

# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**



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

## MASS STRUGGLE IN BRAZIL SHOWS COMMUNIST POTENTIAL

**SEE PAGE 3**



Proletarians,  
Unite!

## SOUTH AFRICA SUCCESS: INTENSIFYING EFFORTS, OVERCOMING WEAKNESSES

SOUTH AFRICA—A year ago we decided that we were going to organize the May Day event where we live because in South Africa there are no marches. Usually events happen in stadiums and halls.

When we started planning the event we had a target of 500 people, industrial workers, students and soldiers. The youth collective focused on universities and colleges as well as industrial areas. The workers' collective was going to focus on workers and soldiers in other parts of town.

We did that. We intensified our visits to colleges. We talked to students. We got some contacts and invited them to May Day.

During the month before May Day we printed flyers and posters. We distributed them in the surrounding areas. We were also driving around street by street, loud hailing inviting workers to come on Workers' Day.

Doing this led to challenges within our collective. We struggled with each other to overcome them because sometimes we are not disciplined in our organizing. Sometimes comrades would be absent from the day's activity, often attending to personal matters.

We discussed how to overcome these obstacles. Understanding that the work of the collective was more important, we guaranteed that the work of the Party did not stop because some individuals were absent.

We made sure that those individuals who were absent received a report of the day's work. We also told them of the next day's work. We made

sure that there was continuity. All of this organizing was new to us, but its success really showed us that we learn through practice, by implementing our understanding of mobilizing the masses for communism.

The masses respond to our Party's line. On the actual event's day, over 200 adults and 250 children came to the May Day mass meeting. They listened intently to speeches explaining what ICWP and communism are all about. The masses who are disgruntled with capitalism agreed with most of the things the comrades pointed out. Many wanted to join ICWP to fight for a communist future. They all agreed that capitalism has no future, that it needs to be abolished by our communist revolution, that we need a classless communist society where everything is produced collectively to meet the collective needs of the working class and no one is more privileged than another.

The May Day success gave us inspiration to continue to mobilize the masses for communism. Workers were eager to listen to us, unlike those who attended the event organized by the ruling African National Congress (ANC) where President Zuma was booed by the masses. Of course we are not interested in their failures but such incidents give us the opportunity to mobilize for communism these masses disgusted with the ANC and other capitalist political parties.

It gives us the opportunity to win these masses to join ICWP to crush the capitalists-imperialists, their political parties, and their racist murderous system.

## LOS ANGELES TRANSIT: BUILDING ICWP COLLECTIVES TO ADVANCE COMMUNIST CLASS STRUGGLE

LOS ANGELES—Recently, a veteran MTA bus driver of 17 years had a minor accident. He did not see a pipe protruding from a truck. As he passed the truck, the pipe scratched his side window. Nothing major—the window didn't even need replacing.

"Will he be fired?" the *Red Flag* distributor asked the MTA bus driver relating this incident.

"He is being charged with the accident. It's his third. If they all fall within an 18-month period, he will be fired," replied the MTA bus operator.

"Just for that?!"

"Yes, operators get fired even for less. Most of the accidents are not our fault but management fires as many operators as possible to keep us all scared. It is also good business for them. With what they pay a veteran operator, they can hire two part-timers, who have little or no benefits. Besides, they get to keep MTA's contributions to the fired operator's pension. This is no small change. It could amount to a couple hundred thousand dollars or more."

"And no one protests these firings? Not the union or the workers?"

"Yes, no one protests. Trying to get rid of older operators, management instituted a reign of terror firing operators for one accident or two depending on their severity. They did this arbitrarily. Operators started demanding to have written

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## US Top Cop Comey Fired in Fight Among Capitalists

# COMMUNISM RELIES ON MOBILIZED MASSES FOR SECURITY, NOT FASCIST FBI

SEATTLE, USA, May 18—"The problem is not who leads the FBI," a Boeing comrade said to co-workers on the job. "The problem is the FBI!"

The FBI is the US Federal Bureau of Investigation. Trump had just fired FBI chief James Comey, who was investigating links between the Trump campaign and the Russian government. The capitalist media had been running "exposés" non-stop. They still are.

Our member started talking about the racist, anti-working class, anti-communist history of the FBI. A friend interrupted with a list of his own. From the anti-communist beginnings, to sabotage of progressive movements and the assassination of their leaders, he knew it all. (Information available on [www.ICWPRedFlag.org](http://www.ICWPRedFlag.org))

We agreed the FBI is our enemy. But is some state police force like it a necessary evil?

The main section of the US imperialist class thinks it's necessary. These neoliberals just want it firmly under their control. So do capitalists and imperialists everywhere.

Mainstream media constantly refer to the 1973 Watergate scandal when talking about Comey and the Russian connection. During Watergate, "old money" imperialists brought down then-President Nixon with a carefully orchestrated campaign centered around exposures in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Gerald Ford replaced him, with Nelson Rockefeller as vice-president.

Today the neoliberal imperialists are running to catch up with millions in the streets. They are trying to corral the mass explosion against sexism, Islamophobia and racism (anti-black, anti-Latino and anti-immigrant) into government committees and the courts.

They would love to recreate the Watergate magic: assert firm control over the organs of government, discipline those (like Trump) who spill the beans on their fascist plans, while dissipating the justifiable anger of the masses into relying on democratic institutions. But the continuing global crisis of capitalism has made this hard to do.

This crisis has also sharpened conflicts among imperialists to the point where important elements among the US rulers are thinking seriously about war with Russia. Trump is compromising their ability to do so. This too is part of the Comey fight.

Like our friend at Boeing, many workers know they have no stake in this fight. But we do have a fight: the fight for communism. How will we guarantee the security—and ultimate success—of the new communist society?

### Communist Security Relies on the Party Mobilizing Masses

In communism, the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) will mobilize masses to guarantee security. That will be our guiding principle. We won't rely on a state police force.

Starting with the party, we will build strong collectives. This collective outlook will extend not only to production, but to the rest of society. With mobilized masses making sure everyone gets what they need, we will get to know a lot more about each other.

