

# RED FLAG

## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

San Bernardino, CA, US -- June 10, 2017 (see page 4)



### INDIA: CAPITALISM TURNS RECORD HARVEST INTO A DISASTER

## COMMUNIST PRODUCTION WILL MEET HUMAN NEEDS

JUNE 17— “It is a war zone,” said a friend of the International Communist Workers’ Party in India. He was in the battle between ruthless police enforcing the laws of capitalist bosses and thousands of farmers who have lost all the means of livelihood. Scores of police vehicles were set ablaze. A thick smoke of tear gas is choking everyone. And the bodies of six dead farmers, shot by the police, are angering millions in India and around the world.

The fury of the masses spreads like a prairie fire. It exposes the lies of the fascist government that promised “better days for all.”

Almost half of India’s 1.2 billion people are small farmers who barely survive by producing grain and dairy products that feed the urban working class. The year 2016 was in every way the best that 500 million agrarian workers could have imagined. Timely monsoon rains brought enough water to irrigate farms. Falling global prices of oil reduced the cost of transportation. The cost of oil-derived fertilizers and pesticides also dropped. This was a recipe for unprecedented bumper crops.

Such a bountiful harvest should have been a cause for celebration. But as warehouses across India

overflowed with food, food prices went into a free fall. Many small marginal farmers had borrowed money from banks. Now they were unable to repay the loans. The capitalist system turned the abundance of food into a catastrophe.

Desperate to survive, many farmers tried to sell their only remaining asset: cattle. But there were no buyers, as the fascist BJP government has banned the slaughter of cows in the name of the Hindu religion. With no hope of surviving next year and unable to make loan payments, thousands of farmers have committed suicide by consuming pesticides.

Millions are abandoning their land and flocking to the cities. This abandoned land is a free bonanza to huge corporate farms that absorb them. These corporations produce even cheaper commodities, forcing the remaining farmers off their land. It is estimated that over 300 million people will migrate to cities. The capitalist rulers will try to use them to drive down wages of urban workers.

The desperation of the masses reached a boiling point when tens of thousands fought pitched battle against the police. But desperation must be matched by inspiration. There is an urgent need to build a mass ICWP to inspire this struggle

**See INDIA, page 3**

### DEMONSTRATORS DROWN OUT RACIST ANTI-MUSLIM LIES: COMMUNISM WILL SINK THESE FASCISTS FOR GOOD

SEATTLE, USA, June 10 -- For hours, over a thousand counter-demonstrators drowned out about two dozen fascists who tried to spew their racist, anti-Muslim filth at the ACT for America “rally” at City Hall. Surrounded by hired right-wing thugs and hundreds of riot-equipped cops, the first ACT speaker “welcomed all who came to stand up for America.” He was answered with a thousand boos!

The whistles, horns and chants followed. That was the last anybody would hear from these fascists: the din was so loud.

Taking a page from the South African anti-apartheid struggle, demonstrators -- young and old, immigrants from all over the world and their children as well as native born; Muslims, Buddhists, Christian, Jews and atheists of all races -- picketed, rallied and danced to chants like “Get up! Get Down! Kick these bigots out of town!”

No debate here about free speech for fascists – the crowd voted with

their voices and horns. And if the cops hadn’t been there, this xenophobic scum would also have lost their right to free assembly.

In communism, we will first use persuasion to combat racism and xenophobia. In schools and the media, we will always fight to explain how racism and sexism are deadly to the working class (as we do in *Red Flag* and our leaflets). Individuals who express racist sentiments will be struggled with.

However, we will not rely on persuasion alone. For a long time, there will be hard-core people immune to persuasion who, if left alone, will try to organize. We won’t let them.

In the last few years, these Islamophobic outfits have been funded by billionaires to the tune of over \$200 million, according to the University of California Berkeley’s Center for Race and Gender. The largest group is ACT.

After we seize power, capitalists worldwide will pour even more financial, organizational and military

**See SEATTLE, page 4**

**ENGLAND:  
GRENFELL FIRE  
WAS CAPITALIST  
MURDER  
PAGE 2**

**LOS ANGELES MTA:  
WORKERS DISCUSS  
POLITICAL STRIKE  
FOR COMMUNISM  
PAGE 3**

**EL SALVADOR:  
WOMEN WORKERS  
ARE COMMUNIST  
LEADERS IN  
SWEATSHOPS  
PAGE 3**

**QATAR, SYRIA AND  
THE THREAT OF  
IMPERIALIST  
WORLD WAR  
PAGE 5**

## RACIST CAPITALISM KILLED GRENFELL RESIDENTS: SHOWS NEED FOR COMMUNIST COMMUNAL LIVING

JUNE 17—The fire at the Grenfell Towers in London is finally out. The anger of the working class has just started to burn.

It's a scenario that will haunt us. Kids screaming for help seconds before the smoke and fire consumed them. Desperate parents throwing children out of windows, hoping they would be caught. A still unknown number of our class sisters and brothers who burned alive or jumped to their deaths.

Already a mass multi-racial outpouring of support for the survivors has overtaken anything the government has tried to organize. The first identified victim was a Syrian refugee, Mohammed Al Haj Ali. Survivors include families from Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia.

"What do I want to happen?" a worker from the area told a reporter. "I want there to be a revolution in this country. (Expletive) the mainstream media. They act as mouthpieces for the corrupt government. People need a revolution. Nothing short of that!"

But the masses will not spontaneously conclude from Grenfell that we need communist revolution. Socialists and other reformists in the United Kingdom are trying to direct this anger into support of the Labour Party. They encourage the chant: "[Prime Minister] May must go." It's up to *Red Flag* readers to spread the communist message to the angry masses.

**The Grenfell towers inferno proves again the murderous contempt the bosses and their politicians have for the lives of workers.**

The building had one stairwell, no sprinklers, no alarms. All legal.

Even worse, the Kensington council just spent millions refurbishing the building. Sprinklers? No. Alarms? No. The money went for plastic cladding (siding) to make the building look better to wealthy residents nearby. The council had to choose between flammable and fire-resistant cladding. They chose the flammable cladding to save six thousand pounds.

