

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY * WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG

Ferguson, MO



Monrovia, Liberia



Iguala, Guerrero

**MASSES IN
MOTION MUST
FIGHT FOR
COMMUNISM
IN 2015**

Ayotzinapa Massacre:

CAPITALISM IS A CRIME AGAINST THE WORKING CLASS

MEXICO, January 6— Mass rebellions continue in response to the disappearance and probable murder of 43 students (normalistas) in Ayotzinapa, Guerrero on September 26. (See also article page 6).

The government, in turn, has strengthened its repressive apparatus. It has sent more troops to Guerrero and Michoacán supposedly to “fight crime.” In Michoacán crime actually increased after the government disbanded the “self-defense” groups.

The rulers’ concern, like the US rulers’ concern about Ferguson, is how to contain the workers’ indignation against exploitation and racist oppression. The Mexican president, Peña Nieto, referred to the need to overcome poverty in the southern states when presenting his ten measures to confront the situation in November.

But it is clear that capitalism will not do that. Even the bourgeois news analysts admit

that those ten steps do not resolve the situation. Abductions and disappearances continue, along with payment for bribes and extortions. Mexico ranks second worldwide in human trafficking.

Capitalism itself is theft everywhere. Its profits come from exploiting workers. The capitalists fight among themselves internationally for profit, for markets and sources of raw materials. They expand their factories, mines and wells, leading to overproduction (as is happening now with global oil production) and cyclical crises.

Within each country, capitalists also fight like dogs for the wealth and profits. The money involved in the drug trade is enormous, so many want it. Banks get it and put it into circulation, investing in factories, commerce, and services. And in every country, the fight will ultimately be with bullets and workers the main ones who die.

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Kaiser Health Workers Strike:

REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM, CAN WIN A BETTER SOCIETY

LOS ANGELES, January 5— Kaiser Permanente’s 2,600 California mental health clinicians represented by the National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW) will launch a statewide strike on Monday, January 12. More than 700 other Kaiser workers will join the picket lines, including Northern California optical workers and Southern California medical social workers, speech pathologists, audiologists, health educators, and registered dietitians.

NUHW’s press release states that clinicians are protesting Kaiser’s chronic failure to provide its members with timely, quality services. Kaiser added 422,000 new members (patients) nationwide during the first nine months of 2014, many as a result of the Affordable Care Act. Staffing levels, which were already too low, have not kept pace. Withholding services while increasing membership is an effective way to score record profits, but it has led to woefully inadequate patient care.

This is an example of how capitalism hurts workers. Capitalists make profits by selling something people

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**BOLD
COMMUNIST
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**OBAMA’S
DIPLOMACY &
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WORKERS
DISCUSS
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Racism: Worldwide Capitalist Strategy

COMMUNISM: INTERNATIONAL WORKING-CLASS STRATEGY TO DEFEAT RACISM



“Shut the whole system down!” chanted thousands of Los Angeles youths. “We have nothing to lose but our chains.”

“Everyone around me is against capitalism,” said a young black professional woman who is an activist in New York City.

It’s not just black youth who respond with continued outrage at the murderous racism of killer cops from New York City to Ferguson, MO to Los Angeles and beyond. It’s not just Mexican students who still march against the massacre of 42 normalistas from Ayotzinapa, Guerrero.

Racist state terror has marked capitalism since its start. It intensifies during systemic crises, as the rulers fear losing their grip on the masses. But, as we’re seeing today, it can provoke more anger than fear.

Racism is one of capitalism’s main tools to divide and conquer us. But, as we’re seeing today, it can provoke the international working-class unity needed to tear down – not just shut down! – the system.

Anger and unity are not enough. The masses must grasp that the only alternative to racist capitalism is international communism. **No group of workers can remain passive in the face of the recent wave of racist terror.**

*We must seize this critical opportunity to recruit massively into our Party and expand the distribution of *Red Flag*. We can then mobilize even broader masses for this communist alternative.



*We must guarantee that every Party collective organizes to make racist state terror an issue in our workplaces, schools and communities. We must link it to the racism we see on the

job and in the classroom.

*We must move friends, relatives, and coworkers into action based on the understanding that racism rose with capitalism and can be ended only by mobilizing for communism. Industrial workers and soldiers have a key role to play.

Racism is not prejudice that somehow got “institutionalized.” It’s a cornerstone of capi-

talism.

Without racist terror, capitalism couldn’t have spread in the 17th century from England around the globe, forcing the commoners of three continents into wage or chattel slavery. It couldn’t have expropriated and decimated indigenous populations in Africa and the Americas.

Without racism, imperialism couldn’t have extended the reach of capitalism to every corner of the globe. It couldn’t have massacred millions in the Congo, the Philippines, Algeria, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Iraq.

Without racism, capitalists couldn’t have defeated the rebellious masses when they rose up in Barbados, Virginia, Jamaica, Haiti, India, El Salvador, and even England itself.

Without racism, a tiny handful of capitalist exploiters could not, today, maintain its deadly hold on the massive and mighty working class.

It’s not just the US. For example, about half of all Brazilians, but over 70% of those in poverty, are black or “mixed-race.” Wages of non-white Brazilians average less than half that of whites, and unemployment is higher. Their life expectancy is six years less than whites’. This racism props up one of the most unequal distributions of wealth worldwide.

Among capitalist nations, liberal Sweden has the highest differences in employment between native-born and foreign-born citizens, especially ethnic Swedes and people of African descent. Its urban areas are segregated, with people of color concentrated in low-income housing projects. Mosques have been burned.

To end racism, we must unite as one international working class to destroy capitalism. The rulers are waging a conscious, intense ideological struggle to hide this truth. We must recognize and expose their poisonous lies.

Many more US workers, especially non-blacks, must be won to reject the rulers’ demonization of black youth and their calls for intensified police repression. In the US and Europe, we must mobilize to fight anti-immigrant fascists.