"Mind your own business" is not a communist principle. Communist society will make it much harder for counterrevolutionary forces to operate. That includes racist xenophobes, white supremacists like the murderer in Portland, Oregon (see box) and terrorists like the Manchester bombers.

Nonetheless, history has taught us that the bosses and their agents will stop at nothing to organize counterrevolutionary forces (as long as capitalism exists anywhere). Spontaneous action by the masses in defense of communism is no match for organized counterrevolution. We will face real and dangerous threats.

To mobilize masses to meet these threats will require some sort of organized and trained security forces. These would be armed when necessary and capable of acting quickly in emergencies. But that won't be their main or full-time work. Like the whole party, they will have to mobilize the masses themselves to deal with any situation.

For example, suppose some counterrevolutionaries took hostages and holed up in a building, shooting at passersby. (In *Through the Russian Revolution*, Albert Williams describes a similar event, in Vladivostok.) Security forces would cordon off the area and, working with other party-led collectives, organize armed workers to lay siege to the building. Then they might try negotiations, or launch an assault.

Many ICWP members have taken part in or led

## DEFEATING FASCISM TAKES COURAGE... AND COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION

A fascist murdered Ricky Best and Taliesin Namkai-Meche on a Portland, Oregon (USA) commuter train on April 27th. These two white men stood up to the fascist's racist and xenophobic rants directed at a black teenager and a Muslim teenager. A third was sent to the emergency room, but survived with the help of a fourth person. Their courage and their commitment to anti-racism should inspire us with confidence in the masses.

The fascist was known to the cops. Last month, he came to a right-wing rally, wrapped in a US flag shouting, "F\*\*k all you n\*\*\*\*rs." The night before the murders he had gone on another racist rant on a train. Of course, the cops did nothing. They serve racist capitalism.

In communism, it would never had gotten this far. Party-led collectives would have made sure this fascist was dealt with much earlier.

How? We don't have all the answers yet. We know we can't rely entirely on spontaneous actions of the masses, like those on the Portland train who are now called heroes. Whatever the Party urges the masses to do should result both in removing the threat and involving masses in a way that helps win them to communism. We won't rely on cops, laws or jails.

We need to expand this discussion among crucial soldiers and industrial workers (like the seven Boeing workers who read drafts of these articles) and among the broader masses who will make communist revolution and guarantee that communism succeeds. **We welcome letters and comments.**

mass physical attacks on racists, neo-Nazis and organized xenophobes. Almost always, the cops arrested the anti-racist fighters and protected the fascist scum! Naturally, we can't stop these vermin from re-emerging under capitalism, but it is good practice for the masses and party members alike, for the time when we can eradicate them once and for all. We will take advantage of opportunities to do so.

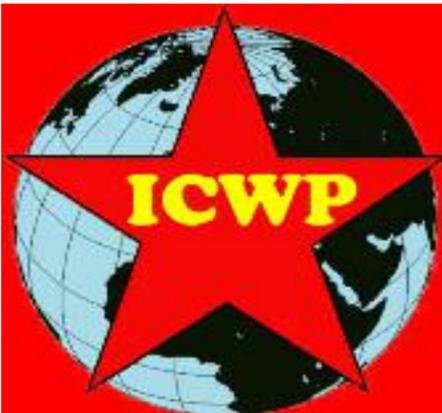
Ultimately, the security we seek is not to live peacefully within our own lives, separate from the lives of the worlds' workers. Nor is our goal to protect the nation. We seek to spread communism worldwide and end nations and borders. Until then we will fight to lead masses to guarantee security by expanding communism beyond our "liberated zones."

Political leadership is not separate from security leadership. Some people will have more experience than others in security matters, but developing more communists will always be primary.

The Party will organize mass meetings to deal with security threats, be they persons or movements. We will not hide behind secret investigations and laws, or leave it up to some state police force.

These organized battles will teach masses how a communist society functions, even under the harshest threats. More will join the party and the masses will become even more committed to fight for a communist world.

As our Boeing friend said, "This is the way to go."



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MASSES FOR  
COMMUNISM**

**International Communist Workers' Party**

[www.icwpredflag.org](http://www.icwpredflag.org)



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**WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362**  
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**90007, USA**

## Capitalist Crisis and Struggles of Brazilian Workers and Soldiers

### SHOW POTENTIAL TO FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

May 28—Tens of thousands of workers and students in Brasilia, capital of Brazil, fought pitched battles with the police and stormed various government buildings. The government of President Temer panicked and asked the military to rescue it. Within 24 hours the army that was called in to quell the rebellion was back in the barracks. The government feared that the soldiers too would join the rebellion. The massive rebellion of the soldiers in 1935 led by communists still haunts the Brazilian rulers.

Brazil is in a severe economic crisis. Capitalists made huge profits in the last 20 years by selling minerals, oil and grain to the fast-expanding Chinese economy. But capitalist expansion creates too many commodities that it cannot sell. Factories close, workers lose their jobs and their homes and millions are left with a health care system that hastens death.

As factory after factory in China reduced production, Brazilian capitalists responded by increasing production of natural resources and grain to compensate for the falling value of the Brazilian currency, the Real. Massive amounts of iron, soybean and oil could make more homes and feed more people but they brought hunger, unemployment and homelessness in both China and Brazil.

Only communist society can provide answers to the relentless attacks on the working class. In a communist society, there will be no profit so there will be no money. Communist society, based on collectives, will investigate the need of the working class and mobilize the masses to meet our need. Communism will unleash new forces of organizing production, houses, health care, transportation, learning.

Brazil has the largest black industrial working

class in the world. From the days of slavery to the current crisis, black workers are in the forefront of the fight against capitalist oppression. We want to win masses of angry workers in Brazil and around the world to join our party to end the tyranny of capitalism. Our struggle to win the industrial working class and the soldiers must intensify.

The history of heroic struggles by the Brazilian working class and the fact that from 1822 to the present times, the Brazilian army has seen more than 30 major rebellions of soldiers show the great potential and power of these two crucial sectors for revolution. We invite our readers in Brazil to turn this potential into a reality by joining our party today to advance the struggle for communism internationally.