Every year tens of thousands, mainly workers, are killed in fires, earthquakes, floods, mudslides and other 'accidents' and 'natural disasters.' But

the real disaster is racist capitalism and, as in London, the shoddy construction resulting from cost-cutting.

Worldwide, one billion people live in slums. Another hundred million are homeless. Under capitalism, decent housing for the masses is not profitable. So it doesn't exist.

But can communism do better? Yes! Communist housing will be better, and not just in quantitative terms (more space, more sprinklers, thicker walls). It will also be qualitatively better.

We don't know exactly how people will choose to live, but most of us will likely choose more communal living. It's more social and less alienating. And it makes it easier to collectivize housework, freeing women workers from the drudgery of individual "kitchen slavery."

### Obstacle to communal living: the wage system

Soon after the 1917 revolution, Soviet planners began organizing communal living arrangements. Some were based on types of work or other common interests. Others were high-rise buildings consisting of communal apartments. Each was shared by several households that might not have anything else in common.

Communal apartments often worked out well. However, the socialist wage system undermined them. It reinforced individualism. Each household had to use its income to buy necessities. So they usually locked up food and other supplies instead of sharing them.

Still, these socialist projects were better than the slum blocks of private apartments built quickly and cheaply by the openly capitalist Soviet government of the 1950s.

In rural China, most families occupied "sections" of housing arranged around shared courtyards. During the People's Commune movement



(1958-59), the wage system was almost eliminated. This traditional housing lent itself to collectivized housework. Free communal dining rooms, child care, laundries and more allowed women to participate more fully in productive labor and political struggle.

Party leaders praised this mainly as a way to boost production, rather than as a way to create communist social relations. Within a few years, however, the "capitalist road" won out. People continued to live in the same housing, but no longer communally.

When the masses, led by the ICWP, establish communism, we will immediately abolish money and the wage system. Communism will create the material basis for communal living. What kind of housing will we choose to build?

Hard to say. Capitalists have worked hard to win workers to an individualist private-property ideal of single-family houses. Many workers hate the cramped and dangerous high rises that capitalism builds for workers on the cheap. But tall buildings can be beautiful, spacious and safe – like those built today for the rich.

The justifiable rage and mass demonstrations around Grenfell demand that we redouble our efforts for communist revolution to end capitalism. Let's start planning how to replace capitalism's horrible individual housing with safe and comfortable communal living.



SEATTLE, June 20 – Hundreds marched last night to protest yet another vicious act of racist police murder. On Sunday night, Charleena Lyles, a pregnant black woman, mistakenly called the cops to report a burglary. The cops saw a knife in her hand and shot her twice in the chest, killing her in front of three of her four children.

Workers and students responded with high school walkouts and street demonstrations. The biggest started Tuesday evening, when angry supporters joined Charleena's family, friends and neighbors at the apartment complex. *Red Flag* was distributed throughout and was well received. We made a mistake and left before the growing crowd marched four miles to the University of Washington. There the young marchers confronted the cops at Montlake bridge.

Lesson learned: never underestimate the potential of the masses! But it was also clear that the masses need communism. Their call for "justice for Charleena and her family" can never be answered under capitalism.



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST  
WORKERS' PARTY (ICWP)**  
**WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG —**  
**(310) 913-9704**  
**E-MAIL: ICWP@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.COM**  
**WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362**  
**3006 S. VERMONT AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA**  
**90007, USA**

**Transit Workers: Join ICWP!****ORGANIZE A POLITICAL STRIKE FOR COMMUNISM**

LOS ANGELES, US, June 18- “Our union contract expires at the end of this month,” said an MTA mechanic at a recent social gathering. “The bus operators may opt for a strike,” he added.

“If left up to the union it won’t be much of a strike. They’ll have the usual picket lines with BBQ and beer,” interjected another.

“Every time we go on strike we lose more than what we gain. Some workers think it is not worth it to go on strike,” said a third.

These comments started a very long and serious discussion.

First, we discussed that workers should not accept passively the capitalists’ attacks or whatever they want to dish out in a contract. That would be surrendering without a fight. Everyone agreed that was unacceptable.

Workers just can’t roll over and play dead. As communists, we all agree that our historical task as a class is to be the grave-diggers of capitalism. This requires a communist revolution. A revolution requires an inspired fighting working class.

Thus, the next question we addressed was: What should we workers fight for that will make our class conscious of its historical task? What can MTA workers fight for that will inspire millions to join ICWP and fight for communism worldwide?

“Fighting for a ‘good’ contract won’t do it. Even if we got the best wage increase ever, at the end of the day we will still be wage slaves. We would still be under the despotic boot of the MTA bosses and the US capitalists in general.” Everyone agreed.

“We need a political strike,” someone suggested, “We and our class face more than just wage and benefit cuts. We face intensified racism, sexism and xenophobia with the rise of fascist groups like ‘Act for America’ (see page 1-4) and the prospect of bigger and more lethal wars, including world war (see page 5).

“That is why it must be a political strike against capitalism and for communism,” someone else suggested.

We then said that such a strike would reject trade unionism’s bankrupt political strategy. It would organize mass demonstrations of MTA workers to call on other workers, soldiers and youth, nationally and internationally, to join the fight for communism.

We would therefore put forward revolutionary communist political slogans such as “Abolish wage slavery, fight for communism! Fight for a world without money, exploitation, racism, sexism, nations or borders!” “Production for need, not Profits!” “Fight for communist workers’ power!”

Such a strike, closing down the US’ second largest city, would have an electrifying effect on the US and the world’s working class. It would make a difference to the tens of millions of our class who are in motion, like those 180 million who went on strike in India or those 30 million in Brazilian.

These masses are questioning capitalism and looking for radical alternatives. Like many MTA workers, they are also realizing that trade unions’ reformist struggles are dead-end streets which

only prolong our enslavement.

