



# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**

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



**ONLY COMMUNIST REVOLUTION CAN DEFEAT FASCISM  
SEE PAGE 8**



**INDIA: TURNING MASS ANGER INTO REVOLUTIONARY ENTHUSIASM**

The following report is from IC WP comrades in India where fascist Narendra Modi built a mass racist fascist movement attacking Muslim and Dalit workers. Since he was elected President, fascist attacks have escalated. In response, masses of workers and students are mobilizing to oppose racism and fascism. In the midst of this, ICWP is advancing, teaching all *Red Flag* readers valuable lessons about mobilizing for communism under fascist conditions.

Our small collective of ICWP members and friends is learning big lessons in the face of fascism and repression. Our class enemy has organized armed militia to physically attack and terrorize the masses who are getting restless as capitalism offers nothing but a bleak future and violence.

Our strategy to organize the masses for communism is changing the mood of the working class. We are channeling the anger of the working class into revolutionary enthusiasm that we have the power to change this society.

The main way of reaching out to the masses is by distributing the *Red Flag* in a creative way. We are using all the means available to spread our newspaper. Our safety comes from the massive distribution of our literature. We have no illusion that our class enemy will sit peacefully by as we organize. That makes our task of recruiting and organizing the masses for communism more urgent.

In recent activities, we were able to distribute about 500 copies of *Red Flag* in different formats. Also some translated articles were widely received. It took a lot of planning and collective discussion to accomplish this task. Our success has given us more confidence to do bigger things in the future.

**EL SALVADOR: FARMWORKERS AND MAQUILA WORKERS ADVANCE THROUGH A YEAR OF STRUGGLE**

EL SALVADOR—“We must take advantage of every situation that presents itself to organize for communism,” said a maquila worker. He and other new men and women workers in the industrial clubs, during this year, have participated in discussions about communism and inter-imperialist rivalry.

The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) is ending another year of organizing and struggle to mobilize the masses for Communism—another year organizing among garment workers, farmworkers, and students.

We ended this cycle with two meetings in different parts of the country. One meeting was with the industrial clubs and the other with the farmworkers' club. The discussions were analyzed our achievements and errors in 2016, using criticism and self-criticism.

At the beginning of 2016, *Red Flag* and ICWP were six years old. This year we began with the organization of May Day. We improved on the organizing of the year before by marching under the banners of our party and distributing our newspaper massively.

The industrial clubs continued meeting consistently throughout the year. The agenda of these meetings allowed us to develop a broader understanding about what is happening around the world and why this is impor-

tant. Reading every *Red Flag* editorial together encouraged the members to read the whole paper. However, we did not manage to increase the number of writers. This is one of our new goals.

At the evaluation meeting, workers expressed the need for more leafleting with communist literature outside the factories and to solve the failures in communications between clubs. Improving the lines of communication in relevant moments and fighting in the factories will help us have a better plan of action in response to events.

“We need more youth because they are the ones who will continue this struggle. We will go as far as life allows us,” commented a comrade from the fields in the evaluation meeting of the farmworkers' club.

The ties between the farmworkers and the maquila workers must be strengthened. The youth from the fields and the city must help with the mass distribution of *Red Flag* in different industrial zones of the country.

This farmworkers' club has remained active throughout the year. It is the same collective that has seen the need for better organization. They are carrying out a plan to develop new members politically, like some of the youth who participated for the first

See EL SALVADOR, page 4

**SYRIA:  
CHANGING  
GLOBAL  
BALANCE OF  
POWER  
PAGE 2**

**INDUSTRIAL  
WORKERS  
ARE KEY  
PAGE 3**

**VENEZUELA:  
WE NEED  
COMMUNISM,  
NOT SOCIALISM  
PAGE 6**

**HOW  
TECHNOLOGY  
CAN SERVE  
THE MASSES  
PAGE 8**



**Shifting Global Balance of Power:****DANGER OF FASCISM AND WORLD WAR  
SHOWS URGENT NEED TO FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM**

Dec. 28— The Syrian government has re-taken east Aleppo with the help of its Russian imperialist backers. This marks a decisive shift in the global balance of power.

Russian imperialism now casts a longer shadow over the Middle East. The solidifying Iraq-Iran-Syria-Turkey bloc which it backs is prying looser the US imperialists' grip on this oil-rich region. This region has been the cornerstone of the US worldwide empire since 1945.

This is further evidence of the decline of US imperialism. It is losing ground to its two major imperialist rivals: Russia and China.

No imperialist power concedes defeat peacefully. This struggle for world domination will be decided on the battlefields of World War III. Already in Syria and elsewhere, US and Russian imperialists and their allies have rained death and destruction on the masses. This shows what the capitalist butchers have in store for the working class everywhere.

Let's shed any illusion about one capitalist-imperialist butcher being better or more humane than another. Capitalism-imperialism is based on competition, exploitation and war for maximum profit. Nothing can change it.

This must be ended with a communist revolution. The masses must build a world based on cooperation to produce and distribute everything according to need. No profits or money or markets or wars to control them! Communist society will erase borders and abolish nations.

Join the International Communist Workers' Party in this historic task! And help translate *Red Flag* into Arabic, Russian and many more languages to spread this movement worldwide.

The US rulers are in disarray. Their declining power limits their ability to influence world events. For example, they have not been invited to the talks where Russia, Turkey and Iran are deciding the future of Syria. They can't contain China's growth or stop an assertive Russia or the Russia-China-Iran alliance.