Everywhere, we must struggle sharply to keep racism from blinding workers to our common class interest. This is a battle we can’t afford to lose.

The so-called “anti-racism” movement hides this common interest behind a smokescreen of “identity politics.” It highlights prejudice instead of racism. It guilt-trips whites and builds cynicism among youth of color, telling us we can only be “allies” instead of comrades.

Pacifism, religious or otherwise, disarms the struggle. It has us beg for reforms, even die for reforms, instead of fighting for power.

“Black Power” nationalism won’t help the black masses. Look at South Africa. Today, a generation after Apartheid fell, the average black income is only one-sixth that of whites. Economic inequality has increased and is the highest in the world. The new black bourgeoisie collaborates with imperialism in exploiting the black

working class.

Capitalism will end, and with it the material basis of racism. The communist fight against racism – now and after the revolution – can become the jackhammer that smashes the walls of segregation the rulers have erected to divide us.

Building our communist future, and our Party today, requires conscious, intense ideological struggle to unite the masses, women and men, across “racial” and national lines. Relatively integrated workplaces such as Army barracks, Los Angeles MTA (transit) and Seattle-area Boeing plants are important places to start.

The material basis of communism will be the sharing of work and its fruits “from each according to ability/commitment, to each according to need.” On this foundation, and with constant political struggle, racism and nationalism, and the very ideas of “races” and “nations,” can become a relic of the past.

Truly we have nothing to lose but our chains. We have a world to win.

MEXICO from page 1

It appears that the fight among the capitalists in Mexico and the US is sharpening. One Mexican faction has taken advantage of information leaked by the Wall Street Journal to attack Peña Nieto. This information concerned houses bought for his wife and his Finance Minister Luis Videgaray from the real estate company Higa, which is linked to the China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC). Peña Nieto had to cancel CRCC’s concession to build the high-speed train to Querétaro.

After this, Peña Nieto went to China and got a \$10 billion loan for Pemex. Now he’s in the US. Mexico is caught in the middle of intensifying inter-imperialist rivalry.

Mexican capitalists are angry with the Peña Nieto government. Business executives are demanding a reduction of new taxes that affect them. The business magazine *Expansión* recently wrote that individual businessmen don’t want to reveal their stories about kidnappings and extortion. However, their associations like the Business Coordinating Council are demanding better protection against crime.

Their whole capitalist system is a crime against the working class. It is the legal extraction of the wealth and value produced by the workers. It has reached the point where the murderous bosses steal entire companies from each other. This happens in Russia, Africa and South America.

Capitalist competition is behind the fight for markets between China and the US, a fight that will lead to world war. The only thing that will stop it is a workers’ communist revolution against this society based on production for sale and profit. That is what ICWP is working toward. **We urge the angry masses demonstrating against the murder of the normalistas and all the crimes of capitalism to join us!**



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BUILD BOLD COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN TO STAMP OUT RACISM

Many comrades and friends in Seattle have been active in the anti-racist demonstrations. This weekend we had a discussion about how communism will end racism. We concluded the following.

Only Communism will end racism for good. But how? The capitalists stopped at nothing and took bold and cruel measures to establish racism, starting with the kidnapping of hundreds of thousands of Africans. Communists will be just as determined to stamp out racism and we will take equally bold measures to fight it. And all these bold measures require the mobilizing of millions who support communism and oppose racism.

The first bold measure is the abolishing of money and the wage system. This eliminates the material basis of racism – racist wage differentials – but will not in itself end racism. It will, however allow us to mount the kind of communist campaign that can eventually wipe racism from the face of the earth.

We will inherit a very segregated society in which most of us to some extent still have prejudices. These prejudiced people will include of course a few murderous racist nut cases. But it would be a big mistake to ignore on the other end of the scale the unconscious biases of people who are otherwise anti-racist.

We will of course dissolve the bosses' police force. The same goes for the whole legal system – judges, prosecutors, district attorneys, bailiffs, prison guards and the like. There will be no more

state apparatus to make racist laws and enforce them with terror.

We will break open the prisons and release the (mainly minority) millions now held behind bars. Moreover we will permanently abolish prisons in general and end forever the barbaric practice of locking people up in tiny cells. In the early days of communism there will be dangerous people around, whom we will have to detain, but they will be housed and fed at the same standard as everyone else. The goal will be rehabilitation, not punishment, and they will be released (but supervised) as soon as they are no longer a danger to society.

We will move immediately to end segregation in housing and vocations. For example we will have a crash program to integrate the firefighting service. Some highly segregated groups, like the whole executive/managerial elite, will simply disappear, while the working class leadership that replaces it will be integrated from the start.

We will purge racism from the popular culture and repress most of the racist so-called 'entertainment' of the old society. No more cop shows on TV! The masses will help us stamp out illicit circulation of this poison.

In its place we will produce new, non racist art and culture and finally give deserved exposure to the work of current minority and anti-racist artists.

In the classrooms (integrated, of course) we will devote plenty of time to telling the true his-



Protesters against racist police murder have welcomed Red Flag. We must follow this up by building ties and discussing communist ideas.

tory of slavery and of international racism.

Finally we will mobilize the millions to be on guard in their homes and workplaces for manifestations of racism and be ready so speak out and intervene. For example, to object to racist jokes or to struggle with an all-white group of friends to integrate their next party.

In all this work we will stress the importance to the whole working class of ending racism. The revolution will fail if we let racism linger on. It is a matter of life and death.

Failure of Cuban Socialism Shows'

FIGHTING DIRECTLY FOR COMMUNISM IS THE SOLE, URGENT ALTERNATIVE

December 2014—The romance was announced between the "dictatorship and the empire," after 18 months of dating "in the shadows," with the blessing of Pope Francisco. This takes place in a world marked by groups of capitalists fighting for profits, markets and raw materials.