Thousands of MTA operators, mechanics and service attendants led by ICWP’s MTA collectives and the hundreds of MTA *Red Flag* readers can energize a new communist-led labor movement that fights directly for communism to destroy capitalism, the root cause of all our problems.

Can we organize such a movement? Definitely! Not only we can but we must: the times demand nothing less from the most revolutionary and powerful class in history!

It won’t be easy and it won’t be done overnight. It will require patience and perseverance. We all agreed that winning for our class is how many more readers and distributors of *Red Flag* we gain, how many join ICWP and how massively and inspiring we make communism an issue among the masses.

Organizing for such a strike is mainly the responsibility of the ICWP collective at MTA and about 500 regular MTA *Red Flag* readers. Many of these have been readers for years. Some help distribute from one to five *Red Flags*. It is time they take the next step and join ICWP to help build ICWP collectives in all MTA’s divisions.

These ICWP collectives could massively increase the circulation of *Red Flag* by struggling politically with their MTA co-workers. This will create the material and ideological conditions to inspire MTA workers to organize such a political strike.

**History is on our side. Let’s mobilize the masses for communism! Join ICWP!**

**WOMEN WORKERS STRENGTHEN COMMUNIST COLLECTIVES IN SWEATSHOPS**

“One day I got up from my sewing machine and I went module by module throughout the whole factory inviting the workers to go with us to march,” explained Amanda, a maquila worker on the outskirts of El Salvador, to the industrial collective of ICWP of which she is a part.

Amanda is a member of the party who has been part of the industrial collective for several months. She was diagnosed with an illness that forced her to stop working for a while. However, with the strength that characterizes her and with the support of the collective, she is facing her process of recovery while on the production lines. Her example of mobilizing directly for communism opens the way in the work of this collective and inspires us to fulfill our historic task.

Before May Day we wrote how the streets of San Salvador would have more men and women workers marching thanks to the political work of the comrades in the maquilas. And that’s what happened! The efforts of the men and women communists to mobilize their co-workers to the march yielded the hoped for results. More workers marched for Communism. This is the result of a process in which the women and men workers are increasingly committed to building the party in the factory.

One of the main ways to carry out communist political work is to build communist social relations with our working-class brothers and sisters. When Amanda gets up and invites others to come to the march, she is strengthening these social relations.

Capitalism trains women to manage social relationships because of their assigned roles of domestic work or the maintenance of the home as their main responsibility. When these women workers are organized in the ICWP they begin to create communist



**El Salvador, May Day 2017**  
**On top: Capitalist Ad:**  
**“Take Intelligent Decisions”**  
**Below: ICWP Sign:**  
**“ Fight For Communism”**

social relations that strengthen the collective. They are taking leadership. Fighting for communist social relations is not the work of women alone. This type of leadership must be recognized as it is key for recruiting more to join the ICWP industrial collective and become more active as members of the Party.

As more men and women workers join our collective, read, distribute and write for *Red Flag*, our organization will be more solid and we will be making great strides towards the new communist society. The constant criticism and self-criticism of all our actions and our political line relating to our workplace will allow more women and men to see themselves as communist leaders who take on responsibility for creating communist relations.

**INDIA****FROM PAGE 1**

with the possibility of communism.

A communist society will organize masses into collectives that will decide what and how to produce for the needs of the working class. More food will mean less hunger, not more misery. We will close the banks for good. There will be no money and no debt, no corporations and no profits.

In communism, instead of producing commodities for sale, hundreds of millions of workers freed from exploitation will create new ways to fulfill the needs of the masses in ways we can barely imagine today. Masses of workers armed with communist ideology and the science of change will defend the communist seizure of power and advance it until the last vestiges of capitalism are smashed.

A mass ICWP in India today would be joining the battles against the cops, the corporations and the banks. It would organize the industrial working class and soldiers to strike the capitalist system under the red banners of communism. It would prepare masses for revolution and for building communist society worldwide.

This is not an easy task. The bosses will fight for their survival. We must fight for ours. Join and build the ICWP in India and everywhere to organize the international working class for our communist future.

# WORKERS AND YOUTH: FIGHT FASCISM WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

SAN BERNARDINO, USA, June 10—On the way to the counter-protest against ACT for America (see page 1), the four of us made a plan: to distribute our communist leaflet and *Red Flag*, talk to people, keep alert for physical attacks from the fascists and police, and leave before things got out of hand.

There were about 150 people with big US flags and racist anti-Muslim signs on the far two corners near where 14 people had been killed by two ISIS sympathizers.

On the near corners were about 100 people shouting chants like, “No Racism, No Bigotry, No goddamn Muslim registry.” They held anti-fascist and anti-racist signs and passed out flyers supporting Muslims. One sign said that calling all Muslims terrorists is like calling all Christians KKKers.

We had barely started passing out *Red Flag* and our leaflet when a fascist group crossed to the anti-racist protestors on the corner opposite us. The two groups clashed.

Almost as if scripted, the fascist cops quickly descended in unmarked Tahoes, police cruisers, motorcycles, and horses in an attempt to mislead

onlookers into thinking that the cops are impartial and just want to keep order when they are really protecting the racist, fascist, anti-Muslim protest. They would be ready to arrest anti-racists who attack the racists

One of the anti-racist leaders got into a face-to-face shouting match with a racist who crossed the road. He decided to step back so that the police would not have an excuse to arrest him.

We passed out about 75 papers and leaflets. Several people thanked us for being there. There were people asking what fascism means. They asked what communism is. Cuba came up. The Soviet Union. China. North Korea.

We talked about the analogy of capitalism as a weed with deep roots and socialism as those same roots of capitalism that are left over when the green part of the weed is cut off. The weed will grow back. This is what happened in those places. This is why ICWP firmly believes that we have to destroy racism and fascism by fighting directly for communism.

The sides grew. Racists had about 200 and anti-racists had about 150. This was the only ACT rally that day where the anti-racists were

outnumbered.

Eventually the racists insidiously started to surround the counter-protestors while the cops watched. Our small group reluctantly backed up to safety and returned home with the resolve to bring many more workers and youth, especially *Red Flag* readers, with us the next time.