This is the basis of the sharp disagreements within the dominant US imperialists about where, when, and against whom to go to war. It's not a question of "if." It's not specifically a Democrat-Republi-

can divide. Sooner or later, world war is coming. (See box)

**Reject Passivity and Patriotism:  
Prepare to Turn the Guns  
Around to Fight for  
Communism**

We must vigorously oppose US imperialists' efforts to build a fascist movement to win or force workers and youth to slave and fight for their declining empire. Trump's campaign helped those efforts with the racist slogan "Make America Great Again." Clinton's helped with the patriotic all-class unity slogan "Stronger Together."

We can't allow the masses to be lulled into passivity by Trump's promise of "peace" with Russia. Neither should we fall prey to the rulers' patriotic and racist propaganda, or become paralyzed by fear. We must not be coopted by the Democrats' early start for the 2018 congressional elections.

Our task is to turn the guns around and fight for communism. Russian soldiers, sailors and workers turned the guns on the capitalist rulers during World War I. Chinese soldiers, workers and peasants did it after World War II. Their heroism proved that the masses can defeat the capitalist-imperialists and run society.

But they mistakenly fought for socialism: state capitalism. This eventually developed, not into communism as they had hoped, but into full-blown open market capitalism-imperialism. Learning from their mistakes, today we fight directly for communism.

Anger is growing against capitalism's politicians and electoral farce from the US to India, from South Africa to El Salvador and beyond. Fury is rising at the slaughter of our class brothers and sisters. This creates the urgent need and possibility to mobilize for communism in the factories, schools and in the bosses' militaries.

Only communism can guarantee an end to imperialist wars. Only communism can create a world where workers everywhere embrace each other as true sisters and brothers. Only in communism can we respect and learn from and rely on each other to meet everyone's needs.

Join us in fulfilling the historical task of the working class: building communism over the grave of capitalism-imperialism.

**US Rulers' Disarray:  
Workers Need Communism Sooner Rather  
than Later**

The decline of US imperialism leaves US bosses with no good options. That's mainly why there are such sharp disagreements among them.

Some prefer not to go to war against a China-Russia bloc, and especially not in the Middle East. These imperialists consider China the main enemy. They see the South China Sea as the best place to confront China. They think they can divide China from Russia. If that's not possible, they prefer to confront Russia in Ukraine, Eastern Europe and the Black Sea.

Others, like Hillary Clinton, are more determined to confront both Russia and China more aggressively now, even if it means war. For example, Clinton called for a "no-fly zone" in northern Syria. This would have meant preparing to shoot down Russian war planes, and confronting Russia sooner rather than later.

Clinton's group was betting that Putin would back down. Many influential US imperialist policy analysts disagreed. They saw this could have quickly ignited World War III, which they are not yet ready to fight. That was a point of grave concern.

However, Trump is not exactly what these US imperialists wanted as president. But he is being pressured heavily to toe their line.

Trump's choice of Exxon-Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson for Secretary of State shows this playing out. Tillerson has ties with Putin. Exxon-Mobil has a half-trillion-dollar deal with Russia just waiting for US sanctions to be lifted.

But some see these issues as a smoke screen to hide the US imperialists' retreat from confronting Russia in Syria and the Ukraine. This strategy also hopes to divide Russia and China.

That's why key imperialist policymakers support Tillerson's appointment. They include policymakers like Robert Gates (former Defense Secretary), Condoleeza Rice (former Secretary of State), Zbigniew Brzezinski and Henry Kissinger, among others.

This approach might lead to some kind of temporary deal and give US imperialists (and the Russian bosses!) more time to prepare for war. But it will not resolve the contradiction between rising Russian and declining US imperialism.

Trump's hawkish approach to China is more in line with these key policymakers' "Pivot to Asia-Pacific." They designed this policy to "contain" China. Trump's openly supports an independent Taiwan. He threatens to impose tariffs on Chinese-made goods. These positions signal his determination to more aggressively contain China. They could provoke war sooner rather than later.

Russian and Chinese imperialists know that the Trump presidency seeks to divide them. They both claim that won't happen.

"What we have between Russia and China is more than just a strategic partnership," declared Putin.

"The internal drive for China-Russia strategic coordination is strengthening," stated *Global Times*, the official website of Chinese imperialism.

US imperialism's weakness and sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry make it more important than ever for workers, soldiers and students to mobilize the masses for communism. Sooner rather than later.



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



## Union's Meaningless Membership Bill of Rights

### COMMUNISM PROVIDES FOR WORKERS' NEEDS

SEATTLE, USA, Dec. 13 – Boeing's union leadership is bragging about the "Membership Bill of Rights" they got passed at the last international conference. These rights have proved useless. In communism, we won't need rights to protect us from the bosses' exploitation and their union leader flunkies because these things will all be abolished.

The last contract extension eliminated defined pensions. We rejected the extension so the international had us vote again. We had the right to vote and vote over and over again until we agreed to end our pension.

The new list of rights is meant to assure workers that they can have a fair vote on any contract extension. These rights are supposed to offer protection from the continued attacks by the capitalists and their union lieutenants. But what protection do these rights offer if capitalist production for profit and sale continue? None!

