting him and the capitalist system—no matter how it is portrayed. As long as capitalism is the order of the day, these problems

will continue happening and escalating.

What we need is to be united as the working class of the world. We need to fight to destroy capitalism, to continue to mobilize the working class in all corners of the world into one mass organization that is willing to fight and destroy capitalism and continue with the struggle for communism.

We need to fight capitalism from every side, whether from nationalist tendencies or fascist tendencies.

We will continue distributing the **Red Flag** and mobilizing the masses from schools, universities, industrial areas and mass gatherings as well as army barracks. We are willing to continue this struggle. We learn as we go forward. We write as we struggle; we analyze and continue to mobilize the masses for communism.

Only communism will destroy fascists like Trump and all capitalists all around the world.

--Young Comrade in South Africa

### Red Flag replies:

Thank you for your letter.

We agree that today's crisis shows the need and opportunity to mobilize for communism worldwide.

However, growing nationalism, racism and populism are the manifestations of the crisis, not its cause. This crisis is rooted in a capitalist crisis of overproduction. Capitalism's rate of profit declines due to competition for maximum profit and automation. So capitalists-imperialists produce more goods than can be sold profitably; markets shrink. The capitalists' competition sharpens. They lay off workers, drive down wages, and produce even more with fewer workers.

Capitalists must fight for market share. Today they try to stop their rivals' products with tariffs. Tomorrow they will destroy their rivals' means of production through war.

Bosses must push nationalism and racism to win workers to fight for their profits. although competing capitalists have different tactics.

They need fascism, racism and nationalism to terrorize workers while winning them to fight for their empires.

As you say, the only alternative for workers of the world is to mobilize for communism. Production and distribution will only be to meet human needs. No profits, no overproduction, no capitalism, no imperialist war, no nations, nationalism, racism or fascism.





## LETTERS

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## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

## Transit Workers Organize Communist Class Struggle

Recently members of ICWP at MTA (public transportation) met to discuss the importance of our *Red Flag* newspaper in spreading communist ideas as the crucial, most advanced answer to capitalism's fascism that is expanding worldwide.

We understand that the struggle is not easy, because there are obstacles that affect the thinking and feelings of some workers. Some have illusions that they will not be affected. Others think that they can't do anything. Some ask what good the marches and strikes are.

All these ways of thinking are products of the reformist organizations that have been in

charge of disarming the working class ideologically for years. Nevertheless, many more men and women workers are open to communist ideas and to developing the work of organizing.

In fact, one of the decisions we made in the meeting was to speed up the struggle to organize a political strike for communism and against capitalism.

We also decided to visit and call more co-workers and to organize a forum to explain to them the need to join this campaign and to join ICWP.

--Transit worker comrades



## Fighting Sexism on the Job

In 1974, I worked in a garment factory that specialized in men's leather coats. I and 5 other male workers stood around a large table sorting out and matching by size and color all the pieces for a given coat. About 200 other workers, mainly women, sewed the pieces together.

Given the location of the restrooms, everyone passed by us on the way there. When young women passed, my coworkers would hiss, whistle and make "cat calls" at them.

I disapproved of this behavior, and being a communist, I confronted them. I called their behavior disgusting and said that they wouldn't like their girlfriends, sisters or mothers to be treated like that. This just got them angry at me without changing their behavior.

Taking a different approach, I decided to try to interest them in having political discussions. They were all Catholics, and I am an atheist. We started discussing the existence or nonexistence of God. Then we spent hours discussing the role of churches, especially the Catholic Church, as instruments of the ruling classes to keep the masses oppressed.

Then we talked about our oppression, how the boss became rich from our labor (in few years he was a millionaire). We talked about the role of the "Migra," immigration laws, borders and nations. We talked about revolution and the role women played in the struggle for the liberation of the working class.

About three began to read my communist newspaper. One read Gorki's *The Mother*. Another read *How the Steel Was Tempered*. None came to any of the demonstrations or meetings I invited them to. However, for the time I worked there, their attitude toward the women changed. There was no harassing of them. Politics is all we talked about, with the exception sometimes of boxing and soccer.

--Comrade in Los Angeles USA

## Making the Journey to True Communism

I have worked in the school and preschool systems in a large American city for 30 years. Now I have been thinking of ways that these places would become part of our coming improved social system.