Self-critically, we need to position ourselves better to mobilize and recruit larger numbers of young people who will help lead the fight for communism to defeat these fascists and the system they serve.

We had good conversations and got out *Red Flag* to genuinely interested people who were excited to know that we and this literature are out there.

The only disappointment was that we didn't have more people so we could drive the racists away. To disempower them. To scare the shit out of them! To get a taste of workers' power! AND to have more discussions about what communism really is and why we, the working class masses, need to stand up and fight for communist revolution.

## SEATTLE

### From Page 1

resources into building racist counter-revolutionary movements like these. As always, mobilized masses and communist organization will defeat the worst the bosses can throw at us.

In communism, free speech and assembly won't exist for fascists like ACT for America (see letter). These groups will be dissolved.

If they try to hold a rally or a march, the ICWP will mobilize the masses to stop it. We won't have state police like the FBI but we will have an armed and trained security force. The communist security force must rely on, organize and mobilize masses. Only in emergencies would it act on its own. It will be subject to mass criticism and self-criticism as a regular part of its work. A far cry from what the Seattle cops did today!

At the demonstration, the ICWP was in the middle of the mix. Comrades distributed 500 copies of our popular leaflet entitled “Communist Will Act for the Working Class: Crush Racism, Sexism, Xenophobia.” Hundreds took our newspaper *Red Flag*.

As comrades were leaving, a couple commented to us that despite the large turnout and militant character, “our demonstration won't change a thing.” They clearly realized the limits of even the most militant resistance. They compared the times to pre-Nazi Germany. Then they modified their opinion. “It won't change a thing except for some good follow-up discussions.”

Yes: follow-up discussions about how communism can break those limits. Under communism there will be no borders, no nations, no

citizenship. Anyone who comes to an area liberated from capitalism will be welcomed as a full member of communist society. They will work like anyone else and, like anyone else, receive food, clothing, shelter etc. to the best of our ability.

And we can expect that a lot of people will want to come once they realize that communism means no wage slavery and zero tolerance for racism, sexism and xenophobia.

We may have to struggle with them to return to spread communist revolution!

This discussion inspired comrades to continue the struggle and distribute our leaflet at work-sites like Boeing, high schools in the South End that are full of immigrants and their US-born friends, among university and public-school staff and Latino/Latina laborers.

Demonstrations can change things, depending on how they are followed up. If we do our work right, they lead to discussions about communism, then about the ICWP and revolution. They lead to us getting to know people who are interested in communism. If these people join *Red Flag* collectives and the ICWP itself, then we have made real progress towards communism.

## NO FREE SPEECH FOR FASCISTS!

The issue of free speech is a big one at the University where I work. I was telling a co-worker my plans to attend a counter-demonstration against an alt Far-right (racist, fascist) group. She hates this group, but she was upset when I said, “No free speech for fascists.”

“But then they will take away your speech, too,” she said.

I told her, “Think of it as yelling ‘Fire!’ in a theater. How many more lives are in danger from the garbage these racists say?”

She said she would think about that, and I hope to talk to her further now that I have been to this demonstration.

Like many others, she's under the illusion that there is free speech under capitalism. But who really has access to getting their ideas out?

The owners of the big media are the ruling class! Big money gives you big access to getting your words out to many people.

Workers are not free to say whatever we want. As wage slaves, our jobs depend on our bosses. If we step too far out of line, not only will we not have a job, but we could be jailed or even killed.

Of course, we will always fight back and will not be silenced. We may be successful by shutting fascists down for a while, but they will always re-emerge when the bosses need them.

How would we deal with the issue of “free speech” under communism? First, we will remove the material basis of the divisions among our class. It benefits the ruling class to keep us divided and have a portion of the workforce that is lower paid. But under communism there will be no advantage to dividing the working-class—no competition for higher wages, no fear of losing your “job,”

no basis to hate or fear your working-class brother or sister.

Segregation will not be allowed in any aspect of life. We will be living and working together with people from many different backgrounds. This will build a foundation to win many people away from racist ideologies. But not everyone, not initially.

Speech that is racist, sexist, xenophobic or has any other anti-working-class ideas will not be tolerated. There will, however, be lots of discussion and even heated arguments because we believe in struggle and working hard to figure out the right way to move forward in the best interest of our class.

Capitalist thoughts and ideas limit us from creating a better world. The bosses want us to worry about individual goals, and day to day basic survival. Our brains are imprisoned by this wasteful worry!

Communism will put science in our hands so that we may understand how the material world works. Without racism, sexism, xenophobia, and the daily grind to get the next paycheck getting in the way, our speech and thought will be freed to center on building communism. We have a world to win!

Seattle Red



## Qatar: Capitalist-Imperialist Competition Makes Profit Wars Inevitable

# TURN THE GUNS ON THE WARMAKERS AND FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD

June 19— Qatar is a tiny Persian Gulf peninsula with 2.2 million people. It's the latest example of how the world's capitalist-imperialist rulers have to fight over every square inch of the globe. Their wars for control of oil- and natural-gas profits could easily explode into World War III.

The Qatar crisis shows the urgent need to destroy this deadly capitalist system. Its competition for maximum profit snuffs out the lives of so many of our class brothers and sisters! But imperialist wars also create huge new opportunities for communist revolution.

A communist world will have no classes, no capitalist-imperialist bosses, no borders, no nations. We will be one international working class united by one International Communist Workers' Party under the same red flag. We will have one common interest: producing and sharing collectively to meet the needs of the masses everywhere.

Nobody will be able to exploit others. There will be no economic competition because there will be no money. Nothing will be bought and sold. This will destroy the material basis of the wars that are inevitable under capitalism.

In a communist world we will not fight over the world's resources or labor power. When there are disagreements about what to produce or how, or how to share scarcity, we will discuss matters collectively. We will strive for consensus on how best to meet everyone's needs.