## Mexico City

### WE HAVE A PLAN FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

MEXICO CITY, May Day—“What you’re doing is a utopia; it will never be a reality. Look at what happened in Cuba,” commented a worker when we gave her *Red Flag*.

A comrade answered, “Do you know what a utopia is used for? A utopia serves as a guide to go forward. Even if it appears to be a dream; we will make it a reality because we have a plan.”

We discussed the differences between the political line of the International Communist Workers’ Party and other “left” parties with a friend who was invited to the march. We mentioned that money and its root, capitalism, will not be maintained because it allows the division of classes and promotes racism and sexism. In addition, there must be an international struggle since the bosses don’t respect borders in order to exploit workers with poverty wages.

We told her and other workers who received *Red Flag* that we do not advocate reforms since we do not negotiate with bosses. We advocate for change through a revolution that must be communist. History has taught us that to struggle for communism in stages, or for socialism, does not work. We talked about the urgency of organizing ourselves into only one Party, to read *Red Flag*, to analyze, develop class consciousness, and to know that we belong to only one class, the inter-

national working class. We don’t need the bosses.

Some workers listened attentively while they were sitting and waiting for the march to start, others while they were standing or walking. We distributed 1,000 *Red Flag* newspapers to the men and women workers in the march. We did this with five comrades and a friend of the Party.

We invited other comrades and friends of the Party who didn’t come or who didn’t accept the invitation. Self critically, we must sharpen their contradictions to motivate them to come to this political event as well as the study circles.

The mood and the political consciousness of the comrades who participated was very gratifying: the participation of a comrade who promised to come to the next study groups, the trip of almost 4 hours for two comrades, and of a 12 hour bus trip for a comrade and a Party friend to get to May Day, the preparations by another comrade for printing *Red Flag* and having it ready to distribute. This meant

that each comrade contributed according to their commitment.

As we see workers receive and read *Red Flag*, we will continue to prepare ourselves for next May Day. We will sharpen our contradictions, and in union with comrades of the world, will continue talking about and fighting for Communism.

**Greetings Comrades and Friends of the Party and *Red Flag* Readers. Let’s fight for our Communist Society.**

— Young Comrade in Mexico



May Day, 2017, Mexico City

## LOS ANGELES TRANSIT from page 1

rules. So, the three-accident rule got written into the contract about two contracts back. Now, it’s biting them in the butt.”

“Yes, that shows that when we try to reform capitalism, the capitalists just come back with another attack. The capitalists fire us and destroy our lives! We have to get rid of capitalism with a communist revolution,” said our comrade.

“We have been immunized to firings, and other disciplinary actions.” said our friend. “Because of MTA’s scare tactics operators with high seniority prefer not to fight these cases and quietly retire in order not lose their pensions and benefits. At present that is the mentality of MTA operators. It will be very difficult to change it.”

“It may be difficult, but we can and have to change it. The change has to be to win workers to fight for communism because it’s the only solution to our problems. If we organize collectives of *Red Flag* readers and put forward a clear and convincing vision of what a communist world will look like, workers will be inspired to fight for a system where we workers decide what to

produce and how, and how to transport people and goods in the safest and healthiest way.”

Communism will be a system where nobody will be fired - no bosses or supervisors harassing us. The masses through their Party collectives will decide everything. We will eliminate the stress from worrying about paying for rent, food, medicine, and having to work long hours. Our needs will be met collectively without money. Buses will be repaired collectively. A scratched windshield could be an opportunity to teach someone how to fix it.

Our strength lies in our unity. Our Party collective is helping workers overcome their fear so that collectively we can face the capitalists’ attacks.

**A revolutionary working class is not born  
—it is made**

History has shown that workers can be mobilized for revolution. They conquered their fear and individualism and fought heroically for the interests of the whole working class—inspired and led by their communist parties.

Our class today is no exception. We are crucial

for revolution: when mobilized against capitalism, our fighting spirit inspires other sectors of society, especially youth and soldiers, to follow our leadership.

The crucial question is: What leadership will we give? What we fight for and how we fight for it today will determine that leadership. Our strategy should be to mobilize the masses for communism, nothing less.

In the case above, we should mobilize MTA workers to expose the inhumane nature of capitalism, to fight together for a communist system where no worker will be fired. We need to raise revolutionary slogans: “Abolish Wage Slavery!” “Fight for Communist World!” “Production for Human Needs!”

We have a party collective in one division. In Party collectives we can overcome the obstacles that hold us back. Let’s build ICWP collectives in every MTA division and among other industrial workers, soldiers and youth to advance the fight for communism!

# SOUTH AFRICA: COMMUNIST SCHOOL

## BUILDING ONE-ON-ONE RELATIONSHIPS

We say *Mobilize the Masses for Communism (MMC)*. Industrial, workers, soldiers and students, join ICWP and fight for a communist society. A society free of sexism, xenophobia, poverty, crime and exploitation.

We follow this principle by constantly distributing *Red Flag*, other party literature like *Mobilizing the Masses for Communism*, and pamphlets in mass gatherings, colleges, and industrial areas. We know that this quantitative work eventually will lead to qualitative results. This is not automatic or mechanical: it needs one-on-one struggle with the workers and students we are trying to recruit the party.

An example: leading up to May Day and the communist school, there was a college student who stays on my street. We constantly chatted about a lot of things: politics, music, traditions, religion (his favorite topic), communism, and ICWP. He agreed with most of the things we say, especially that capitalism is bad and needs to be abolished.

He did not agree with our solution because he said there is no way communism would work. I struggled with him, explaining how communism would work. He would say, "People are greedy. Even when you win a revolution, people will just want to take things for themselves. You say there will be no police and prisons. How will you deal with such individuals?" (See page 2)

We explained to him that along with the struggle for communism, we will have to deal with people's capitalist ideas and overcome them in a collective. A collective is good because individuals are part of it. Whatever the collective decides, individuals are part of that decision.

Secondly, people are not born greedy. Capitalist society and its system of wage slavery make people greedy and encourage them to be individualistic, to put their interests above those of other

people.

Capitalism is chaotic. Its logic is to get everyone to put their interests above others'. It needs to be abolished and replaced by a society where everyone's (the working class') needs are met and everything is produced for use, not for individual profit. That is communism.