It has been very helpful to picture them as centers for their communities. Public schools and libraries are already in place, used to serve local children, students and adults. I see them serving as clinics, food distribution centers and continuing to provide library

services. There could be a local nurse or doctor's office that would serve to address immediate and simpler healthcare.

The cafeterias could be used to feed people in large groups, with local families forming and organizing their schedules to provide meals to their areas. There would be healthy mixing of age groups, a sharing of food cultures, less energy used to cook in individual homes. There could be a poem and song period, after meals, to encourage culture and creativity!

Of course, over time, these would have to be restructured and more efficient buildings would take their place, but as a start, a way to make the journey to true communism a reality, existing buildings could be used!

--Comrade in the US

## "I will refuse to round up immigrants"

Already being part of the National Guard, and reading that the Trump Administration was considering using the National Guard to round up unauthorized immigrants infuriated me. Those of us that join the National Guard are asked "to swear to protect our country." The working class has no nations.

The very same capitalists have created these so-called countries through their wars of world dominance. They get us, the working class, to defend them with our very lives. Now I am being ordered to go against my working-class brothers and sisters and actually participate in the efforts in their deportation.

As a communist, I will refuse and get my comrades in arms to refuse such orders. I will spread communist ideas inside the National Guard, like the idea that workers from one "country" do not need to be fighting workers from other "countries" and dying for the benefit of the capitalists, but rather the idea that the international working people united can overthrow all capitalists with communist revolution.

With communism, there will not be a National Guard arresting and deporting working people, but rather a Red Army fighting to expand, sustain and hold communist social relationships worldwide, where people will live free of exploitation, modern day slavery and share everything that we produce. With this being said, as a National Guard soldier and a communist I truly can say that communism will get rid of all social classes and borders so we the international working people can unite and live as one.

--Young soldier

## "So Many White People Taking Red Flag!"

I am an immigrant worker, a member of ICWP, and recently I was distributing *Red Flag* in Los Angeles at one of the biggest marches I have ever seen.

It surprised me very much to see whole families of white people, especially tens of thousands of young white women with signs against sexism. But what caught my attention even more was that many of them enthusiastically took our communist newspaper. This gave me the certainty that we can build our party (ICWP) among white, latino, black, and asian workers and students.

Racism is growing with the venomous xenophobia that the government is pushing along with the attacks on the families of undocumented immigrant workers. But the anger of all workers is growing and these workers will put an end to fascism, if we win them to fight for communism.

We live in a country in which the majority of workers are white and they are an important force to put an end to racism and capitalism. They will never be free from exploitation while other workers in the US and around the world are super exploited.

The unity of all workers will make possible the creation of a communist society, where wage slavery does not exist and we can end the bosses' rabid exploitation of the workers. Let's fight for communism.

--Comrade in Los Angeles



LOS ANGELES (US), February 4 – Masses in the US fear that the new Republican administration will shred their already-inadequate health insurance. Hundreds rallied for a US universal health care plan, and many welcomed *Red Flag* and our communist line.



## International Women's Day:

# WOMEN WORKERS MUST LEAD FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

Three thousand Egyptian garment workers, mainly women, went on strike on February 7 at two factories owned by the giant company El-Kubra. They suspended their strike – the second in four months – after authorities threatened five women leaders with jail or firing.

This strike for a wage “bonus” was part of a wave of protests against steep inflation imposed by the International Monetary Fund. Sugar workers walked out in December. In January, workers shut down the Covertina Sweet Factory and workers at the IFFCO oils and soap factory in Suez held a sit-in.

The garment workers have also been in the forefront of political struggles, including the protests that toppled the Mubarak regime. One day they will join the fight to end the wage system with communist revolution. So will women in the maquilas of El Salvador, the garment factories of Los Angeles (USA) and the sweatshops of Bangladesh. Our job is to hasten that day by spreading *Red Flag* far and wide.

### Women Workers and Revolution

On International Working Women's Day a century ago, thousands of female factory workers led bread riots in Petrograd. This sparked a massive days-long citywide demonstration. Over 100,000 workers demanded food. They wanted Russia to get out of World War I.

The Czar ordered troops to fire on unarmed crowds. That backfired. Sixty thousand troops from the Petrograd garrison joined the strikers. They forced the Czar to abdicate.

This “February Revolution” installed the liberal capitalist Kerensky government. More troops were sent to kill and die. Masses still went hungry.