### Natural Gas Money Fuels Regional, Global Conflicts

Rulers of three regional powers – Iran, Turkey and Saudi Arabia – compete for control of the Persian Gulf area. All three once controlled Qatar. Most recently, Qatari rulers were junior partners of the Saudi monarchy in supporting US imperialism, especially in Iraq. Qatar's Al Udeid Air Base holds the largest concentration of US military personnel in the region.

Since Qatar started exporting liquefied natural gas (LNG) in 1997, it has become the world's largest LNG exporter. Qatar recently announced plans to open a huge gas field on the Iranian border. It expects to dump cheap LNG on an already glutted market.

The Qatari rulers' LNG profits have allowed them to chart a different course from the Saudis. While competing with Russia and Iran for markets, Qatar has a 19% stake in Russian energy giant Rosneft. It shares energy infrastructure with the Saudis' main antagonist, Iran.

Qatar's Al Jazeera TV station supported the Arab Spring—the Saudis didn't. It gives favorable coverage to Islamists who represent a threat to the Saudis and the other Gulf monarchies.

After Trump visited Saudi Arabia, the Saudis (with United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt) launched an air and sea blockade of Qatar, which imports all its food. They accused Qatar of backing terrorism and cozying up to Iran.

Iran offered to open its ports to keep food supplies flowing. The Saudi-Iranian conflict then escalated with a hostile encounter between the

Saudi navy and one or more Iranian boats.

Turkey lined up with Qatar, sending troops to prevent a possible invasion. Turkey has vast economic ties with Iran. Instability in Syria and Iraq is increasing competition between the two powers for regional influence. However, Iran is in the Russian orbit and Turkey (although a NATO member) is moving in that direction. Saudi Arabia and Egypt remain in the US-Israel camp – at least for now.

### US Imperialist Decline: Danger of World War Increases

Washington's response to the Qatari crisis shows a ruling class in disarray.

Trump calls for continued isolation of Qatar. This is a minority view among US imperial strategists. This wing wants to make a firmer stand against Russian imperialists and their allies in this strategic oil-rich region. Trump may also hope to reduce Qatari competition with the US natural gas industry.

Secretary of State Tillerson represents the main wing of US imperialism. These bosses see Trump's policy as a dangerous threat. It's driving Turkey into Russian arms. It's intensifying the US-Turkey contradiction over an independent Kurdistan or an autonomous Kurdish region in Syria. Turkey's rulers consider Kurdish separatism to be an existential threat.

Tillerson's position is to avoid an all-out confrontation with Russia and Iran in Syria or the Persian Gulf. Instead, the US would exert enough military and economic pressure at least to keep them at bay. If this fails, these bosses would rather face their Russian rivals in the Black Sea, Eastern Europe and Ukraine.

Trump's break with Turkey could make it impossible for the US to do this. Turkey guards the Bosphorus Strait, the only way warships can enter the Black Sea.

Trump's Qatar policy is deepening the rift between the US and its European NATO allies. He had already refused to reaffirm NATO's collective-defense policy, pushing Europe toward Russia. The German foreign minister voiced support for Qatar, accusing the US of increasing tensions in a "region already plagued by crisis."

The US ruling class has many disagreements about whom to fight and where and how. But fight they must, to try to regain their empire. And just as inevitably the Russian, Chinese and Iranian and other capitalist-imperialist rulers will fight to keep and expand their own power.

The world's workers, soldiers and youth have nothing to gain by siding with any of these imperialist murderers. Our fight is to build a mass ICWP to turn the guns on the warmakers and build a communist world.



### SYRIA: SHARPENING US-RUSSIA CONFLICT

June 18—Today the US shot down a Syrian jet in the Southern Raqqa countryside. Russia then threatened to target US aircraft flown over Syria. Tensions are escalating daily.

The battle over Syria is bringing the US and Russia-Iran axis into sharper conflict—especially along the Iraq-Syria border. The US is trying to use its "rebel" forces and US military forces to control this border. It hopes to prevent Iran from sending supplies and troops to support Assad in Syria and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The US and Israeli rulers are haunted by the possibility that a Damascus-Baghdad-Tehran land route could reopen. That would vastly increase Iran's capacity to influence future developments in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. It would further loosen US imperialism's grip on the Persian Gulf region.

To prevent this, the US has bombed the Syrian Arab Army forces that are trying to take the key border town of Al-Tanf, where the US has a base. The fighting in that area has intensified with both Russian and US war planes and troops there.

The only realistic plan to end this deadly warfare is to mobilize everywhere for communist revolution – the sooner, the better.

### IMMIGRANT WORKERS IN QATAR

Ninety percent of the people in Qatar are viciously-exploited immigrant workers. Over a million come from India and Nepal. Many are slaving under horribly dangerous conditions, building stadiums for the 2022 World Cup. These workers include readers of *Red Flag*. We urge these readers, and others, to spread this paper to co-workers and to friends back home. Join the International Communist Workers' Party! Mobilize the masses for the Communist future, without borders or exploitation or imperialist war, that we all urgently need.



## 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

# DON'T MOURN FOR MANCHESTER OR LONDON BRIDGE OR FINSBURY PARK UNLESS...

A terrorist killed 22 young concertgoers in Manchester, England. Three more terrorists killed 6 civilians in the next attack on London Bridge, England. Another killed one and injured others in Finsbury Park, London. Don't mourn Manchester or London unless you also mourn Mosul, Iraq, where hundreds of kids are killed (terrorized) by US bombs. Don't mourn Mosul unless you also mourn Aleppo or Raqqa and other cities in Syria, where hundreds more are killed by Russian bombs, Kurdish or ISIS guns. Don't mourn Aleppo or Raqqa unless you also mourn Sanaa in Yemen.

We could go on, but you get the picture. Each massacre is mourned in a dangerous way. Cameras focus on the intense grief of a parent or an orphan. This state of heightened emotion especially impresses the young. It builds nationalism.

It recruits the next NATO bomber pilot vowing revenge, or the next van-driving white fascist as we saw in Finsbury Park, or the next suicide bomber. They are being recruited into a widening war which the *New York Times* suggests has "far more geopolitical import and risk." It's a war for control of the Middle East. They say communism is a dream. We say capitalism is a nightmare!