Raul Castro has accepted Panama's invitation to the OAS Summit of the Americas 2015, from which Cuba was banned in 1962. (Even though the sanctions were lifted in 2009, Cuba refused to return to the "colonial ministry").

The capitalist crisis in Venezuela, and Russia's inability to continue subsidizing state capitalism in Cuba as well as the preference of Chinese capitalists to invest in less risky and more profitable economies (like the Nicaragua Canal) have influenced in this new diplomacy.

For the US capitalists, Cuba alone does not represent a threat. For years the US has been its main supplier of grain, despite the useless embargo imposed in 1960. "Business is business..." A few months ago the Cuba's exit visa requirements were relaxed, there was no massive emigration as some had expected.

However, due to increasingly sharp inter-imperialist rivalry, with Russia and China increasing their political, commercial, and military relations in Latin America, Cuba again becomes for the US and these rival imperialists a bone of contention due to its strategic geographic position. (See article page 4)

In 1959, after armed uprisings and massive strikes against the Bautista dictatorship, the July 26 movement displaced its competitors and, collaborating with others, like the pro-Soviet Socialist Party of Cuba, established a capitalist republic and sought the recognition and support of the US imperialists. But the US tried to impose conditions that the Cubans considered unacceptable.

The pro-Soviet collaborators then allied itself with the USSR, already then a state capitalist power, and in 1960 the Cuban government declared its adherence to Soviet "communism," ranting about "anti-imperialism." A hatred of US imperialism by workers around the world gave Cuba a revolutionary, mythical aura, increased by Ché Guevara's adventure in Bolivia.

But it was never communism. It did not eliminate wage labor but instead the government became the capitalist boss paying the wages. Following the Soviet model, the Cuban government believed in and spread the idea that nationalizing businesses was the first, socialist, step to communism, to the elimination of the private appropriation of what was produced. But as in the Soviet Union and China, the rulers appropriated and enjoyed the value workers produced beyond what they received in wages. At the end of the twentieth century, Forbes magazine featured Fidel Castro as one of the richest people in the world. He replied that he had no property. But deeds to property are not essential the enjoyment of the value produced by the workers.

Administering that wealth, the Cuban government established a better system of social security than the capitalist "welfare state," ended illiteracy, and forged an exemplary medical system (by capitalist standards), which was still based on doctor "experts."

Cuba's supporters around the world presented these as achievements of communism, but communism is the elimination of exploitation, of the use of the worker's labor power by the capitalists and an end to commodity production, buying and selling, and

money and wages. The expropriation of the factories and estates, which became property of the state, only produced state capitalism, in which the rulers appropriate the surplus.

This was justified with explanations from Marx, that communism in its first phase will not eliminate the injustice of the bourgeois right of payment according to work, and that only in a higher stage will each contribute according to their ability and receive according to their need.

However, the masses mobilized for communism can share scarcity and abundance. When we get rid of the bourgeoisie, the proletariat will disappear as wage slaves and we workers will willingly associate to produce to fulfill the needs of society.

Nothing about the changes in the relationship between US imperialism and Cuba will help the working class that still needs to liberate itself from capitalism on the same island, for which workers need to join our fight for emancipation in the ICWP.



Obama's Cuban Diplomacy:

CUBA AGAIN IN EYE OF THE STORM OF INTER-IMPERIALIST RIVALRY

Obama's Cuban diplomacy corresponds to his master's imperialist needs: In the short term, to stem the decline of their global empire; in the long term, to recapture their position as the world's top imperialist dog. This can only be achieved by war, world war.

This war already looms on the horizon. The US War College' Strategic Study Institute (SSI) states it starkly: "The rise of China and its projection onto the global stage, coupled with Russia's increasingly bold reassertion of its imperial ambitions, increases the undesirable possibility of a serious conflict between the United States, and one or both of these actors."

The SSI article adds, "it unthinkable that a power with global political, economic, and military ties, such as Russia or China, would allow the United States to engage it in its own region without taking the fight to the U.S. 'backyard' as well." Thus, it is imperative for the US to safeguard its backyard, especially Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

Cuba is crucial. It became strategically important when the US bought the Louisiana territory from the French in 1803. The Mississippi River system and the Port of New Orleans allowed US farmers to ship their grain to Europe. This trade was fundamental to the rise of US imperialism. It was second only to the slave trade and the riches enslaved persons generated in giving US bosses the capital accumulation needed for their rapid and mass industrialization.

To safeguard their profits, the US needs to control the Gulf of Mexico, the adjacent territories and the choke points to the Atlantic that lie between Cuba and Florida, and between Cuba and Mexico (see map). The US fought the British navy in New Orleans during the War of 1812, to defend this and other trade routes. With the defeat of the British in that war, and with the French defeated in Haiti and bought off on the continent, the only European rival left was Spain.

Taking Florida and Cuba from Spain was a must. Under pressure, Spain ceded Florida to the US in 1819. Full control came only after the US bosses waged three genocidal wars (1816-1858) against the Seminole (native Americans and escaped African-American slaves) that lived in Florida.

Cuba, however, remained in Spanish hands. Although Spain was weak and not a threat, if a

hostile power captured Cuba, it could impose an almost impregnable blockade of the US Gulf ports, crippling the US economy. The US bosses had to eliminate this existential threat.

In 1898, the US warship, *The Maine*, "mysteriously" exploded in the Havana harbor, killing nearly three quarters of its crew. The US blamed Spain, and declared war. When the war was

over, Cuba was firmly in US hands and the New Orleans-Atlantic transit was secured until the rise of Fidel Castro in 1959.

The Soviet Era. When Fidel nationalized a billion dollars of US property and began flirting with Soviet imperialism, US bosses organized the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 to overthrow him. They failed miserably, driving Fidel further into the Russian imperialists' arms.

When the Russian bosses began building nuclear missile bases there, the US bosses blockaded Cuba in 1962, bringing the world to the brink of nuclear war.