Communist society will influence people to have communist principles. People will see the need and want to work for the collective's gain, not individual gain. With struggle, it will be a society where greediness and individualism will cease to exist. When greediness and individualism appear, the collective will deal with it.

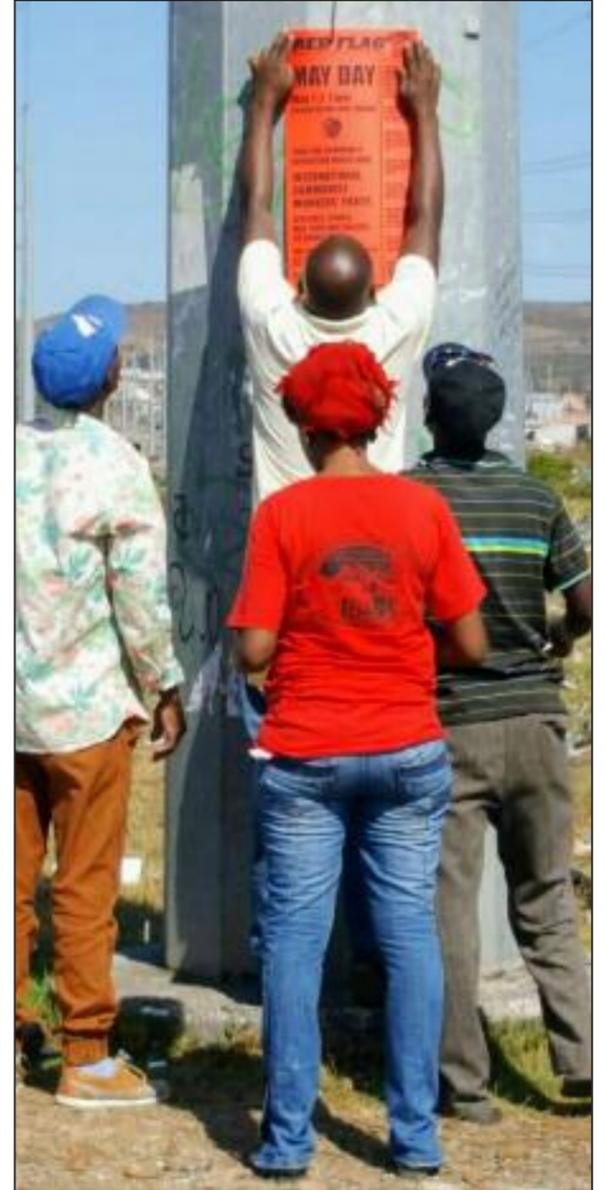
After such discussions with the student, we invited him to the communist school and to come with all of his questions. He did.

During the school other comrades were able to answer his questions, and he understood communism and ICWP. He joined the party and now calls himself a communist.

Such instances give us confidence. They show that masses can be won to communism, not only by distributing *Red Flag* and our literature, but also by building one-on-one relationships with fellow students, workers and neighbors. The collective struggle with these friends is also necessary. The communist school not only answered the questions of some individuals; but I think it also helped our collective to grow.

Our political understanding has grown from this experience. The discussions and questions from the masses and new comrades not only helped them understand communism, but also helped us to be better prepared to answer them with ICWP's communist line. After the school, six new people wanted to join ICWP, to learn more and be part of our collective. They were all females, which is great for our collective, which had been all male.

We can't say we want to abolish sexism with a collective that only consists of men. It is up to us now to struggle with the new comrades to be active and to participate in our meetings and activities in mobilizing more masses for communism.



Organizing for May Day 2017

## ADVANCING ICWP COLLECTIVES

After May Day we had a communist school with comrade members of the collective, and all the people from the event who wanted to join the movement. We talked about the inter-imperialist wars and the angry masses around the world and who should they be angry with.

We discussed how a communist society will work. This is the most important question to struggle with and try to explain to the masses. Of course, we will discover new things as we advance our communist ideas. But, we know that we want a society guided by the need to collectively meet the needs of the working class, free of exploitation and privilege for anyone.

We talked about how education will be organized to meet the needs of the masses. People will learn skills to do things useful to society. Theory won't be separated from practical work. It won't be like today where people who do theoretical work sitting in offices are viewed as more important than those doing practical work in factories.

Everyone will be able to work wherever they

choose to work according to their ability, commitment and the collective's need. We discussed that learning will be a lifelong process to meet the need of the working class, not to be used as a tool to train people to be better wage slaves for the bosses.

New comrades had questions. Some were concerned about how we will accommodate people who practice cultural activities, traditions and religion. We explained that the culture that people practice in society is indeed influenced by that society. The cultural and traditional activities we perform today are influenced by our capitalist society. People are not born practicing religion and traditions. Most people do so because they are forced to do so or because their families practice them, and they must follow the "family tradition."

For example, a person may get a job or promotion and come back and slaughter a cow or sheep so as to thank their ancestors for blessing him/her with a job that pays better. Similarly, a

person may thank God for blessing him/her with one. But we know that it is the capitalists that determine how much a worker gets paid and how many workers they employ.

People who are religious tend to believe that there is a third force that is invisible that influences humans on earth. Their ideas are contradictory with ours at times but a struggle is needed to overcome these ideas and to make sure that their ideas do not stop the realization of communism.

These are discussions that helped us as comrades struggle with and learn from each other and from the masses we are trying to mobilize. They helped advance communist ideas and overcome weaknesses that hold us back as a collective as well as individuals. These discussions are needed to struggle with comrades we are trying to recruit, to continue to advance our communist ideas, and recruit the masses to the party to join the struggle for communism.



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## Los Angeles May Day:

### WORKERS & YOUTH PRESENT VISION OF COMMUNIST WORLD

LOS ANGELES, USA—This May Day, we in the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP), demonstrated in the streets of downtown Los Angeles. Workers, students, and soldiers, we raised our fists high, chanting communist chants like "Fight for communism! Power to the Workers!" and "Same enemy! Same fight! Workers of the world unite!" The young comrades led the chants without stopping all along the march.

We waved red flags with the emblem of *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* and carried two banners with communist slogans.