## NEED COMMUNIST AGITATION

Communism is a revolutionary movement that aims to change the world we live in today. How can we, still a small organization, change the world today?

We can begin to counter the lie that today's uneven wars are a clash of cultures between "backward" Islamic fundamentalism and "progressive democracy." They are wars among capitalists with regional powers (Iran and Saudi Arabia) backed by opposing imperialist powers USA, China, Russia) – see page 5.

Aleppo in Syria, for example, is the site of

mass murder because two pipelines cross there, carrying oil and gas to the European market. Each pipeline brings profits to a different set of capitalists, while the oil workers get nothing but bloody war and a shrinking paycheck.

## WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

Capitalism is a violent system based on exploitation. Workers are forced to work for wages so that capitalists can pocket profits. Since workers create all the value, why should we work for their private profit? Better we abolish capitalism and its wage system and work directly to meet our social needs.

At least since World War I, capitalist war is total war. The rulers' armies target factories, schools, hospitals, neighborhoods as well as military assets. What group of workers would want to kill kids to protect their wages? When workers organize politically in their own interest, we make revolution, not wars.

Terrorism is a capitalist tactic. But it can be defeated. Before the Grenfell Tower disaster capitalist media had spent weeks sowing divisions by talking ominously of the dangers supposedly lurking in Muslim communities. But the huge multi-racial outpouring of support for the survivors (many of them Muslim immigrants) marginalized the domestic fascists. Intentionally or



LONDON: Grenfell Towers Protest (See page 2)

not, the anti-Muslim terrorism in Finsbury Park attempted to regain some momentum for the fascists. It shows us how entrenched the racist forces are – and not just in England. It also shows how urgent it is to advance an anti-racist fight for communist revolution.

The way these massacres are mourned builds nationalism and support for bigger capitalist wars. We must oppose them. How? By supporting *Red Flag*: writing, translating, distributing the paper. By contributing money to publish communist literature and for ICWP's international work. By organizing discussion groups at work. By reaching out, especially to soldiers and sailors.

Don't mourn unless you mourn for all our class brothers and sisters who are victims of racist capitalism. And after you mourn, organize for the International Communist Workers Party!

## Water in Capitalism: Another Commodity for Bosses' Profits

### WATER IN COMMUNISM: MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

DETROIT, USA – An older black woman declared at a recent conference that capitalism is clearly not working for us and if we can't see this, maybe they are drugging our water! She pointed out the ridiculousness of a homeless person in front of an abandoned empty home. How a person can't even die and be buried for free. The poor are constantly raising funds to bury their dead killed by the system prematurely. She said, "We might as well occupy the cemeteries and dig our own graves if we choose to do nothing."

Conference attendees represented various social movements on water. There was tremendous anger at the racist system that refuses to meet such a basic human need as clean water.

For example, a Detroit study found that nearly 500 families who applied for a relief program had been cited at least once for illegal water consumption. Essentially, they tampered with water meters to illegally restore service after shutoff for non-payment.

Capitalism has commodified our labor power, the land, and now the water. They would commodify the air we breathe if they figured out how.

Look at bottled water. It's the most frequently-purchased beverage in the USA: about 26 billion bottles per year. Most bottles end up in landfills and incinerators somewhere, polluting the environment. Usually the bottled water is no better than tap water. It often costs more than a gallon of gasoline. And companies like Nestle pay little

or nothing for the right to bottle and sell it.

In areas that don't have clean water, FREE bottled water could help in the short term, but it's no solution. We should be uniting against the capitalist system that cannot provide for basic human needs. Communism – a system based on human needs, with no money or private property – will ensure that everyone has access to clean water and sanitation. We won't need or want bottled water. The need for communism should be part of our conversations and analysis of this and every problem.

The water on Earth today is the same water that has been here for millions of years. It didn't "belong" to anyone. Why do we allow a few to claim it as private property? Three-fourths of the Earth's surface is covered by water. There is certainly enough for all.

Yet twelve percent of US households can't afford water. Over two billion people worldwide lack access to clean water and sanitation. The United Nations hopes to change this within 15 years. But people need clean water NOW. We need to mobilize for communism NOW.

We live in a violent system at war in every way with the poor, our youth, minorities, and the whole working class. And as one speaker said, "The good news is that there are more of us than there is of them!"

Most of the action items proposed at the conference were reforms like the Water Act and the

Water Affordability Act. However, several voices said that we need to get at the root cause of the problem with a class-conscious multi-racial working class united to create a better world.

A comrade who attended the conference made seven new contacts with people who want to receive Party literature. She had long conversations with two social workers about communism. They will also get literature.

The woman quoted earlier declared that we need to act together to take what is ours. It is time for us to take the whole pie and stop settling for crumbs that are later taken away. Better yet, let's take the bakery.

That will take communist revolution. We need the vision for a new system. We need communist ideas to be the ideas of the working class. We can't afford another reform struggle. Capitalism was not designed to benefit the working class no matter how much capitalists try to convince us otherwise.

The same woman concluded, "And for those who say we must simply pray, please move out of our way so we can do. And when the good lord asks what YOU did to help us you can tell him all about your praying."

We have a world to win! Either you take action or support or move out of the way! We have nothing to lose but our chains!

## WE'LL MAKE BUCKINGHAM PALACE THE PEOPLE'S PALACE!

The Queen of England visited the Grenfell Tower disaster the other day. She talked to survivors and they talked to her. It was all way too civil!

She is one of the leading landholders in Britain. We should have made some demands on "Her Highness." She lives in Buckingham Palace, just 4 miles down the road from Grenfell Towers. It has 775 rooms. Before you get there, you pass another of her houses, Kensington Palace. That looks like it has 200 rooms.

The Grenfell fire left between 400 and 600 people homeless. "(The) theory of Communism," Marx wrote in the Communist Manifesto, "may be summed up in one sentence: Abolition of private property."

If ICWP was a force on the streets of Britain surely we would be agitating to: Abolish Private Property. Requisition all spare rooms for the Grenfell homeless. Make Buckingham Palace the People's Palace. Fight for Communism.