The crisis ended with the US promising to never again invade Cuba, and the Soviets promising to withdraw their missiles. With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Russian imperialist withdrew from Cuba.

Today, sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry is again changing the situation. Responding to economic sanctions imposed over the Ukraine, Russia is moving more aggressively into Latin America. It is negotiating with Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela to establish refueling sites for its visiting warships and long-range strategic bombers.

Russia has also signed agreements with Cuba for joint oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. Russia is also a signatory, together with China and



Nicaragua, of the agreement to build the Inter-oceanic Grand Canal through Nicaragua.

Russia's main role is to militarily guard the construction site against possible acts of provocation. To do this, Russian warships and aircraft will be present in Nicaragua until June of this year, patrolling its Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea coastlines.

Cuba is once more in the eye of the storm. Obama's Cuban diplomacy goal is to reassert US imperialism's absolute control over Cuba, Central America and the Caribbean.

Obama calls for reopening the US embassy in Cuba and making it easier for hundreds of thousands of Cuban-Americans to travel and set up businesses there.

US bosses hope to use these Cuban-Americans to trigger a US sponsored "color revolution," like in the Ukraine. Unthinkable? "The Associated Press recently revealed that in 2009 the U.S. ran an operation...sending young Latin Americans into Cuba in 'hopes of ginning up rebellion.'" (*Newsweek*, 8/12/14)

Capitalism-imperialism's history is one of ever more deadly wars for empire and profits. To end it forever, we must destroy it with a communist revolution and build a communist world based on production for human needs, not for enriching a handful of capitalists-imperialists.

KAISER from page 1

need/want for more than it costs them to pay for workers to produce it. They pay us a small fraction of what we produce, then work hard to divide us to pay us even less.

This is life under capitalism. The workers never really win when we fight to reform this system. We continue as wage slaves. We don't work; we don't have money, which under this system is essential to our livelihoods.

What if we turned this strike into a political strike for a system that actually worked for us? A communist system where we no longer worked for wages, but instead we worked according to our commitment and love for each other.

We could produce abundance, as we do today. However, we would all share this abundance rather than have it be hoarded by a wealthy few or go to waste because it was not "sold." We could use time off to contribute to creating something better.

Is it possible to work for no pay? Sure it is! We do this daily as we care for our children, our

elderly, and communities when we volunteer.

Is it possible to eliminate problems rampant under capitalism such as addictions, homelessness, unemployment, prison overcrowding, etc.? Sure it is! These problems are created by the capitalist system. They cannot be eliminated under capitalism because they are symptoms of a system that does not work for humanity.

After China's communist-led revolution in 1949, addiction to opium, morphine and heroin were eliminated in three years! After over 20 years of almost no drug addiction, the problem in China started to re-emerge in the late 1970s after old-style

capitalism returned.

If we rid ourselves of capitalism and create a communist society, then social workers would no longer be gatekeepers to services or used for social control. All workers would identify community problems and work together to resolve them. We would all share the responsibility of ensuring our communities worked and that our world worked!

We would not work for individual gain or individual companies, but rather for us to live as one. These ideas have been around for hundreds of years despite years of anti-communist propaganda. We CAN have a different and better world. We can have the Kaiser strike be different from one more reform struggle! Spread this vision by distributing *Red Flag* and joining ICWP.



China Building Canal Across Nicaragua:

A CHALLENGE TO U.S. IMPERIALISM IN ITS SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

On December 22 the Nicaragua Canal Project began. It will be a transoceanic canal that will compete with the Panama Canal, which is run by Taiwanese bosses.

With an initial investment of \$50 billion, the company Hong Kong Nicaragua Development (HKND) will be in charge of this huge five-year project. Its objective is a more efficient canal that will accommodate ships too large to transit the Panama Canal.

HKND says that this project will help to transport crude oil, iron and minerals from the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean to the Pacific more rapidly. This will give China a huge advantage. The canal and ports will also provide an opportunity for Chinese and Russian war ships to pass through and a base for refueling.

According to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, this canal project will create 250,000 jobs in the long term, including thousands of Chinese workers during construction. The project also includes two ports, roads, an oil pipeline, a free-trade zone, a new airport, and tourist centers.

This will certainly be a great engineering and multi-billion dollar project. But there is no free lunch for the working class. HKND will control the canal concession for 100 years. To get a return on their investment, they will force the workers to work under miserable conditions as wage slaves.

HKND is based in Hong Kong. Its owner is multi-millionaire Wang Jing, from China. This canal project worries the governments of Costa Rica, Panama and the US. They are not only concerned about its gigantic size but its contribution to China's advance in Latin America. The Panamanian government predicts that when the canal is completed, traffic in the Panama Canal will decrease by 30%.

Masses in Motion against the Canal Must Fight for Communism

Thousands of farmworkers will lose their land and communities to the canal project. Many of them supported Ortega and the Sandinistas and

received land after they took power in 1979. But now they see Ortega helping take this land away from them. Others who were in the base of the pro-US "Contras" are also rebelling for the same reason.

With the slogan "Chinese out of Nicaragua," hundreds of Nicaraguans have opposed the project. Protesters have burned tires, clashed with the police, and some have been "disappeared" in these protests.

After the Sandinistas took power, the US organized and fully financed the "contras" to try to prevent the advance of "communism" (which was really state capitalism). Today, US imperialists will not stand idly by while the Chinese and Russian imperialists march into an area they consider their own "back yard." In July 2014 an armed group came to light when it killed four Sandinistas. These armed groups expect the US to support them with arms and money. The US imperialists will use this reality to create an atmosphere of chaos inside Nicaragua.

We workers have nothing to gain by allying with any imperialist, whether US, Chinese or Russian. Our only alternative is to fight for a communist world.