The ICWP contingent consisted of about fifty comrades and close friends. We made speeches denouncing fascist capitalism and presented the vision of a communist world. We sang revolutionary songs such as *Bella Ciao* and *The International* along the march.

A young comrade who will soon join the army spoke on the bullhorn to the crowd about how the youth are the future of our communist world. Another young comrade who recently graduated from the university spoke of the need to not fight for reforms, but directly for communism. Veteran comrades, women and men, made militant, anti-capitalist and communist speeches. New participants, young and older comrades, together distributed about 2,000 *Red Flag* newspapers.

#### Overcoming Obstacles

We realized that liberal politicians as well as the unions intentionally planned this march on a weekday morning. They feared that the masses would take to the streets as never before, especially because there is now tremendous resentment against the new president.

Even though there was less of a mass participation we in ICWP broke new ground. In previous May Days we had taken to the streets after school hours or after work hours. This time we

managed to mobilize a contingent during the work day which we had not done before.

However, we came up short in certain areas. We did not manage to get as many people out as we wanted. Although more than a dozen high school students came, others could not come because of mandatory examinations.

Many workers could not attend because they could not get the day off.

We have concluded that our *Red Flag* newspaper could have played more of a role in our organizational efforts. The paper must form the center, the marrow, the heart of our organization. We did not do this in the party clubs or cells at a higher level.

In addition, some Party clubs have not been meeting on a regular basis. We have to ensure consistent club meetings in which we elaborate plans and carry them out around *Red Flag* and the mobilization of the masses for communism. And, even though the students manage to distribute *Red Flag* widely, they do not manage to read and analyze it collectively on a regular basis.

#### Fighting for Collectivity

We carried on a struggle before the event to produce and use more communist chants. We produced some, but we need many more.

For the day, we organized a tactical group of four comrades (two men, one woman and one



young woman). Although this tactical group discussed and made some decisions at the beginning and throughout the march, in the end it fell short. This group should have been present in the contingent both from the beginning as well as throughout the march. It was not. And this represents the biggest weakness of the day.

The communist movement is sustained not only in the formation of collectives but also in the executions of their plans. Also, it is in these collectives where we struggle over disagreements and come to a consensus. If we do not build them, struggle over our disagreements, and carry out the plans we will not be able to build a communist society.

Finally, young comrades as well as older comrades took a lot of leadership in all aspects of the march. We all worked hard to have the best May Day we could have. In the end, four young people who came for the first time joined the Party. We can be clear that the struggle for the mobilization for communism is in good hands.

## General Motors Pulls out of South Africa

### AUTO WORKERS NEED TO FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

SOUTH AFRICA—General Motors (GM) has announced that it will close its business in South Africa. Eventually close to 2000 workers could lose their jobs at the plant here. At present, the bosses will cut at least 589 jobs at the factory (which will be taken over by Isuzu) and more will lose their jobs as GM closes at least 42 dealerships.

They say this is because "South Africa will no longer provide GM the expected returns of other global investment opportunities."

What a cover up!

The truth is that the capitalist automotive industry has been gripped in a crisis of overproduction. More cars are being produced than the capitalists can sell for a profit. They have tried for a long time to survive this crisis by cutting jobs from all corners of the world: from Venezuela to India and now South Africa and in the US. Auto workers have to pay for the bosses' crisis! For the bosses, it's a decision about where they make the most profit. For us workers, it is a question of life or death.

The auto industry plays a central role in capitalist economies. For every auto worker, many more jobs depend on the auto industry. In times of war, the auto industry produces tanks and other equipment crucial for the military.

The US is a declining power, challenged by the emerging Chinese economy and others. In global affairs, they are losing their grip on most of the markets around the world.

The masses' cost of living is rising. The working-class masses are waking up and angry. As a

result, the US imperialists are advocating fascism with more nationalism. Trump used this "awakening" of the workers to win the election, to supposedly make the US "great" again by calling on the US companies like GM to manufacture, buy and sell local or else face Trump raising tariffs on them.

The imperialist wars, especially in the Middle East and Africa, and the capitalist crisis of overproduction in other industries as well, like steel (especially in South Africa), have left many workers unemployed, desperate, and struggling to meet their needs.

To US rivals like China, this creates a major opportunity for them to move their companies in and exploit cheap labor because workers are desperate for jobs.

The capitalists' crisis of overproduction means that markets shrink and their competition to control those markets gets fiercer. They need fascism to get workers to sacrifice and fight for the bosses in their wars to control those markets.

No longer must we, the working class, depend on the capitalist bosses to survive. They need us more than we need them. They are all our enemies. They need us so they can exploit us and continue making profit for themselves while we live in the most unbearable conditions.

We are the ones that create and build everything. They are the ones that benefit from all that we have created and produced. We need a society where we are the ones that benefit from what we have produced. We must fight to abolish them and their capitalist system based on exploitation

of the masses and privileges, gains or profit for a few (less than 0.1% of the population).

We must fight to establish a communist society world wide where we work and produce for our own needs. Where there is no exploitation and privileges, no money and no wage slavery. There will be no "jobs," no hiring and firing, no layoffs.

There won't be any crises of overproduction. There won't be any markets: nothing will be bought or sold, but instead used to meet workers' needs. In communism, we workers will decide what to produce and how to produce and distribute it.

We call on auto workers and all workers to read and spread the *Red Flag* and to join ICWP now and help fight for Communism.

Sign in Xhosa: "Workers of the World Unite for Communist Revolution"



## COMMUNIST SCIENCE: OF, BY AND FOR THE WORKING CLASS

April 22—The March for Science on Earth Day attracted hundreds of thousands of people worldwide.

They marched in over 600 cities worldwide, from Washington DC, USA (40,000 marched), to Sydney, Australia.

Comrades of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) distributed hundreds of copies of *Red Flag* in the Los Angeles and San Diego (USA) marches. They showed marchers an article that said, "Communism will remove the chains placed on science in the service of profits. ... It will unleash the imagination and creative potential of billions."

Comrades had interesting talks with many about capitalist and communist science.

A young man who took *Red Flag* asked how communism would guarantee that science was used to serve the masses.