Red Commoner

## THE OTHER TEENTH

Last Saturday, June 18th, a couple of us took RED FLAG to the local JuneTeenth celebration, which marks the day of Emancipation from Slavery in Texas. It was a low-key social event but we were able to introduce RED FLAG to a new audience.

There was a lot of interest when we told them about "the other teenth -June 15th, the anniversary of the struggle in Soweto" and pointed them to the articles on the back page.

Next year we'll make more of this opportunity to build international class consciousness.

California (US) comrades

## When Will Communism Come?

I am waiting to live in communism! I was 28 years old when the revolution came in my country in eastern Europe and the capitalists got all the factories and banks. Now the worker does not have medical insurance, job or money. Poverty is bigger and bigger every year! My life in communism was the best. When will communism come? Capitalism is no good any more.

Thank you,

Online **Red Flag** reader

**RED FLAG** responds: Thank you for your letter. The "color" revolutions certainly let the capitalists steal the products of workers' labor and wreck their lives. That could happen because those countries were socialist, not communist. Communism will be even better! It will come sooner if you and other readers join our Party. Study, translate and share our documents, starting with Mobilize the Masses for Communism. We need your translations for our website.



## Communist Struggle Against Sexism

Recently my 7-year-old son and his 7-year-old friend were surfing the internet and ended up on some pornographic sites. After I yelled at and hit my son, I tossed and turned all night in anger, disgust, and then finally remorse. I realized that a 7-year-old is searching the word "naked" out of curiosity and humor. To him butts, farts, and naked people are funny. My reaction without an explanation was simply a moral judgment about right and wrong.

In the morning, I reassured him he was a "good boy" even though he had done something I did not like. I then attempted a principled discussion as to why I disapproved. I explained that our brains were designed to like sex so we can continue our human species, but under capitalism things like sex, water, food, clothes, shelter and almost everything humans need is bought, sold, and exploited. I explained that for me, sex is something for grownups to do in private when they love each other and for having children and not something to videotape and put on the internet, television, or magazines. I explained that women who sell their bodies for these things are usually doing it out of necessity and not because it is something they like.

He may have understood half of what I said, but certainly this was more of a communist struggle for principles. I am not okay with him living in fear as to whether he will upset me or be a "bad boy." I want him to gain a better understanding of sexism and sexual exploitation under capitalism. Research indicates that 75% to 85% of women would leave prostitution if they had secure housing. Furthermore, among prostituted people and commercial sex workers seeking services to leave prostitution at an agency in Portland, Oregon, 85% reported a history of childhood sexual abuse and 70% reported incest.

My son's friend's mother told me, "None of us is good and will ever be good. We are truly wicked in our hearts, selfish, mean, and many other ways. But Jesus covers our sin and changes us when we believe in Him and he takes all our shame away. So, my son needs to know that in Christ he gets a clean slate moment by moment. And what he did doesn't

change my love for him and nothing he ever does will separate him from God's love."

We both love our sons, but I think this shows the difference between religion and communist dialectical materialism. As a communist I know there is nothing "morally" wrong about liking sex. We are not born wicked or sinful. We don't need a savior – we need to save our own class from capitalism.

What capitalism does to us is damaging to our psyche and our social relations. We need a revolution to replace it with a society based on collectivity and sharing, not on the selfishness and meanness of capitalism. In communism, there will be no need for some to sell their bodies, exposing them to violence and disease. We need communism more than ever because only communism will wipe out the exploitation of women, men, and our planet.

Communist Mom

## Building A Communist Collective in MTA

LOS ANGELES, US--Recently in the MTA workers' club, we made progress in the process of building and consolidating communist leadership. A woman co-worker **Red Flag** reader decided to join our collective. The same thing happened with another co-worker, a man who works on natural gas engines.

These victories are products of several things: 1) The credibility and correctness of our political line, especially in the stormy times in which we find ourselves. 2) The patience and perseverance that the party has maintained for a long time in developing communist consciousness among the MTA workers. 3) The principle of involving folks in party political tasks according to their communist consciousness. For example: helping to distribute **Red Flag**, donating money for political tasks, getting involved in political discussions about how they visualize communism, etc. and the constant struggle to write for **Red Flag**.

We still have a long way to go to overcome our obstacles that keep other workers from joining our party, but small victories have given more confidence to our collective.

The biggest obstacle in some workers is not believing that we can defeat such a powerful government. We explain to them that the greatest strength in capitalist society is the working class organized in the ICWP. The working class world wide will lead the struggle to establish a communist society, where we will sweep away exploitation of human by human from the face of the earth. All the members of the ICWP have to be confident that everything we do today counts and if we persevere, the fruits will come little by little.

MTA Comrade

## SOWETO

From page 8

opportunity to mobilize the masses and recruit them to the ICWP.

"You can see that we have opportunities," a comrade said. "I talked to some taxi drivers. I gave them **Red Flag** to read and to also give to people using their transportation. This one guy was so tired, he said he didn't even want to hear what I had to say because there are no jobs,

there's a recession, their kids are suffering, there is crime. There are all these ills caused by capitalism. But we did end up talking.

"He said that people in political parties start from the ground and they end up in offices and forget about the masses. I said that yes, we are a political party but we are different. We are not trying to fight for elections and campaigning to be the ones in the offices. I explained that we are building a mass party. 'You are a worker and I am a student, but we can both be part of building one mass party.'

"I explained that that we are building a class-

less society that doesn't allow any privileges. He ended up warming up to the idea and took the **Red Flag** and said he would read it. But that he's not promising anything. It shows how people are really disgruntled with the system. But it shows that now many people don't want to talk about politics, because they say politicians promise heaven on earth and nothing is done, that politicians are liars. They obviously see that something is wrong. Introducing ICWP and communism offers them the solution. That's what's needed."