The communists (Bolsheviks) had to go underground. They mobilized their massive base in factories and the military. Communist women (the Zhenotdel) mobilized women workers. Eight months later the Bolsheviks led these masses to seize power in the “October Revolution.”

The Bolsheviks organized for “peace, land, bread,” not for communism. Their “New Economic Policy” (NEP) tried to manage capitalist development. Then they built socialism. That maintained core elements of capitalism, including wage labor, markets, money. They elevated nationalism over working-class internationalism.

The young Soviet state took steps to relieve the sexist oppression of women. It undercut the backward influence of the Russian Orthodox



Petrograd, Russia, February, 1917

church. It legalized divorce, birth control and abortion. Soviet women organized collective childcare.

But prostitution flourished under the NEP. Socialism left many women workers in dire poverty. The nationalist surge in the 1930s depicted women mainly as child-bearers for “the motherland.”

The Bolsheviks expected socialism to advance toward communism. Instead, because socialism kept the wage system, it evolved into full-blown market capitalism. Today, Russian workers need communist revolution as badly as they did a century ago.

### Communism versus Feminism

Masses are outraged at the Trump administration. Calls for a general strike circulate on social media although no major organizations are organizing one. Young adults, especially, are seeking alternatives to capitalism. The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) must inspire them with our vision of communism.

Liberal activists are scrambling to keep up with the masses. Their “pro-democracy” politics actually support capitalism. “Women's March” organizers have called for a “global women's strike” on International Women's Day. Feminists in thirty countries are organizing mass actions, boycotts and “abstaining from domestic, care and sex work.”

What a difference a century makes! Liberal feminists tell us to skip work only if we won't get

in trouble! The official themes (“love and liberation”) and issues (“male violence” and “reproductive rights”) avoid any hint of class struggle.

In 1917, women workers fought for “bread and peace” while middle-class women raised liberal political reform demands. Similarly, *Red Flag* readers must fight for revolutionary communism in the “Women's Strike” and other mass activities, whether spontaneous or under liberal leadership.

Let's organize political strikes that target capitalism! Let's mobilize masses directly for communism! Soldiers and industrial workers, women and men, are key. When they organize collectively to shut down production for profit, they glimpse the possibility of seizing power. They can lead the fight for communist production that meets the masses' needs.

Imagine a future where workers don't have to strike for a “wage bonus” because there are no wages. Where nobody has to demand bread because we who grow the grain and bake the loaves will share them freely. Where the only war we fight is the revolution to end class society. And where the end of class society allows us to win the struggle against sexism, racism and nationalism.

Do you share this communist vision? Then celebrate International Women's Day 2017 by distributing *Red Flag* on the job and at mass events. And by joining the ICWP!

## CALL FOR HELP WITH NEW PAMPHLET: COMMUNISM WILL END SEXISM

*Communism, a society without money or exchange, will fundamentally change the way we produce and distribute goods and services. It will allow us to end borders and hierarchies. Workers worldwide, unified by our communist party, will take control of our collective lives.*

*But communism will do much more than that. It will also transform our social relationships at every level, in ways that we can only begin to imagine today. It will change the way we see ourselves and others. It will enable us to end sexism along with racism and every other poisonous aspect of class society.*

*Mobilizing masses of women and men for communism today is the key to ending sexism. That requires ongoing struggle against sexist ideas and practices that stand in our way.*

**We are developing a new pamphlet that will discuss:**

- \*How communism will create the material basis for ending sexism
- \*The struggle against sexist ideas, practices and culture now and as we build communism.
- \*History of the communist struggle against sexism, especially in the early Soviet Union and revolutionary China
- \*Women as communist leaders and women workers' leadership in class and anti-racist struggles
- \*Communism versus feminism
- \*The origins of sexism in class society: private property, the family, religion and the state
- \*How capitalism uses sexism to divide the working class, and the relationships between

racism and sexism

\*Biology is not destiny: class society created the ideas about gender and sexuality that we accept as “natural” but there is nothing “natural” about capitalism!

**How you can help:**

- \*Write letters or articles for *Red Flag* about struggles against sexism on the job, in the schools or elsewhere.
- \*Write letters with questions you have or points that you think we should include in the pamphlet
- \*Volunteer to create a collective that will produce a draft of an article for the pamphlet
- \*Organize a study group to discuss drafts or other articles and write up your discussion
- \*Contribute photos and other graphics