If anybody here had any doubts about the futility of rights, that should have ended today. The market has collapsed for the company's cash cow, the 777 jet. CEO Mullenburg assured Wall Street analysts that Boeing will make "the necessary ad-

justments to maximize profitability." That means tens of thousands of jobs will eventually be lost.

"You can have all the rights in the world, but you can't rein in capitalism," is how one Boeing friend of the party put it.

If you can't control capitalism, the answer is to do away with it. How? With revolution that mobilizes for communism in every aspect of society, building on the material basis of communist political economy.

Communist production is based on the needs of the working class, not those of a market. We will collectively decide what to produce and how. Each will contribute through their work and get what they need.

Today we have jobs if the bosses can sell the products we make, exploiting us to make a profit. In communism, we will struggle with everyone to work so we can provide for the needs of the masses. If we decide we don't need more planes, there is plenty of other useful work to do. Production for need will replace profits, markets and exploitative jobs.

#### Fighting for Communism, Not Rights

"These membership rights are useless," agreed our friend. He is a long-time union activist. But he wasn't wallowing in despair. He took a bunch of *Red Flags* to distribute to the women's basketball team he coaches. A few days later he had a long conversation with his neighbor, trying to convince him of the merits of communism.

"My neighbor wants to

know how are we going to get paid in communism," he reported back the next day. "How will I pay for the house, my family, my car? I didn't know how to answer him."

"That's why we have party collectives," began the comrade he was talking to. "No one person has all the answers, but collectively we know a lot more about communism than we think."

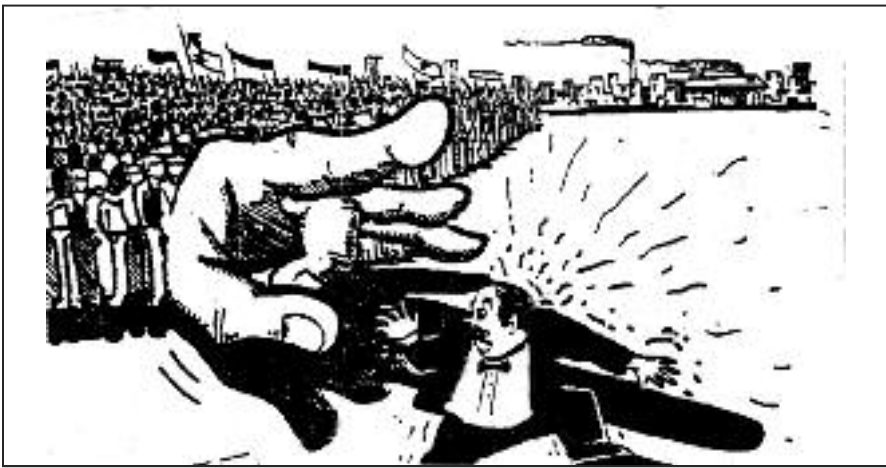
Many workers worry about securing the necessities of life as the capitalist crisis of overproduction intensifies, especially now that layoffs are on the horizon. We discussed how nobody would get paid wages in communism: how the basics will be provided based on need. There will be no need for money exchanges.

"That sounds right. We've been conditioned to think we must have money to survive," he said, pointing to his head.

Our friend's reaction to the layoffs did not come out of the blue. We've been talking about communism as the only answer for some time now.

These discussions and intensified capitalist attacks have led him to reject reformism, rights and trade unionism. But lately, he has tried something different. He's fighting for communism with his friends and co-workers. When he runs into questions he can't answer, he turns to the Party for help.

Communist production will be the foundation of a successful communist society. When workers like our friend, at the point of production, join the Party we'll be on our way to communist revolution. The rights the bosses always brag about will become silly vestiges of a dead exploitative system.



## GARMENT WORKERS: RED FLAG NEEDS YOUR HELP

LOS ANGELES, USA, Dec. 14—It was exciting to see dozens of workers reading *Red Flag* while they waited for the bus that would take them home after a grueling day of work in the American Apparel garment factory. They were reading the article about a communist world without money as it related to the bankruptcy of American Apparel and the workers' uncertain future, in the last edition of *Red Flag*.

There are still no direct comments to us about communism and what we write. But for a long time, perhaps years, many of these women and men workers have gotten our newspaper and taken it to their homes.

A similar phenomenon occurs in other garment factories like Koos, where we distribute an average of 500 s per edition overall. In Koos many workers take the paper and stand near the door to read some article and comment among themselves. When we ask them what they think and if they have some opinion about what they are reading, they smile and only say, "It's okay." Many women workers take the newspaper and leave in

a hurry because they have to go work at home to prepare food or take care of the children.

If the laws of dialects don't fail us, these men and women workers are a silent volcano. The alternative of the fight for a communist world, without exploitation, or racism or borders is still an option, a step that they have not taken, but must take. Capitalism, with its exploitation, racism, sexism, and wars devastates their lives, as it does in the whole working class worldwide.

Therefore, the main question is how to win these men and women workers to join the party (ICWP) and actively take as their own the need to build communism.



invite them to our club meetings to develop communist political relationships with them.

We need the help of the women and men workers from these factories, so that they help us discover the main contradiction that keeps them from joining the revolutionary communist struggle. We also need the comrades in the maquilas in El Salvador to write about their experiences, as well as the comrades in South Africa and India.

The concentrations of work and the building of ICWP in any part of the world are the responsibility of the whole party and the working class. We look forward to your comments and suggestions through letters or articles.