A comrade described how the Chinese communists mobilized masses to get rid of parasitic worms that were killing masses of people in China. She continued, "Communism will be better. Masses of people can work on finding cures for cancer, produce clean energy and guarantee clean water for everyone in the world. The masses have the potential to solve all of these problems and many more when we eliminate profits and competition. The goal of society will be the well-being of the masses."

"But how do you know the leaders won't betray the goal?" he asked.

"We will eliminate money, the material basis of corruption. There will be millions of leaders leading millions more—not one leader or a small group planning everything. Science and politics will become the property of the masses. They will mobilize for and guarantee a communist society that meets the needs of everyone."

"It really does sound exciting," he said.

Most marchers wanted to defend "science"

against attacks by big corporations and politicians, especially in the US. But most accepted the idea, widely promoted by capitalists, that there is something called "science" that is or could be independent of corporations, politicians, and other arms of the capitalist society. That's not how a class society works.

In class societies, science is systematic knowledge of the material world (including society) of, by and for the ruling class. In particular, capitalist science is knowledge of the material world of, by and for the capitalist class. Capitalist science has worked out really well for the capitalist class. It and the technology it produced allowed them to conquer the world. Now each group of capitalists needs science to compete with their rivals, for example, to produce more and more lethal weapons.

In a classless communist society, there must be communist science. What will it be like?

Communist science is knowledge of the material world of, by and for the working masses.

"For" the working masses means seeking knowledge and developing technology that advances the well-being of the masses.

For example, capitalist science developed GMO corn that is more resistant to the pesticide Roundup. Result? Farmers can dump even more pesticides on corn fields. Monsanto profits. Farm workers and consumers of corn are poisoned. Communist science, if it finds a way to use GMOs safely, might develop corn which is more

resistant to insects, easier to harvest, or more nutritious. Workers ourselves would decide, based on our needs.

Communist science will also be knowledge "of" (on the part of) the working class. Masses, starting as children, will increasingly understand the methods and results of communist science.

Finally, communist science is knowledge "by" the working masses. The masses are involved in deciding what to study, how to study it, and how to use the results. We'll end the division between "mental" and "manual" labor. Workers will carry out experiments and research as part of their everyday work in production, health care and other sectors.

The huge Marches for Science proved that many people, some of them scientists, want a science that serves the vast masses of people and not the handful of billionaires who currently run the world. Under capitalism this remains a dream. Only communist science can make this dream real. That means remaking the world with communist revolution. If you want science for the masses, join the ICWP.



Science March in San Diego, USA

### South Africa

#### STUDENTS BUILD MULTI-RACIAL COMMUNIST COLLECTIVE

We went to a campus today. The school's rules don't allow people to distribute any political literature or be involved in any political meeting or discussion. That didn't stop us. We waited until the students came out. In the meantime, we engaged some students who were not in class.

The day went well despite the ban against doing political work on the campus. There were students asking us questions. Since the administration didn't want us there, we had to hide from security. It was the first campus where we weren't allowed to sit down with the students.

Kuhle said, "I managed to engage with a young woman who was not in class. She said she is tired of all these political parties. They say one thing and do another. They don't do what they promise. I told her that they will never change their ways because these are all capitalist parties. They want to administer capitalism. It doesn't matter whether you vote or not. They won't change. It only matters what you do."

I told her that she should be part of the change by joining International Communist Workers' Party and fighting for a communist society where everything that people produce is for themselves and no one profits from it—a future without exploitation.

After the discussion, she saw what Communism is about. She took two copies of *Red Flag* to give one to her roommate. I told her that if she wants more information she should go to the web site. She seemed really interested.

Comrades distributed 120 papers to the students as they came out because they waited from 11 am to 2 pm, when they distributed *Red Flag* to more students.

"As we were distributing, there was this white guy who was reading *Red Flag*. So I decided to engage him," said Themba. "It was the first time I met a white guy who was willing to join our movement on the spot. We exchanged numbers. He was knowledgeable about communism. He had legitimate questions. He wanted to know our relationship with the South African Communist Party (SACP). He was really pleased that we are not affiliated with the SACP, the African National Congress and all the other parties in South Africa."

He had questions about our ideology, what does the concept of *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* mean? We answered most of his questions within the limited time we had. We arranged to send him copies of MMC and the Education pamphlet. He said that he will read more on the web site. He definitely wants to join us.

Most of our work had been concentrated on black people and now we are breaking those racial barriers. We are approaching white and coloured (mixed-race) students, and from all of them the response has been tremendous.

This is the first step in creating a diverse collective. This can now clearly demonstrate to others that we are really fighting racism and sexism. This white comrade is going to be part of our col-

lective. This will help other white people be part of this work.

He wanted to know if this was the last time we would go to the school. We said it was the first. We chose that area because there are technical colleges and factories.

There are a large number of students and industrial workers, including white people. If we can concentrate our efforts there—in the universities and factories for 2 or 3 months, we will see some results. From there, we can engage other places. Today, in a short time, we got contacts. This will encourage this comrade to bring others who are white and then we can take it from there.

As a collective we are stretched too thin. We need to do many things on different fronts. We need to keep in contact with the ladies we mobilized for May Day. Some of them came Sunday to get *Red Flag* but we didn't reach all of them. We didn't have enough air time (paid phone time).

We can't cover the whole vast area without help from other collectives. It's a struggle. We are preparing for the meeting of all the collectives of ICWP here so we can come up with solutions to distribute the work. Some challenges will take time. But today was very successful.



## LETTERS

## LETTERS

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## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

### Communists Educate Masses to End Wage Slavery

My “Facebook friend” R teaches in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

“We had a major national strike,” he wrote. “But a great deal of the working people did not join the strike because of the fear of being fired. We are helpless against the power of employers. Just now the government is approving a new social security reform, and a labor reform too. So, we will be more and more hostages of the will of the powerful businessmen.”

Brazil has over 100 million workers. R is correct that most did not join the general strike – but 39 million did! When **Red Flag** readers in Brazil form a

collective of the International Communist Workers’ Party we can take advantage of such mass actions to organize for the communist workers’ power that will destroy the businessmen and their capitalist system.