Inter-Imperialist Struggle at the Door of the US

The contradiction between the Chinese and US bosses is sharpening. While the corrupt millionaire bank owner and pseudo-revolutionary Daniel Ortega continues opening doors to the Chinese capitalists-imperialists, the US is reacting as it often has done. The US bosses have financed "rebellions" in Venezuela, Syria, and the Ukraine. They would not hesitate to do so again.

Chinese capitalists are advancing in Central America. They are building hydroelectric projects in Honduras, stadiums and roads in Costa



Rica, and certainly the biggest project, the Nicaragua Canal.

The contradiction among imperialists is sharpening more and more. There is no place on this planet that is escaping it. Unlike World Wars I and II, the coming world war will be fought all over the world, including in the western hemisphere.

New Opportunities to Build ICWP

The struggle against revisionism is continuous, and history is relentless and clear. The workers worldwide who once saw the Sandinistas and Daniel Ortega or Cuba as a beacon of hope against capitalism today can see clearly that socialism and national liberation are only varieties of the same capitalism. We must learn that the struggle must be directly for communism and nothing less.

Our goal is to grow internationally. *Red Flag* must reach everywhere that the working class is, including those working on the Nicaragua Canal. We must explain that there are no good bosses, that all of them are a scourge and that no matter whether they are Chinese, Russian, or US, we have to get rid of all of them.

When we organize communist urban and farm workers, communist students and soldiers, we are building our own canal to communism.

TOO MANY WORKERS? OR TOO MANY BOSSES!

LOS ANGELES — "Things are not too good at the factory," said an E & C Fashion garment worker. "Last week I only worked two days. Many haven't been working at all."

"Is it true that the boss might close the factory?"

"Yes, there's not enough work."

"Even though they pay you so little, the Diesel brand pants that you make are expensive. With capitalism in crisis, fewer people can afford to buy them now."

"True, but there's not enough work to go around because there are too many people in the world. That's why there aren't enough jobs, and there's so much poverty."

This garment worker raises a question many workers have. They are affected by the bosses' propaganda that there are "too many people." What is the real cause of the current crisis?

Capitalism, not overpopulation, creates mass racist unemployment, poverty and hunger.

Many garment factories in LA have laid off workers who are willing and able to produce clothes that workers need and lack. Meanwhile garment production is expanding in places like Bangladesh, where workers get an average of \$37 a month, the lowest wages in the world.

The problem is capitalism. A few capitalists have plenty of everything. They control and sell all the useful things our labor power produces—for their profits. They force us to be their wage-

slaves so we can buy from them some of the food, clothing and shelter that we ourselves make.

Each boss competes to maximize profit. Each tries to drive down wages and produce for the whole market. Workers produce more things than they can afford to buy. Workers at E & C Fashion can't afford the pants they produce.

This creates a crisis of overproduction, the result of capitalist production for profit, not for workers' needs. Factories that can't undersell the competition go out of business, laying off workers, black and latino first, creating mass racist unemployment.

Internationally, the global crisis of overproduction drives imperialists inexorably to war, destroying "excess capacity" and the lives of tens of millions workers (or more).

There are not too many people. There are more people than the bosses can employ profitably.

Successful capitalists buy machines that force one worker to produce what three or four workers once did. Fewer workers produce more for lower wages. The productive labor power of masses of workers lies idle while billions go hungry and homeless.

The bosses, fearing workers' potential to organize revolution, spread the racist lie that there are "too many workers." Seeking to justify their bloody wars, they want us to believe that mass

murder would get rid of "excess" population.

Communism: many hands make light work

In China, before the 1949 revolution, many people starved even when crops were good. Just a few years later, workers and peasants collectively produced enough for everyone. They started reorganizing society so that no one would go hungry while others ate their fill.

The masses mobilized to stop diseases. Death rates declined; life expectancy rose. Confident that they and their children would thrive, people began having fewer babies.

But the revolution installed socialism, not communism. It did not eliminate money and wages. So the social gains were reversed as China became the leading capitalist-imperialist country it is today.

However, these gains point the way forward. Eliminating deadly capitalism will allow all workers' labor power to collectively produce enough so that everyone has what they need. Everyone will contribute their labor to plan, produce, problem-solve, and fight to advance our society.

In communism, there will be plenty of socially useful work to go around, and plenty of time to build stronger social relationships and develop our full humanity. We won't compete with each other to be wage slaves. Our labor power won't be a commodity. Instead, it will give life to us all.

Who You Gonna Call?

MILITARIZED RACIST COPS OR A MOBILIZED WORKING CLASS

“Those Ferguson cops have more heavy weapons than we did in Vietnam,” observed a veteran working at Boeing. “That’s just not right!”

Actually, it’s not about right or wrong. It’s about the bosses’ fear of losing power and the potential for masses mobilized for communism to gain it.

Many like the Boeing veteran are outraged by the militarization of the cops. Some say federal bribes of surplus military equipment to join the racist “drug war” are the cause. In fact, the Obama administration increased funding to the notorious Byrne grant program, saying it is “critical to creating anti-drug task forces.” He upped funding from \$263 million to \$2.6 billion, vastly expanding the flow of military training and equipment to local police forces.

Militaristic policing, however, was actually born out of the bosses’ anxiety after the Los Angeles Watts rebellion. In the summer of 1965, Watts burned for six days. The revolt against racism and in particular racist cop terror spread far beyond the immediate neighborhood, eventually covering forty-six square miles.

Thirty-nine-year-old inspector Daryl Gates was the Los Angeles Police Department’s (LAPD) point man during the unrest. “We had no idea how to deal with this,” wrote the future chief in his autobiography. “We did not know how to handle guerilla warfare.”

The U.S. Army was at that time fighting (and losing) a real guerilla war in Vietnam. Gates turned to them for guidance. He started the first SWAT team, his most enduring legacy.

LAPD headquarters was skittish. They feared public reaction to a military-like force on domestic soil.

Gates responded like all fascist leaders

throughout history. He trained the SWAT team in secret. This extralegal paramilitary force worked directly with the Marines at Camp Pendleton, with the aid of Universal Studios. The movie company opened their Burbank back lot for urban warfare practice.