In these factories we have a great potential to achieve the communist world that we need. Join us.



**BRAZIL, Nov. 24--Oil workers begin a five-week strike against the national oil company.**



## IF ELECTIONS MADE A DIFFERENCE, THEY WOULD BE ILLEGAL

SEATTLE, USA, Dec. 17—A hand-written sign saying “If Elections Made a Difference, They Would Be Illegal” stood out at the “March Against Hate.” On the other hand, communist revolution would make all the difference in the world.

Party members and friends attended this march of at least a thousand. Comrades circulated *Red Flag* and a leaflet boldly declaring “Communism Means No More Trumps.” We distributed them all. We should have brought more.

“Read a communist leaflet,” urged one distributor, getting right to the point.

“I want to read that!” said marchers as they circled back to pick them up.

Everywhere elections are being called into question and along with them the capitalist system. The bosses are furiously trying to rehabilitate elections. Early in the week the CIA issued a report saying Russian hacking subverted the “integrity of the electoral process.”

Boeing workers jumped on that. “That’s the CIA’s job!” said more than one, laughing at the hypocrisy. The CIA has subverted elections in Haiti, Guatemala and too many other places to list here. If US capitalists hope to rehabilitate the CIA along with elections, they have a long way

to go. But you can be sure they won’t stop trying.

Ironically, a featured speaker also wanted to rehabilitate elections. She hoped democratic socialist candidates would legitimize the elections in the eyes of workers and youth.

Many are dubious. We presented a communist alternative—and many responded with interest.

### Build Communist Leadership Around the World

If communism does not rely on elections, how will we pick and develop leadership? We had a long discussion about this over dinner with a new party member that evening.

We agreed that maintaining capitalist production would produce a hierarchy dedicated to protecting wage slavery and exploitation. That’s what happens under socialism and that’s why we fight directly for communism.

We need communist production. Collective effort for the collective good will mark communist production, not a mad drive for profits. This production method will affect every aspect of society, including building leadership.

The Party will lead everywhere through communist collectives of dedicated workers. Mobilizing the masses for communism will become

the life-blood of society.

There will be no passive reliance on superheroes or elected officials. Dedicated collectives will run every part of society. This method involves, at every level, struggle and close personal ties that are social and political. That is how we move forward.

The general well-being of the world’s workers will be our collective priority. We need a worldwide communist party to lead and organize the effort.

Even under capitalist rule, we do this as best we can. The Party doesn’t have professional reporters, bloggers or editors. Everything we produce goes through collectives. Those collectives produce not only our literature, but also new communist organizers. That means we need you to join.

Those that do communist political work make the best decisions. Our new comrade brought questions to our dinner meeting based on discussions she has had with fellow workers and her own doubts. The discussion she started at our meeting helped us make better plans for the inauguration week. That’s how we develop communist leadership and start to make a real difference.

LOS ANGELES, USA, Dec. 11 – Anti-capitalism was a mass issue among several thousand who marched here against the Dakota oil pipeline. It was up to comrades of the International Communist Workers’ Party to make communism a mass issue. We distributed 175 copies of *Red Flag* and had some good conversations. “In a communist world without money or profits, we can protect people and the planet,” was how one comrade approached the marchers.



## EL SALVADOR from page 1

time in this meeting.

Before us opens a panorama of tensions and great possibilities to mobilize the masses for Communism. The conflict over the increase in the minimum wage by the associations of businessmen has intensified the class struggle. It is our duty to raise consciousness in the great mass of outraged workers that the wage increase is not something to defend, but instead we need to intensify the struggle against wage slavery. We will talk more about this issue in a future article.

As members of ICWP, we optimistically take on these new challenges on the eve of celebrating seven years since the foundation of our party. We have full confidence in our line, our party, and our *Red Flag*, and we are convinced that we are on the correct side of history.



Mobilize the Masses for Communism

May Day, 2016, El Salvador



## Oakland's Ghost Ship Fire:

# WE NEED ART FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION NOT FOR CAPITALIST DEVELOPMENT

OAKLAND, USA, Dec. 2—A sudden raging fire consumed the lives of 36 young party-goers in an old warehouse in the black and latino working-class neighborhood of Fruitvale. The warehouse, renamed the Ghost Ship and recycled as an artists' work-live community space, burned like hell fire. Gentrification, homelessness and skyrocketing rents, all features of capitalism in crisis, channeled 36 young artists and friends into a cheap space and left them as charred corpses.

Under capitalism, profit is everything; the well-being of the masses, nothing. In the communist revolution we are organizing, the well-being of the masses will be everything and profits won't even exist.

Those who lived in the Ghost Ship paid \$400 a month to a Derick Almerna, who had no permit to sublease. The owner, Chor N. Ng, who owns multiple properties, claims to know nothing about any subletting. Both of them, however, knew when to collect the rent!

One out of five Oakland residents lives in poverty. Rents increased in Oakland almost 70% over the past nine years to an astonishing median level of \$2,200 a month. That's the fourth highest in the US. Compare that to the \$3,100 a month a new Oakland bus driver makes!

If statistics like this disgust and anger you, you are beginning to think like a communist. For capitalists like Ng and his sidekicks, statistics like these reveal "niche markets" that can be ex-

ploited.