I asked R what happened on May Day.

“I was on the street but the police did not even let it start. There were families, old people, children, teachers, and the police started out of nowhere firing gas and rubber bullets. Here, we lost the right to occupy the streets, but still we try.

“Part of the unions will still occupy the streets,” R continued, “but here we don’t have the habit of protests, going to the streets. As a nation, that was not in our history.”

“Maybe the history to think about is slave rebellions,” I suggested.

“Yes, during the XIX century,” he agreed.

“But during the XX century, state policies criminalized social movements, unions, and the left party.”

“The XXI century is still young,” I replied.

“Time for a new revolutionary party to emerge. And end wage slavery.”

“I’m not hopeful,” R responded. “It’s an education issue. The masses are away from school and the majority of people dislike reading, dislike any kind of learning, so they are always away from the truth. It’s sad, but here democracy is a tool for the bourgeoisie.”

“Democracy is definitely a tool of the bourgeoisie, here in the US too,” I said. “People with knowledge must take education to the masses. Here too people don’t read and don’t think of themselves as learners and thinkers. But they are in school, or have been. Too often the schools help to stupefy them.

“I keep telling myself to concentrate on the ones who are more open,” I added, hoping he would take the point. “Eventually they will help educate others.”

“If you want, you can call on me,” said R.



Brasilia, May 24, 2017

I sent him the link to the article about Brazil that we published in the last **Red Flag**.

—Comrade in the USA

### Loud Hailing for the First Time!

The events in the recent past have left an indelible mark in my life as we were pulling out all the stops to ensure that as ICWP we had a successful May Day. We set about going to every street and loud hailing. For me this was the most exciting first time experience of doing the loud hailing.

I could not help but remember what we used to do in the past, going house to house, street to street, literally crisscrossing the country mobilizing for reforms. But I never did loud hailing, so this makes my first time experience loud hailing so special. I will treasure this experience for the rest of my life. Again, what makes it so special is that we are mobilising the masses for communism. Nothing short of communist revolution will smash the bosses’ system.

I am also reminded of my first time experience of writing an article for the **Red Flag**.

I had never written anything in my life before, which makes this experience even more invaluable. Even traveling abroad for the first time in my life was an awesome experience that I will never forget or take for granted.

All these first time experiences inspire me to do more.

—A Comrade in South Africa

### Personal Experience of the Communist School and Obstacles Holding Me Back from Recruiting More People

The communist school was very informative and it went into more detail about the party, the objectives and goals of the party and how we as the party are going to achieve our goals. Dividing people who attended into small groups made it easier for everyone to put his/her input

into the discussion and ask questions because not everyone is comfortable to talk in a group of many people.

There were some few things I also took home from the discussions we had; amongst them is the issue of religion and how it is used as one of the tools of capitalism. I will make an example of Christianity as it is the most practiced in our country. In the church there’s a pastor who’s the leader. He’s considered to be above everyone because everyone follows his instructions. In a communist society no one will be considered above another. Individualism will not be promoted. We will all be one working class. There will be no one giving instructions to be followed.

Religion makes it ok for the working class to suffer, justifying it by saying there is life after death, meaning the working class has to suffer so that they can enter heaven where there is no suffering and everything is perfect, which is not true. Religion is also used to justify wars that are caused by individuals to serve the interest of the few.

The second thing I took home from the communist school was the barriers that are put up to divide the working class, which are racism, sexism, etc. because the fear of the capitalists is for the working class to be united and say one thing because that will result in a revolution.

We have a duty as communists to mobilise and recruit the masses to join ICWP. One of the most personal obstacles that is holding me from recruiting more people to join the party is the fact that I don’t read enough, which results in me not being confident enough to engage in debates because people ask questions. For a person to believe what you are saying or to be convinced you have to show confidence in what you’re saying and be able to respond to difficult questions.

—Another Comrade in South Africa

## SOWETO from page 8

In response, insurrectionary working-class consciousness now developed a powerful new slogan: “**No More Heroes!**”

The state and its capitalist backers were forced to promote the heroes of Robben Island: the ANC and Nelson Mandela. This, of course, has set back the advancement of the South African working class. It’s true that from Sharpeville to Marikana imperialist capitalism has ruled South Africa but defeatism has no place as we approach the 41st anniversary of the great Soweto uprising.

The vital link in the chain “**From the masses to the masses**” is a communist party. The old

South African Communist Party (SACP)—and the old Communist movement that it was a part of—had abandoned the aim of communist revolution to smash capitalism. As the young comrades of Soweto proclaimed: “Long Live the Spirit of No Compromise,” the African National Congress and its ally, the SACP, were negotiating a compromise with capitalism which left racist exploitation intact. The SACP had never understood the need to eliminate money and the wage system. Nor did it understand that racism (as apartheid, Jim Crow or whatever form) is a product of capitalism and can’t be eliminated until capitalism is replaced by communism. Therefore, it was unable to advance the insights the

masses had produced in their epic battle.

**The collapse of the old makes room for the new.** The International Communist Workers’ Party is growing among the masses in South Africa precisely because we have learned from the failures of the old Communist movement that we must fight directly for communism. We will never compromise with capitalism and the wage system, nor with racism and xenophobia. As the articles and letters in this edition of **Red Flag** show, we are advancing the lessons of the youth of Soweto by building the ICWP and fighting for communism—not just in South Africa but around the world.

## South Africa:

# LEARN FROM THE SOWETO UPRISING

“From the masses to the masses,” the Chinese communists used to say. This slogan mapped out the way revolutionary ideas could be developed. Change starts with mass action. The communist party then examines it for its strengths and weaknesses and relaunches it as a revolutionary strategy. We should apply this way of thinking on the 41st anniversary of the Soweto uprising.

On June 15th, 1976, no-one outside of the local area would have realized the revolutionary potential of the plan of students at Orlando West High School, Soweto (a black township outside of Johannesburg) to stage a peaceful demonstration demanding that lessons taught in English, not Afrikaans. (see letter below)

On June 16th, the cops met their peaceful protest with a hail of bullets. Among the first to be shot were a 13-year-old and a 15-year-old student. The local authorities had decided to intimidate them. Instead, they inflamed them. Over the next several months, the teenagers and even pre-teens ran at the police. They were arrested, tortured and sometimes killed in prison, but they kept marching and marching. They lost all fear. Nothing was left but the political commitment to smash racism.