The desire to suppress a brewing strike wave helped convince LAPD brass to support Gates SWAT vision. The Delano Grape strike started in



1965, lasting five years. The militant leadership of rank-and-filers scared the bosses. Delano cops were given specific training in crowd control, sniper skills, specialized weapons, riot response and surveillance. It caught the eye of senior cops 150 miles down the road in Los Angeles.

In 1968, president Johnson ordered Ft. Hood soldiers to Chicago’s black neighborhoods fearing residents there would join the Vietnam War protests at the Democratic National Convention. The response was not what he expected. Led by 200 black troops, the soldiers revolted. The militarization of local police departments became even more important to the ruling class.

The bosses were running out of options. Soldiers, like those at Ft. Hood, began refusing en masse to deploy in U.S. cities. The militarization of local police departments became a higher pri-

ority.

In that same year, the Associated Press (AP) reported that, “in city after city across America [sic], the police are stockpiling armored vehicles, helicopters, and high-powered vehicles ... they are preparing for the summer and riots.” The New Jersey State Police spokesperson told the AP, “We’re following through on the military concept in attacking this problem.”

Black and Latino rebellions, strikes, anti-war protests and soldier revolts all required a more militarized police force. ...And that’s what the bosses delivered.

Five years of rebellion and increasingly militarized police actions culminated in the first SWAT raid in the closing month of the 1960s. On December 6, 1969, Gates and his SWAT teams attacked the L. A. Black Panther headquarters. Over the next three hours five thousands rounds of ammunition were exchanged. The battle did not end until SWAT fired Camp Pendleton grenade launchers into the building.

It’s futile to think police departments can be reformed: doubly so if you think civilian commissions and peaceful demonstration are the way forward. Cops are bosses’ agents, protecting nothing else but capitalist rule. Police militarization is no accident of history. It is the natural outgrowth of a racist capitalist system under threat.

Communism, on the contrary, will rely on mobilized masses to guarantee that the working class rules. We’ll have no need for a separate “police”force. The very same workers that the cops target today will mobilize to assure our future.

Who do you trust your future to: racist militarized cops or a united mobilized working class. You know the answer!

Enough! We’re tired of capitalism

MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM, NOT ANARCHISM

MEXICO--It is inspiring to see thousands marching and demanding that the 43 missing teacher-college students (normalistas) be returned – alive. After a big march in mid-November, a newspaper headline announced “They don’t tire!” However, people do get tired. After marching, the next day, little is left. We need organization for the medium and long term.

The only solution to the bosses’ repression is to destroy capitalism with communist revolution. We need to build a communist world where masses of workers collectively produce solely to meet the needs of the working class, not for profit.

In this mass movement, the bosses’ ideas can divert angry masses from this, the only solution.

The Normal School students are carrying out their 8th National Popular Assembly in Ayotzinapa. They are calling for a new body to write a new constitution. They think that social change starts with democratic capitalism, a “State of Law.” Socialism will come later, and they don’t even talk about communism.

The poet Javier Sicilia of the “Movement for Peace and Justice” and Alejandro Vera, the rector of the Universidad Autónoma de Morelos, call for an “electoral boycott” for 2015. They too want “a new constitution,” a “national referendum” (to reaffirm capitalism) through a “Civic Committee of National Salvation.”

The priest Raul Vera and others have already set up a website to promote this plan. They exclude MoReNa (movement for national recon-

struction with López Obrador) and any other party, electoral or not. Others hope for the growth of a front like “Podemos” (We Can) in Spain.

The pro-Russian revisionists call for socialism, which is State Capitalism.

Sicilia answers them with an anti-communist, anarchist rant: “We agree that we must sabotage the election...but not that we have to destroy the bourgeoisie ... Communism, like fascism or militarism, are varieties of the State born out of the Enlightenment.”

Sicilia pushes one of the biggest and ugliest of the bosses’ lies. Communism and fascism are opposites. Fascism is the most super-racist, sexist and repressive form of capitalist exploitation. Communism unites and organizes the masses, women and men worldwide, to produce collectively for our own needs.

Sicilia continues: “Marx did not criticize capitalism...he tried to tame it...he believed the same dogmas of capitalism...only managed...by the proletariat...he forgot that capital lacked morality...Lenin and the Bolsheviks tried to tame it in an authoritarian manner.”

Marx, Lenin and the Bolsheviks fought to overthrow capitalism, not tame it. But they fought for socialism. Today we know the only way to destroy capitalism is with communist, not socialist, revolution, to abolish wage slavery, money and production for buying and selling.

Sicilia believes in “fair trade” and the exploita-



After the Mexican attorney general ended a press conference on the fate of the 43 missing students saying, “Enough, I’m tired,” it’s become a rallying cry for protestors.

tion of natural resources in Chiapas, Bolivia, or parts of Africa that are carried out under capitalism without using and abusing the labor of others, because it is carried out by farm workers.

Why fight for a society of social inequality? We need to organize now for the abolition of wage labor. We need to get rid of capitalism.

Yes, it’s hard; we need to change the thinking of workers and others who have been alienated by the capitalists. This won’t happen in a year and we will be subjected to more oppression and surveillance by the bosses’ repressive state apparatus. But it is the only solution.

Our International Communist Workers’ Party is in the mass movement in Mexico, participating in this debate over which direction we should go, distributing *Red Flag!*

LETTERS

"It's in ICWP where the interests of the working class can be realized."

EL SALVADOR: The following letters were written by some of the more than 30 garment and farm workers, teachers and students who participated in a communist get-together to celebrate one more year of struggle and to make plans for 2015.