### Art for Capitalist Development

Capitalists don't own buildings to house the homeless. They own them to make profits. The money goes one way, from the renters or mortgage payers to the landlords or bankers. It's called exploitation. If our revolution wins out money and exploitation will be destroyed. People-to-people relationships will replace it. We'll share resources to meet all our needs as best we can.

This culture of co-operation however, won't just drop out of the sky. It will only develop out of an all-round struggle against racism, sexism, and individualism. The fire at the Ghost Ship was a tragic event in a long-term plan to "ethnically cleanse" Oakland. Under the label of "gentrification," one fourth of Oakland's black residents have already been displaced.

This is a story that is repeated in city after city. It has become a familiar pattern. A targeted neighborhood suffers through gang violence, police violence, cuts in services, rent increases and at a certain point in the development a largely white artistic community appears.

"Popuphood" is the latest example in Oakland. Operating in another part of Oakland, it shows how the "private-public" partnership combines to "ethnically cleanse" a neighborhood. Property owners band together to offer 6-month free rent to new stores. A government agency makes thou-

sands of dollars available in grant money to the same stores. Property values begin to rise and the "gentrification" has reached its final phase.

Money (grants) and support (6 months free rent) that is denied residents is made available to the business owners. No wonder the City of Oakland applied for a local state of emergency. In part, it will allow Oakland to subsidize the local businesses who may have lost customers as a result of the fire! Government exists to serve capitalists and for over 400 years, racism has provided them a key source of profits.

### Art for Communist Revolution

These artist communities are not consciously racist. One of the Ghost Ship's victims was a supporter of Standing Rock. And not all become pawns of the real estate developers. However, artists in capitalist society are, by and large, the products of an education system that presents art either as a career choice, or as individual self-expression isolated from the interest of working class communities. Generally, they fail to interact with their neighbors.

Paul Robeson said, "The artist must take sides. He must elect to fight for freedom or for slavery." As *Red Flag* grows in readership and volunteer writers and artists, we will be able to influence these artist communities, turning them from occasional vanguards for capitalist gentrification into centers of working-class resistance and communist development!



## WHY IS YELLOW FEVER STILL A THREAT?

Yellow fever broke out a year ago in Luanda, Angola. By July 2016 it had spread to Congo, threatening Kinshasa with the biggest urban epidemic in decades. Latin America is now at greater risk of urban epidemics than at any time in the past 50 years.

For the first time ever, yellow fever reached Asia this year. Global climate change is extending the range of mosquitoes that carry yellow fever. So yellow fever might soon reach Europe.

No new cases have been reported for four months, and the immediate threat is considered over. Things could have been much worse. But we still need to ask WHY this epidemic broke out and WHY another could follow.

An effective vaccine was developed in the 1930s. It is produced in chicken eggs for about

\$1 per dose. The cost of vaccinating every one of the 7.4 billion people on the planet – even those not in at-risk areas – would be about 40% less than the cost of one new US aircraft carrier. It would cost only a tiny fraction of an estimated \$24 trillion stashed by the super-rich in secret offshore accounts.

So why isn't there a stockpile of the vaccine at least large enough to halt the spread of yellow fever when an epidemic threatens? Why do only four major manufacturers produce it?

According to the *New York Times* (12/3/16), "because profits are low, many manufacturing companies dropped it."

**Every death from yellow fever is a murder committed by capitalism.**

In a world without money, profits won't be an

issue. Communist society can and will train many more people to produce yellow fever vaccine. We will have no problem keeping adequate stockpiles on hand of this and other life-saving vaccines and medications.

Even more critically, communist society will mobilize masses to eradicate or contain the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that carries yellow fever, zika, dengue and other diseases. Integrated pest control methods already exist. We will develop other, better ones. The cost, ultimately, is human labor – and we will have plenty of that.

Yellow fever is still a threat because we haven't yet eradicated capitalism with communist revolution.



Venezuela:**THE WORKING CLASS NEEDS COMMUNISM, NOT SOCIALISM**

Capitalist crisis and inter-imperialist rivalry are attacking Venezuelan workers with a vengeance. Workers are suffering the effects of the bosses' fight for control of oil. While the capitalist bosses fight among each other over who will rule Venezuela, the worldwide crisis of overproduction and drop in oil prices have made it impossible for workers to live in the old way. The drop in oil prices was engineered by the US imperialists and their Saudi allies to attack their rivals in Russia, Venezuela and Iran.

The group of bosses and investors allied with the US-supported opposition to President Maduro are refusing to import products for the market basket of consumer goods. They are creating food shortages and instigating food riots throughout the country. Inflation is approaching 1000%. (So the products cost 10 times more than before.) This is carried out with the plan that the masses blame the current government and not capitalism.

Hugo Chavez, president of Venezuela from 1999 to 2013, declared that Venezuela was building "21st Century Socialism." After being elected President, Chavez declared himself a socialist, saying "our socialism accepts private property." This means private ownership of the means of production to make profits for the bosses. That is the cornerstone of capitalism. It

means leaving workers to continue living under the bosses' growing exploitation, as well as the attacks of the imperialists and their local allies.

No matter what the label, socialism has been state capitalism everywhere that it has been implemented. In Russia and China, honest, committed revolutionaries mistakenly thought they needed to implement socialism before they could have communism, a system that means the complete elimination of classes, money, and exploitation.