The struggle spread beyond Soweto to involve every township in South Africa. Between 1980 and 1985, there was not one semester when a major boycott was not in progress. In 1984, over half a million students in over 60 townships boycotted school. By 1985, cops were arresting kids as young as seven years old! The courage of the students of Soweto inspired anti-racist action the world over.

When the youth walked out of schools, the State lost all control over them. Ideas like “Getting an education and getting ahead” or “Ensuring your future by passing exams” no longer appealed to them. The power of collective action gave them the chance to change the world. They deepened the critique of capitalist education by raising the slogan “**Liberation before Educa-**

**tion.**”

From the start, the students turned to their parents, who were industrial, domestic and service workers. They organized stay-aways, rent strikes, boycotts, mass meetings and marches. The State answered with murder and mass repression. The youth turned the funerals of their fallen comrades into mass demonstrations.

The State then extended credits to members of the black middle class and recruited them into local township government which tried to raise rents, water and electric rates as well as build new police forces. The youth led the community response: they burned the local government buildings, executed the new cops and informers and threw the mayors out of office. In 1985, 240 black officials and 27 black mayors either resigned or fled to special centers for safety.

**The power of the insurrection came from the class consciousness of the masses.** In the townships, it over-ran the State sponsored counter-revolutionary black nationalism.

This insurrectionary class consciousness reached its height in 1984-85. Stay-aways were called to protest rent and transportation increases. Enforced by community groups, they called on workers to stay away from work by blocking access to essential mass transportation. In the Vaal triangle, they hit the industrial heartland. The State responded by sending in 7,000 troops to do house-to-house searches. This was a mistake. It showed the State no longer feared the militants; it now feared the whole working class!

See SOWETO, page 7



South Africa: ICWP comrades distributed *Red Flag* on Soweto Day (now known as Youth Day) May 16, 2016



May 16, 2016  
South Africa

## COMRADE WRITES:

### THE SOWETO UPRISING FROM THE BEGINNING

It is important that one approach what came to be known as the Soweto uprising from the beginning. Let me begin. The National Party [Afrikaner nationalists] came to power in 1948. It made new laws of racial segregation, apartheid laws. It replaced the British colonial education system, which our parents loosely referred to as the Royal Reader.

They swiftly introduced Bantu [segregated, racist] education. The last straw that broke the camel's neck was the introduction of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction in all the schools. High school students in Soweto protested against this system. The waves of protests grew far and wide. [Editor's note: South Africa was colonized by the Dutch who were defeated by the British in 1902. Afrikaans is the language of these Dutch settlers who used it to build white South African nationalism. Black people saw it as the language of oppression.]

I was at secondary school at that stage and our bigger brothers and sisters were at the high schools fighting against this monster. Soon the authorities responded by clamping down on the protest by killing students as young as my age at the time. They raided the ring leaders. Some were put behind bars serving lengthy sentences.

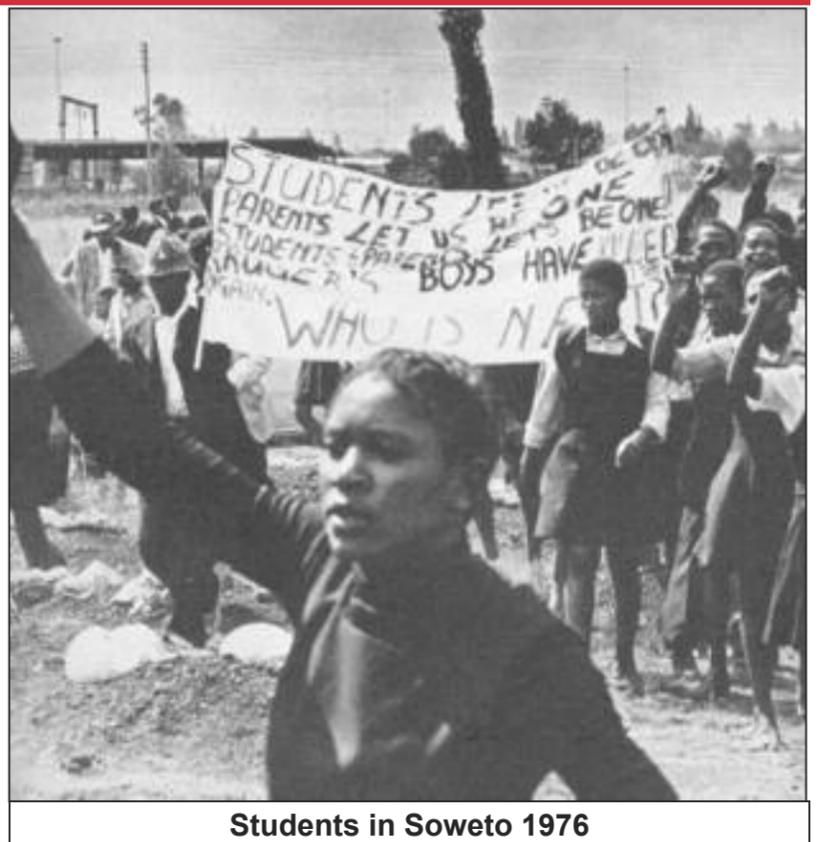
Others managed to escape the wrath of the authorities and went into exile.

These protests from high school students grew wider and wider and rejuvenated the then-defunct political and civil movements who were in a lull as the result of banning and imprisonment of activists.

This has affected most of us to never succumb to the system no matter how brutal it is, to fight against it even if it means one must die. Indeed, many paid the supreme price. It is their blood, their spirit, which nourishes us today to continue fighting and never give up no matter how formidable the enemy may look. We shall conquer it.

We also learned that enemy is capitalism and it must be smashed with worldwide communist revolution. This is when I met ICWP and decided to dedicate my efforts and energy to fight for communism.

—A Comrade in South Africa



Students in Soweto 1976