A group of 8 members who are workers from one of the garment factories in the free trade zone of El Salvador were present at the gathering in one of the most beautiful mountains of the country with other comrades from around the country. They discussed many important points about communist revolution and the organization of ICWP and **Red Flag**. We also went on a beautiful outing in an area famous from the civil war. We talked about the work in the factory. We also enjoyed where we stayed, which was a beautiful place surrounded by pine trees. Some had fun playing a game of soccer; others, with their children, enjoyed coffee with bread.

At the end of 2014, we traveled to the far north of the country where we met with members of ICWP to analyze the worldwide political-economic situation. We also talked about the national reality related to specific topics and problems of the workers in the maquilas. All of this took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere with a collective that understands that only the mass of organized workers will have the opportunity to take on the building of a new, more just and equitable society for all.

At the end of December, we traveled to the mountains with the family to a beautiful place where we shared experiences and listened to the different opinions and thoughts of each one of the participants about how to carry out the communist revolution. We had a fine experience

LETTERS

and at the same time made a commitment to contribute to the effort to see how we can make a difference, with the comrades of ICWP. In advance I thank you for the opportunity that you have given me and I humbly hope that I can contribute to this effort so that, as the comrades said, there will be a more just society.

As a worker in this collective of the Party, I have experienced a class identification. This means that in this activity I understand that it is within the Party where the interests of the working class are achievable and that the union betrays the working class. My opinion is heard. I say this comparing it to other structures like the union with which I am affiliated. I have participated in three activities of the Party. The third was very fruitful, since three comrades with whom I had made contact participated, and now they are members of this effort to carry forward communist revolution through the organization of the International Communist Workers' Party.

The working class is international

Several weeks ago I was outside the country where I was born. I missed things in Mexico, but I remembered that the working class is international and this comforted me all the time. Anywhere is our home and we workers are class brothers and sisters.

There I worked temporarily in a hotel. I met people from different parts of Mexico, and other parts of the world. Language is a limit to initiate conversations, but not a barrier to broaden friendships.

The work day was from 8 to 10 hours, Monday to Saturday, sometimes even Sunday. In this work place, class divisions were very sharp. While those with high purchasing power calmly take in the sun in the swimming pools with their families, the immigrant workers and some who already have US residency work

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

hard to survive in a country where the great fear is becoming unemployed and not be able to pay taxes. We workers drank high energy drinks to be able to endure the long shifts, even though they are bad for your health.

In this setting, I could not keep quiet and I called it a crime against humanity. While millions of people survive on less than a dollar a day and die from drug trafficking, hunger, poverty, war, etc., these people calmly relax, enjoying the wealth generated by our class.

I made my comments widely to relatives, friends and co-workers. Relatives and co-workers said it was not worth getting mad about, since it had always been like this. A military friend commented, "It's better that they spend their money there than paying criminals."

But that did not stop me. In several ways I tried several ways to get closer to co-workers to talk to them about Communism.

Talking with a young coworker, I said that the capitalist bosses attack us, and events like the murder of 43 normal school students in Mexico should not discourage us. Thousands of people die in the world from a system that condemns us to death.

I commented that as workers we must defend ourselves and I told him about the Russian revolution. I told him that Lenin, a communist leader in Russia, said that when a Party would respond to the needs of the working class, that such a Party could give leadership. He asked me what we propose to do. I told him about change through revolution, that we fight for a communist revolution where everyone receives according to their needs and contributes according to their ability. I told him that capitalism creates its own gravediggers and that we are those gravediggers. Workers of the world have no nation. Let's unite in one Party, the International Communist Workers Party.

--Red Youth from Mexico

ISRAELI APARTHEID from page 8

"Two states" could easily become dual fascism: one state run by ultra-orthodox Jewish fascists and the other by Islamic fascists. This threat is already motivating a growing out-migration of secular Israelis and Palestinians to Europe and elsewhere.

An isolated, highly militarized Israel might launch a devastating "last stand." That would lead to wide-scale destruction within and beyond its boundaries. This is on top of the Syrian civil war, Iraqi instability, multiple refugee crises, and an Iran emboldened by Russian and Chinese imperialism. It could spiral into a larger regional war – or even world war.

The real lessons of South Africa were starkly revealed in 2012 when the police of the

African National Congress massacred 34 striking Marikana platinum miners. Multicultural capitalism is still deadly for workers. The black South African masses still live as super-exploited wage-slaves in grinding poverty.

That's why growing numbers of industrial workers and youth in South Africa are joining the International Communist Workers' Party. Palestinian and Israeli workers and their supporters must learn from their bitter experience. Israeli apartheid must be destroyed by mobilizing the masses for communism, not for "democracy" or "human rights."



Protestors denounce South African President Zuma over Marikana murders

The alienation of masses from established nationalist-capitalist parties creates a big opportunity to mobilize for communism. That is our urgent, immediate task.



This is the paper of the working class.

We get no funding from the capitalists, their foundation or NGOs. This newspaper is not a commodity produced for sale. We are fighting to abolish commodity production. However, we have to pay for the costs of producing and distributing the paper, as well as for other expenses of building an international party. The box below includes a suggested donation of \$20/year which is about the current cost of mailing a single copy to a U.S. address. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST GREETINGS: POTENTIAL TO EXPAND ICWP IN 2015

During the holiday season it has become a tradition to renew and revive contacts with friends around the world. Comrades mail messages expressing the urgent need to build the international communist movement led by ICWP and a copy of *Red Flag*. This year an overwhelming response came from around the world.

A comrade in Tunisia was the first to mail a message of solidarity. He is a mass organizer of the Arab spring, spent a long time in prison and was sentenced to death. The comrade wrote, "One thing characterises this long period of time: its horrors. The bloody regimes destroyed my life, body (I can't walk the steps; I barely can walk etc..) but they were not able to destroy my mind. ...Even when I was isolated in order to be eliminated by a military squad. I lost all feeling to be afraid, and I was defiant. ...

"They forget one thing: when the oppressed poor masses are in motion, nothing can stop them. With great honor I received a copy of *Red Flag* from you six months ago and I can assure you that the masses in the Arab world are open to communist revolution.