When oil prices were high (they reached a peak of \$109 a barrel in 2012), Chavez used part of the oil revenues to finance social programs that improved the living conditions of the impoverished masses. This calmed their anger and hatred of the oppression and inequality they face. At the same time, Chavez and his oil-boss cronies made billions in profits, sending \$406 billion to tax havens.

Today, oil is selling at less than \$50 a barrel. The Chinese imperialists, who invested \$60 billion in Venezuela, are being paid in oil. But they are still owed \$19 billion. Recently the Chinese bosses made a new loan for \$2.2 billion to improve the oil infrastructure. Earlier this year, they met with opposition leaders to make it clear that they must honor the debts negotiated by Chavez and Maduro.

Under both Chavez and Maduro, 96% of exports from Venezuela are oil exports. So the drop in oil prices has drastically affected the Venezuelan working class.

All the reforms which made Chavez look like a friend of the workers have been abolished. "21st Century Socialism" is exposed as what it always was: a capitalist ploy to try to keep workers away from the only solution to the bosses' exploitation: that solution is communist revolution.

Communism will have no market. It will have no money. Nothing will be bought or sold. Everything will be produced, distributed, and used to meet the needs of the masses of workers, not to make a profit by buying or selling it on the capitalist market. Chavez' 21st Century Socialism could never escape the market.

The masses of workers in Venezuela and throughout South America who are suffering from the capitalist crisis need communism. They need to join and build a mass ICWP, and fight for a world where we collectively plan, produce and distribute to meet the needs of the international working class. No election can defeat the profit system. For that, we need an armed revolution in which the masses of people understand clearly that we must fight for communism and a mass ICWP to mobilize the masses for it. Join us!

LOS ANGELES, USA, Dec. 18 – Thousands marched here on International Migrants Day. They were protesting the racist, anti-immigrant rants and policies of president-elect Donald Trump. Two comrades arrived early with *Red Flag*. They quickly distributed 200 copies in under 45 minutes, mainly to workers in union-organized contingents. Another comrade arrived with 50 copies. Workers snapped them up. The same happened to the 50 copies brought by a fourth comrade. The last five comrades arrived with 200 more papers. By then it seemed like almost everyone already had a copy. But as we marched along Broadway, workers and youth eagerly took almost every *Red Flag* we had. We are planning for larger and better-organized contingents during the week of Inauguration Day. March with us! Only communism can defeat fascist capitalism.

**LETTERS****LETTERS****LETTERS****CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS****Young Comrade Prepares to Organize Soldiers for Communism**

"How am I going to start? How will I do it?" asked a young comrade in a military collective of ICWP. This young woman will enter the US military in a few months to start communist political and organizational work.

A comrade who is a US military veteran began the discussion by reviewing the ICWP military pamphlet: ***Soldiers, Sailors, Marines: Crucial for a Workers' Communist Revolution***. (available at [icwpredflag.org/MIL/mpe.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/MIL/mpe.pdf)) He emphasized that there is no manual to follow but studying and putting into practice the ideas of the pamphlet would be indispensable.

We agreed that we would all read the pamphlet and be prepared to discuss it at our next meeting.

He said that it was essential to start creating friendly, solid and trusting relationships with other enlisted personnel. It's important to spend time with them and engage in conversations about why they joined the military, where they come from, what it's like there, their family situ-

ation, etc.

We must carry out an ideological struggle between the ideas of the present society and the ideas of the future in all its aspects. One way to get into that discussion is to talk about the different brands of merchandise that we produce. The most expensive ones contain the best materials and the cheapest ones contain the poorest materials. In communism, we won't produce commodities to be bought and sold. We will produce everything of the best quality possible, with the best materials available—not for sale but for use.

We must talk to our fellow enlisted personnel about what they think of racism. Capitalism was born along with racism. The capitalist bosses have always used it to divide the power of the working class. To get rid of it we need to get rid of capitalism.

Depending on the circumstances, we can discuss political events such as the conflict in Syria. We can point out that soldiers come from the working class, and that the armies are invaders, oppressors and servants of capitalism.

Their wars are never to liberate the masses, but to control resources like oil or to strategically position themselves for the next world war. All of this is for the benefit of the capitalists. We can raise the question: Why sacrifice our lives for the capitalists?

We need to develop our confidence and a global vision of international developments such as the recent assassination of the Russian ambassador to Syria. An understanding of events can give us confidence.

This is something worth living for. There will always be problems with your family, work, friends or whatever, we told the young comrade.

"I know," replied the young comrade. "It will be difficult, but I will succeed. In the end, I assure you that I won't be alone. I will have a collective to rely on solidly and an international party committed to the liberation of the international working class and the establishment of communism."

—a military political collective



## IN MEMORY OF COMRADE TATA: BUILD COMMUNIST INTERNATIONALISM

Comrade Tata, a proud member of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP), died at the age of 89 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Comrade Tata relentlessly carried out the struggle for communism until his last breath. Due to his advanced age and the racist healthcare system, comrade Tata could not get the knee replacement he needed. *Red Flag* was what gave him strength. Despite excruciating pain, he would walk a mile every week to bring *Red Flag* to his comrades.

Comrade Tata had a compelling style of telling stories of his life. "When I was 11 years old, they took me away from my mother," he told us, recounting his experiences of the apartheid era. The 11-year-old rebellious boy saw the agony and pain of his grieving mother. His anger at the racist South African society led him to join the African National Congress

(ANC).