## Centennial of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution: The July Days

### COMMUNISTS MUST STAY WITH THE MASSES – AND MOBILIZE THEM FOR COMMUNISM

The hated Russian Tsar had abdicated. The pro-capitalist Provisional Government, which included Mensheviks (socialists), had enacted liberal political reforms.

But Russian soldiers were still dying at the front. Urban workers starved amidst food shortages and price-gouging. Rural workers waited in vain for the land they were promised.

Workers', soldiers' and peasants' soviets (councils) mushroomed. Anarchists and socialists led most of them. But support for the Bolsheviks (communists) was growing among soldiers, sailors and workers in the capital, Petrograd.

The Congress of Soviets convened on June 3rd in Petrograd. Sharp struggle erupted.

Mensheviks, defending the Provisional Government, wanted the Bolshevik-led Soldiers' Soviets disarmed. Bolsheviks (13% of voting delegates) rejected the government and demanded "all power to the Soviets." The Mensheviks won the Congress – but not the masses.

The Bolsheviks called for a mass demonstration. Mensheviks, supporting a government ban, told factory workers to stay away. The workers were enraged.

Cossacks rejected Menshevik appeals to help crush the Bolsheviks. Whole military units followed Bolshevik leadership. They agreed to support the ban only because Bolshevik leaders told them to. Workers and sailors wanted to fight for Soviet power - the Bolshevik demand - but party leaders held them back.

Mensheviks, isolated, dropped their disarmament demand. They called for a June 18th demonstration. That day, the government launched a fresh and disastrous war offensive. The Bolsheviks led anti-war marchers, 400,000 in all, in major Russian cities.

The Putilov munitions workers went on strike. Bolsheviks organized workers from 70 other factories to meet with them. But they called for "restraint," waiting for support that wasn't coming from the Congress of Soviets.

#### Communist Soldiers and Sailors: Key to Revolution

Masses of soldiers and sailors were demanding the immediate overthrow of the government. Entire divisions were arrested for disobedience. The

1st Machine Gun Regiment defied orders to go to the front. They met to discuss armed insurrection, then marched on Petrograd.

The Soviet Executive Committee was now part of the Provisional Government. It told soldiers to go home. Instead, they marched, fully armed, to the factories. Soon tens of thousands loudly demanded "All power to the soviets!"

The Bolsheviks organized food and lodging for rebel soldiers. Defying party leaders' wishes, the Bolshevik Military Organization helped spread the revolt to the working-class districts and the Kronstadt sailors. They too called for the overthrow of the Provisional Government. The 2nd Machine Gun and 3rd Infantry Regiments joined the rebellion.

Bolshevik leaders tried to cool things off. But on the night of July 3rd, thousands of workers marched to Bolshevik headquarters. The Petrograd party committee then reversed its position. It joined the Bolshevik Military Organization in leading the demonstration. But party leaders still tried to channel the protest into electing delegates to present demands to the Provisional Government.

By this time the Bolshevik Party in Petrograd had grown from 2000 members (in February) to over 32,000.

Socialists and capitalists in the Provisional Government attacked the Bolsheviks for the mass uprising. They organized troops from the provinces to come suppress it. They attacked the masses, killing hundreds. They destroyed Bolshevik presses, which were still calling for restraint.

Hundreds of thousands of workers were in the street, in a massive general strike, under the Bolshevik slogan "all power to the Soviets." But the soviets didn't want power!

Some Bolsheviks argued for their party to lead the masses to revolution. The majority – including Lenin – thought they weren't ready.

In a sense they weren't, but not for the reasons



they thought. They hadn't prepared the masses for COMMUNIST power. They had deferred any mass discussion about what communist society should be like. In this way, they had ideologically disarmed the revolutionary masses.

**Imagine if the Bolshevik slogan had been to "mobilize the masses for communism" instead of "all power to the soviets"!**

The government squashed the rebellion with mass terror and anti-communist propaganda. But an All-Russia Bolshevik congress weeks later represented 240,000 party members. It declared peaceful revolution impossible and agreed for the first time on the principle of "democratic centralism."

Lenin said, two days after the crisis, that "Mistakes are inevitable when the masses are fighting but the communists remain with the masses, see these mistakes, explain them, try to get them rectified and strive perseveringly for the victory of class consciousness over spontaneity."

But the Bolsheviks themselves made the most critical mistake. They thought that achieving communism required a "socialist stage" with a Soviet government ("state") separate from the party. Instead of fighting for "power to the soviets," they should have organized soldiers, sailors and factory workers to mobilize the broader masses to fight directly for communism.

Would that have made it possible to seize and build communist power in July 1917 or even in November 1917? We'll never know. But we should be ready when our time comes.

## ANNIVERSARY OF SOWETO UPRISING: MOBILIZE DISGRUNTLED MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

SOUTH AFRICA— Youth Day, June 16th, is an historic day in South Africa, representing the student rebellions in 1976 that started in Soweto. The African National Congress (ANC) usually organizes on Youth Day. But now many people do not care about these days. They see that even what they fought against is still happening today. They don't see that as an achievement because the government today is doing the same thing that the apartheid government did.

This gives us an opportunity to mobilize these disgruntled masses to not depend on politicians and so-called leaders but to depend on themselves and to fight for their needs, for a society with no exploitation—communism.

Since there was no mass mobilization for Youth Day, we went to two shopping malls to reach a diverse group of people with *Red Flag*. We managed to mobilize the masses for communism, engage with people, get contacts. All in all,

it was a good day. We distributed 400 copies of the *Red Flag*.

Each and every time we mobilize the masses it's good: how the masses respond, how we go and mobilize, how it would make it all easier if we could work more with comrades in the other ICWP collectives, not only the youth collective. If other comrades had come, it would have made a great impression to attract the masses.

It was a good experience, even though we face some challenges. It could have been better if we were more disciplined. There was miscommunication between us and other collectives. We arrived late. We were waiting for other comrades to be there.

At the second shopping mall, we saw an ANC office. It looked like there was a protest recently



there, because the place looked bad, with broken windows. That shows the people now do not trust these people anymore. They realize the ANC doesn't represent their needs. This creates an

**See SOWETO, page 7**