"This is a fact: the waves of the Tunisian rebellion by the exploited and oppressed classes sent waves to every corner of the Arab world. It is the first rebellion which destroyed and continues to destroy any established regime. From Tunisia to start with and to finish with Yemen: the whole Arab situation is in a pre-revolutionary condition. I urge you to visit me in 2015 so we can make plans for Arabic *Red Flag* and to build ICWP. ...

A message came from a comrade in Sweden. "Thanks for keeping us warm with a revolution-

ary newspaper *Red Flag*. We are heartened and encouraged by the analysis and struggles portrayed in the *Red Flag*. We need a radical change, world wide communist revolution. Cheers and happy new year to you, comrade."

Numerous greetings were received in comrades in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Nepal. A comrade in Pakistan related communalism (the term used for racism in India and Pakistan) to our article about the origin of racism. "I totally agree with the article. Racism and communalism can only be eliminated by communist revolution. Capitalism is in perpetual crisis in Pakistan, creating a ripe situation for revolution. I invite you to visit us."

A young comrade in Indonesia speaks Korean and Arabic in addition to two Indonesian languages. After receiving the paper for over a year, as a new year's resolution he promised to spread our ideas in Korean.

Similarly, a scientist in Egypt wrote, "When I receive *Red Flag*, I discuss it with my friends but they do not read English. It would be very nice to receive some articles in either French or Arabic."

A comrade in Nepal summarized the sentiments of many readers. He wrote, "when I read the paper, I feel good. It not only raises a voice in favor of the voiceless people but also teaches people how the imperialist system divides the people and exploits them. *Red Flag*'s latest news (Boeing workers in Seattle) was very heart touching. The Asian people see everything is good in the US. But reality is so opposite... When this article writes, it exposes the US hypocrisy. It



is capitalism everywhere in the world. It touches my heart deeply when I see that black, white and other workers fight together for communism. I will spread these ideas of ICWP here in Nepal."

A reader in the Philippines said, "Wow, I am glad to know ICWP from the pages of *Red Flag*. Revolutionary greetings." The next day she said that she had talked to others about ICWP and fighting for communism.

Another reader in Arizona was excited to receive the *Red Flag* and she, too, distributed it to other workers at the rally to protest the Ferguson decision.

Readers in Philadelphia and Wisconsin used our articles on racism at various rallies.

Several comrades in Colombia were very appreciative of the articles on the banana strike. The same article was used by the comrades in South Africa to explain that to fight racism we have to eliminate capitalism.

A group of readers in Brazil promised to expand their circle of *Red Flag* readers.

Greater Israel in Fast Lane to Apartheid (Part II)

MASSES NEED COMMUNISM, NOT MULTI-ETHNIC DEMOCRACY

Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), losing mass support, are pushing Palestinian statehood in UN bodies. Since 1948, liberals worldwide promoted a "two-state solution" for Israel/Palestine. One state or two, capitalist state power maintains the bosses' ability to exploit the working class.

Israeli rulers now scorn the "two-state solution." They cynically negotiated it while consolidating their long-term land-grab in areas originally designated for Palestine. With US support, they are imposing new sanctions on the PLO for trying to join the International Criminal Court. A single, apartheid "Greater Israel" is emerging.

Some hope to transform this apartheid Israeli state into a democracy, as in South Africa. But South Africa is still a capitalist hell. So would be a democratic "Greater Israel" for Israelis and Palestinians or even a separate Palestinian state.

Israeli fascists have infiltrated the military. They are trying to consolidate Greater Israel. They are physically intimidating Jewish Israeli "two-state" supporters, Arab Israelis and Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Israeli Apartheid got this far only with the full backing of US capitalism. Zionism always depended on "great powers." Before the US, it was the Ottoman Empire (1890s), the British (1917), the Soviet bloc (1948), and the French (1955-1967).

The US now provides money, military technology, weapons, intelligence, biased coverage, and diplomatic cover at the UN. It allows tax exemptions for private donations to settler organiza-

tions. It permits US citizens to join the Israeli military.

US imperialism, with Israel's help, dominated the Middle East for almost 60 years. It built a huge network of military bases. It supported oppressive regimes and fought deadly wars directly and by proxy.

But even its massive military superiority hasn't secured its bloody grip. Recently, Israel has been useless to US military efforts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Somalia, Libya, and elsewhere.

Now the Israel Lobby's influence is declining. Its leaders are losing support. Many younger Jewish-Americans detest Israeli policies. The Christian Zionist movement is cooling. A movement for "Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions" (BDS) is growing on college campuses and among mainstream Protestants.

More importantly, a consensus is growing among US imperialists around a military "Pivot to Asia-Pacific." They are attempting to disengage from the Middle East. At some point a declining U.S. will no longer sustain Greater Israel.

What happens to Israeli apartheid then? Rival imperialists are already taking advantage of weakening US imperialism to extend their reach in the Middle East. China's large purchases of Israeli weapons systems signal an emerging military relationship. However, its priority is securing petroleum reserves and shipping routes, not propping up Israeli apartheid.



Palestinian youth throw stones at Israeli soldiers during clashes near Ramallah, July 25, 2014

Palestinian activists and supporters now focus on winning equal civic (but not economic) rights within Greater Israel. Mainstream support for BDS shows that some US rulers, along with Chinese and other imperialists, want Greater Israel to become a multi-cultural democracy wedded to global capitalism, like South Africa.

Imperialists hope this would stabilize the region and ensure the "peaceful" exploitation of Palestinian and other workers.

Escalating wars highlight the urgency of communist revolution. Liberal Zionists argue that a single democratic state would have a non-Jewish majority and threaten their ethnic state. They want a two-state solution to segregate Jews and Arabs. But this unlikely scenario would create massive armed resistance from hundreds of thousands of Israeli "settlers."

See ISRAELI APARTHEID, page 7