As a young ANC recruit he fought many violent battles. He believed that minority rule would end and that that would bring peace and prosperity to all. He saw many of his comrades going to jail for decades and some being killed. He continued his battle. He learned many skills of survival under fascist conditions. He was captured and tortured. When he came out of prison, he was more determined than ever before to fight the racist system.

When the ANC led by Mandela came to power, Comrade Tata realized that the battle was just beginning. He realized, like many around the world, that only communism can end once and for all the system of exploitation that creates racism. As the ANC was selling out the working class, Comrade Tata was searching for a revolutionary alternative.

An ICWP member who was a neighbor of

Comrade Tata gave him a copy of *Red Flag*. "This is the solution. I will come to your conference," Comrade Tata told him. Those who were at the conference will never forget when Comrade Tata gave a heartfelt handshake and an enormous hug of international solidarity to another ICWP member, an immigrant from Mexico to the US. His words still reverberate, "I will die happy now, because my family is with ICWP."

Comrade Tata was a true treasure of the international working class. We will miss him but his firm determination, his absolute hatred for the class enemy and his enormous love for the working class will galvanize our revolutionary communist movement. Let us honor the memory of Comrade Tata by joining ICWP if we are not yet members. If we are members, we must redouble our efforts to spread ICWP massively to make the dream that nourished and defined his life a reality.

### LETTERS

### LETTERS

### LETTERS

### CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS



Last year *Red Flag* reported on the firing of Somali workers from the Cargill meatpacking plant in Fort Morgan, Colorado. This attack combined anti-Muslim hysteria with racism against immigrant workers in general and African workers in particular. This winter we returned to Fort Morgan with *Red Flag*, going door to door in the Somali community. Many workers were glad to take *Red Flag*.

### Annual Get-Together in Mexico

At the end-of-the-year meal and meeting, we sent warm revolutionary greetings to comrades around the world. Eleven Party comrades and friends met to discuss the issue of sexism, because there have been responses from comrades from other parts of the world to the letter sent from Mexico. Even though this question is not decisive in the Communist movement, it is of interest to this collective.

The position of the party was clear and convincing. We liked the letter from the single comrade in the United States in the previous edition. However, the sentence "no one will depend on a single partner to meet all their economic, social, emotional and sexual needs," sparked a discussion that was not concluded

because it implied that we could have more than one partner simultaneously.

We said that under capitalism the sexuality of the youth is repressed. We think that in Communism there will be sex education that will allow people to enjoy sexuality in a healthy way.

In the discussion, three young people who are getting to know the party said they are very interested in talking about religion, spirituality, homosexuality, and about money. We agreed to talk about these issues in coming meetings along with dialectical materialism.

A friend of the party said that the struggle against sexism is not exclusive to ICWP because there are many movements that are fighting for this cause and that we must unite with them. The position of ICWP is that we must win them to the fight for Communism. The friend has come to several meetings of the collective, and always contributes and asks questions. The main ones are that even though we struggle for a goal that will happen, we must also work in the daily struggles without letting them absorb us or divert us from our goal. She always insists that we must work on our individual contradictions and those of the collective. Both are important, like the legs of a person. In turn we invite her to take part in this revolutionary struggle.

We did not exhaust the discussion. There were many pending issues and activities that we will work on enthusiastically in the coming year. The collective sends revolutionary greetings and encouragement to our comrades all over the world. We know that we are many and that each time there are more of us who share the conviction that Communism will exist all over the world and that our class will take power. Long live ICWP!

—A Comrade in Mexico

### Greetings from Mexico

I send a toast and a communist embrace to the comrades in South Africa for the loss of our great comrade Tata. I still keep his words in my mind as well as his energy that he transmitted to me in the conference held a while ago.

In the same way I send solidarity with the comrades in India. I want to say that our security is given if we spread our political line massively. Welcome, 2017, welcome our revolutionary struggle, welcome our Communist Society.



CULVER CITY, Calif. (AP) — Eighty community-college students and a dozen teachers marched from the campus to a busy intersection for a spirited rally declaring Trump "Not My President." Most of the students in the multi-racial crowd took ICWP leaflets. A few also got the "End Racism" pamphlet. Two are now working with Party members to build a study group and plan for the big march on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

## TECHNOLOGY from page 8

generate \$1 million in manufacturing output in the US. Today, it takes just 6.5 jobs to generate that amount."

Under capitalism, "less touch labor" means fewer jobs and more of us facing destitution. It means a downward spiral into intensified competition, crisis and war (see box, p. 8).

Communism is the way out. Communism is based on cooperation, not competition. Our goal

will be to maximize benefits for the masses, not to minimize costs.

**In communist society, workers will decide where and when to automate aspects of production.** Our relationship with technology will change qualitatively.

Workers will figure out better ways to do things. Some tasks are better done by hand. If doing the work right means bringing more comrades on board, we'll do it

For other tasks, we'll put our time and material

resources into building robots. When a job is automated away, there will still be plenty of useful work for those who used to do it by hand.

Former riveters and painters won't worry about paying bills: there will be none! They will learn other skills involved in building planes or in other work that interests them.

We'll all have more time to spend on strengthening communist social relations, deepening communist understanding and creating communist culture worldwide.



# ONLY COMMUNIST REVOLUTION CAN DEFEAT FASCISM!

On January 21st, the day after Donald Trump is inaugurated as US president, hundreds of thousands will join protest marches in Washington, DC and many other cities.

Many understand that Trump's administration will mark a qualitative jump in the level of fascism within the US itself.

Workers in the US – including many who voted for Trump – will feel the iron boot of US imperialism. It will trample their standard of living as it has already done around the world.

But march leaders are already pushing the dangerous lie that fascism can be defeated with a “broad anti-fascist alliance” and masses marching peacefully in the streets.

In truth fascism is the political form of decaying capitalism, especially in periods of deep global crisis, like the present. It can only be defeated by destroying capitalism-imperialism itself.

Only communist revolution and mass mobilization for a communist society can crush the Trumps, the Modis, the Putins and the LePens of the world and the system that spawns them. Only communism can meet the needs of the masses everywhere.

Join RED FLAG contingents in the January 21st marches to spread this message far and wide!

**LOS ANGELES, CA: 9 am-4 pm, Pershing Square to City Hall**

**SEATTLE, WA: 10 am-4 pm, starting point TBA**

**OAKLAND, CA: 10 am-3 pm, 9th & Madison Street**

**SAN DIEGO, CA: 10 am-noon, Civic Center Plaza**

**For more information or other locations, call 310-487-7674 or email the International Communist Workers' Party at [ICWP@anonymousspeech.com](mailto:ICWP@anonymousspeech.com)**



## COMMUNIST PRODUCTION: TECHNOLOGY WILL SERVE THE MASSES

It's no surprise that Trump lied about “saving” jobs at Carrier in Indiana. And lied about getting SoftBank to invest in “creating” jobs.

But it might surprise you that communists don't fight for jobs. Living under capitalism, workers have to worry about finding or losing jobs. Having a job is our only real chance to feed ourselves and keep a roof over our heads. But a job means selling your labor power to a boss for a wage or salary.

**Communists fight to end this wage slavery.** In communism, there will be no buying and selling of labor power or anything else. Everyone will work as much as she or he wants. We'll share the results of our labor so that everyone's needs will be met.

In communism, everyone will learn and do many things. We'll all be “comrades” instead of being identified with a type of work like “plumber” or “teacher.” Instead of “jobs” we'll have opportunities to serve the masses.

**With this in mind, let's look at Carrier and SoftBank.** United Technologies owns Carrier. Its boss, Greg Hayes, explained:

“We're going to make a \$16 million investment in ... Indianapolis to automate to drive the cost down so that we can continue to be competitive. Now is it as cheap as moving to Mexico with lower cost of labor? No. But we will make that plant

competitive just because we'll make the capital investments there.

That means, Hayes admitted, “there will be fewer jobs.” United Technologies will still send 700 factory jobs from Indiana to Monterrey, Mexico. Meanwhile it will receive \$7 million in tax credits from Indiana over the next decade.

SoftBank had already set aside \$50 billion to invest, mostly from Saudi Arabia. This was supposed to create 50,000 jobs. But SoftBank executive Masayoshi Son suggested that Foxconn (which supplies Apple and Samsung) would be a likely recipient. And for the last few years, Foxconn has invested heavily in automation.

One Foxconn factory introduced robots last May, cutting 60,000 jobs in China. Foxconn has already talked about investing in a plant to build robots in Pennsylvania. So any new jobs in the US would probably be for a few highly-skilled workers.

Boeing now uses robots to paint the wings of 777X aircraft at Everett, WA. Previously, 35-40 painters took 4.5 hours to do the first coat. Robots do it in 24 minutes. The 777X program also uses robots for riveting. Drilling and fastening can also be automated. “The less touch labor you have, the less it costs to produce,” explained a manager.

According to the Brookings Institute, “In 1980 it took 25 jobs to **See TECHNOLOGY, page 7**

### Automation, capitalist competition and war... Or communist revolution

The bosses' crisis of overproduction is reshaping the world. Mobilizing for communism is even more urgent – and more possible – than before.

Capitalist competition drives companies to lower the cost of producing each unit. That lets them lower the selling price and (they hope) grab a bigger market share.

One way to do that is shifting production to places where racist terror has kept wages and living standards low. Automation is another. But there's a catch. Automation actually lowers the average rate of profit (the ratio of profit to capital invested).

Profit is realized when commodities are sold. But it is created at the point of production. It's the difference between the value workers produce and the cost of their labor power (wages).

More automation means that more of the capital invested goes into “fixed capital” (machinery etc.). Less goes to buy the workers' labor power that creates all profits. The rate of profit falls.

This falling rate of profit means that capitalists have to sell even more stuff to make the same amount of money. They all increase production. Competition for market share intensifies. Now there is a “crisis of overproduction” because all that stuff can't be sold.

Individual enterprises try to answer the declining rate of profit with more automation. The systemic crisis intensifies.

But powerful groups of capitalists have another way to answer the declining rate of profit: their national governments. They can terrorize workers into accepting lower wages. They can impose tariffs or sanctions to keep products made elsewhere out of their domestic markets. That's what Trump threatens to do.

But none of this can solve the global crisis of capitalism. It intensifies the class struggle, laying bare the necessity for communist revolution. And it raises the level of competition from company vs. company to nation vs. nation. Inter-imperialist rivalry sharpens between blocs of nations. Re-dividing markets means re-dividing the world.

And that means world war. The massive destruction of human life and other means of production allows capitalism to “reset” – but only if we allow it. Instead we must mobilize now to build communism – if necessary, out of the rubble of capitalist destruction.